



NEWSLETTER

Happy Friday!

Merrywood Passers-By

We have had reports this week of a gentleman who we do not believe is connected to the school speaking to children through the fence at playtime. I have passed his description on to the PCSO, although I have to emphasise that we have no reason to believe he poses a potential risk.

Staff are vigilant and we encourage children not to speak to any adult through the fence, however this becomes more difficult to enforce if parents/ carers and other family members stop for a chat, which does often happen.

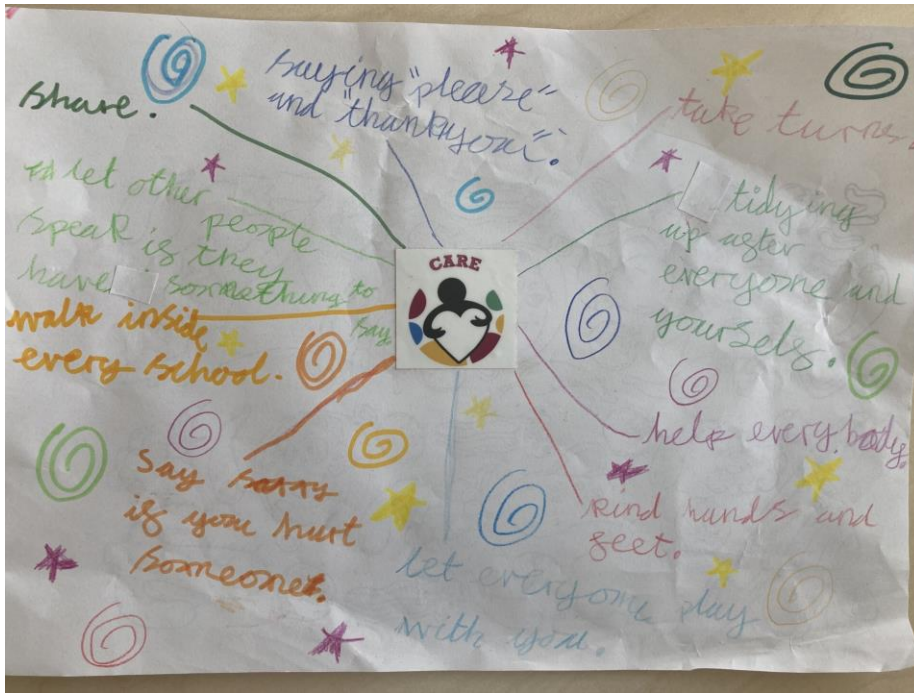
If you are passing by, please could I respectfully ask you to not stop for a chat with the children? A smile, wave and 'hello' as you pass is fine, but any more than this and it becomes difficult for the staff on duty to judge whether to intervene, and it also gives mixed messages to the children. Thank you in advance for your understanding and support with this.

Black History Month

As I am sure you are aware, October is Black History Month and I will be writing more in next week's newsletter about some exciting partnership work that we are establishing that will help us to move from shining a month-long spotlight on Black History to ensuring we are reflecting our diverse world and history in the people and stories that make up our curriculum all year round. Watch this space!

Our Values

One of the most exciting things about the ongoing values work is seeing how the children are taking it on board and making it their own. Two girls in Heron class came to see me with these posters. They had each been given a 'Care' sticker and had used them to inspire a colourful celebration of all the aspects of Care that they could think of. I thought they were brilliant and wanted to share them with you:



Whole School Assembly Theme

A technical issue led to me having to quickly re-think my planned assembly this week but thankfully an unexpected visitor (a sizeable spider who we named Sally) arrived in the Myrtle hall as the children were coming in and caused a bit of a kerfuffle. We actually carried Sally to safety straight away but digging deep into my extensive powers of mime I pretended she was still caught between my cupped hands. If any of your children came home on Monday talking about how they had been inspired to pursue a career in mime and/or physical comedy and you were wondering where that came from... you're welcome.

After reminding the children that they were not at risk of harm, we explored how the spider's presence in the room made some of them feel and how this might affect their body language and what was happening in their brain. We linked this to other perceived threats in school and talked about how each of us respond to different things in different ways and perceive different things as a potential threat. And in turn, how this perceived threat affects how clearly we think and how calmly we behave.

The more our children understand the impact of fight/ flight/ freeze on human behaviour, the more we can help them to understand, accept and manage their own behaviour when faced with something that they don't like, whether it is a playground dispute or a times table test (and everything in between!).

Prime Reminder

Our Myrtle teachers have this week reminded the children about not bringing in the drink called Prime. Although it may be that the older children are buying this on their way to school please could you reinforce this message at home as we will have to take bottles away from children who bring it in. Thank you for your help with this.

The Big Ambition survey

I wanted to share this message from Dame Rachel de Souza about The Big Ambition survey. If you have not already completed it, it is an excellent chance to ensure your child's voice is heard by policy makers, and the link to the survey is included in the message.

You may have seen that I recently launched [The Big Ambition](#), a new campaign to hear directly from children, young people, and parents across the country about what they need to make their lives better.

I want to thank all the schools that have already participated and to the thousands of children that have had their say. I am keen to build momentum on this and so would appreciate it if you could encourage your school to take part in The Big Ambition, if you have not done so already.

As we approach the General Election, now is a crucial moment to take children and young people's voices to policymakers, Government, and decision makers, to make sure they are heard.

That is why I want to hear from every child and young person in England about their schools, communities, family life, and the wider world. I will also be asking what they want for their future, their hopes, dreams, and aspirations.

This survey is for all children and young people aged 6-18 and for parents/carers who can complete the survey on behalf of children aged 0-5. This will ensure we hear from early years settings. Adults can also assist children who are unable to complete the survey independently.

The survey can be completed here: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition

I am grateful for your ongoing support.

Have fun learning French at home!



Southville School pupils are fortunate to be able to have access to a great language learning website from now until 31.10.23. There are lots of games and activities for you to enjoy.

Our login is...

username: kturvey

password: bristol1219

Have a lovely weekend, and I will leave you now with an Outdoor Play and Learning update from Mr Potter. Andy Bowman

OPAL play update

Play continues to be whole school priority moving in to our new school year. We have come so far developing many different areas of the school and broadening the play opportunities for everyone in Southville Primary School.

Merrywood

	
<p>Making a tree winch</p>	<p>Finding ways to make things move!</p>
	
<p>Sliding around</p>	<p>Deep holes in the sand pit.</p>
	
<p>Waiting for the bus.... that never arrives!</p>	

Myrtle



Recent developments

Over the Summer holiday a new dance space was constructed on our Myrtle site. With the flooring laid we are now in the process of getting a Sound System and a permanent cover to enclose this area.



Lights, music, disco ball...superb!!!!

The Future...

The children across the site have all been asked about what they would like to see within their playground spaces moving forward. We have unfortunately parked the idea of a 'laser tag arena' or a 'Zip wire' between sites (for the moment!) but many other ideas are actionable with the continued support from

our amazing PTA, our school community donations and our growing links with local businesses.

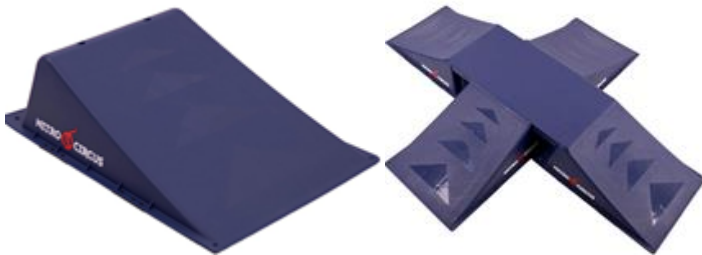
Improved access to wheeled toys across both sites

We are initially looking to purchase 3 Ezy-roller 'Go-karts' for each site.



The Ezy-roller is powered by pumping your feet thus improving coordination as well as activity. The adjustable nature of this wheeled toy makes it accessible for all age groups.

On our Myrtle site we are also looking to develop our MUGA space to provide a large area dedicated to scooting and skating. This area will have table tops and launch ramps for children to engage with in their play.



The Nitro Circus products will give the children the opportunity to set up a different 'skate park' on a daily basis. It will also provide something different for children to engage with during their lunchtime.

Different play options

We continue to visit Scrapstore which is an invaluable resource for Loose Parts play. This will continue to develop our loose parts play offering.

The children have identified that they would like access at lunchtime to 'Small World' play opportunities. This means we are on the hunt for;

- Toy cars
- Lego
- Play mobile sets
- Farm animals (Toy!)
- Toy Dinosaurs

...plus any sort of play equipment that will develop their imagination. If you have any of these items and are willing to donate them to our playtimes then please contact Mr Potter.

Swing, slide, hanging upside down

The children have really enjoyed playing with their slide at Merrywood. The slide is not fixed and therefore makes its way around the playground space encouraging children to make safe choices for its location but also experiencing the enjoyment of zooming down the slide and getting the odd electric shock! If you know of anyone getting rid of a quality slide that could be used at our Myrtle site then please get in contact with Mr Potter - he will test it out first!!!

The children have expressed the wish to have 'monkey bars' or 'hanging bars' on each site. We have identified areas around each site to locate these pieces of equipment and are now seeking quotes from different play companies.

The Garden spaces on both sites

Merrywood: Mrs French with the help of Miss Ash and other members of staff have worked with the children to create a superb garden and pond space at Merrywood. This will continue to be used for planting but will also be used as a quiet space for the children during lunchtimes. We will be getting sets of magnifying glasses so the children can look closely at the Flora and Fauna within these spaces.

Myrtle: We continue to develop the Orchard space. The children are loving having this space available on a daily basis. They are really beginning to change the space into zones of tranquillity.

The school staff and children continue to work with Rachel and Sophie plus an army of parent helpers to further develop this space.

In the coming weeks we will be savagely cutting back the grass to spread 'Yellow Rattle' seed across the area in order to loosen the grip that grass has on this space. This will then allow us to develop wildflower meadows throughout the space. If you would like to help then please get in touch with Rachel (mum of Athie and Branwen) or Sophie (mum of Alma and Neroli) or Mr Potter in school.

We continue to need quality pallets, lengths of wood, dressing up clothes so all donations are gratefully received.

Coming soon...

We would also like to invite you in for a play so please keep a close eye on the diary for up-coming play events.

Mr Potter