



NEWSLETTER

Happy End of Term Thursday!

What a great first term! The children have settled in brilliantly, and it has felt like a really positive and productive start to the year. Just to remind you, if after the holiday you would like to donate a potted plant to school (any size or shape!) we would be really grateful as we look to continue to develop our environment. I am certainly not asking you to buy anything specifically to donate, but if you have a plant that needs a new home, or you can take a cutting off an existing plant for us to nurture we'd be really grateful. Thank you!

School Vision Statement

Yesterday, a working party of governors came together to draft a vision statement for Southville Primary which was then shared with staff before being fine-tuned yesterday evening. It was a day full of thought-provoking discussions as we tried to capture our school's core purpose and vision as succinctly as possible.

We now have a draft statement and while you are in school for the parents' evening meetings in the first week after the holiday, we will be asking for your thoughts on the statement before it is finalised.

Curriculum Development - We Need You!

In the Inset day tomorrow, we will be beginning the exciting process of imagining and constructing a new curriculum and I would really like your help with this first stage.

Our new curriculum will be completely in line with the National Curriculum, but we have a certain amount of freedom to choose the stories, people, events and places that we think will be the most representative, exciting, relevant and engaging for the children.

This is where you come in!

Whatever your job, hobby or area of interest, you have expertise, knowledge and experience that we would love you to share with us in order to enrich our new curriculum. Tomorrow I will write to you with a set of links, each of which will take you to a different curriculum subject where you will be able to see the areas of the National Curriculum we need to cover, and will enable you to share your ideas for the best possible ways to do so.

Once we have gathered a 'pool' of fantastic content from yourselves, staff and partners in the wider community, our subject leaders will then use this to shape the new curriculum.

Hallowe'en Menu

Please note, we will be running this special Hallowe'en menu on Tuesday 31st October.

Happy Halloween



Hot dog
or
Veggie Hot dog
served with chips and bbq
beans or peas.

Pumpkin shortbread



Important Messages From Our Kitchen Team

To make you aware, if a Merrywood child does not have a packed lunch in school, they will automatically be given the hot choice of the day (this is because infant meals are still funded and therefore free to parents and carers).

We have been made aware of an issue with the menu on the App. If you rotate the screen, they will then be able to click on the "i" symbol which will show them the different dietary option for that choice. There is no issue with the menus when looking at the Parentmail website.

500 Words Competition 2023

"Write a story you would love to read".

BBC's 500 Words is the UK's largest children's story writing competition for 5-11 year-olds and is open from 08:00 Tuesday 26 September - 20:00 Friday 10 November.

If your child is interested in entering the competition, please [click here](#) to access a link for all the information you need, including inspiration and how to submit.

Myrtle - school library books

It's been great seeing everyone in key stage two enjoying our school library this term! If your child has an overdue library book (more than 3 weeks), they will come home with a reminder letter which has the details of the book. Please have a look and return it to school next term. If you know it's

been lost or damaged at home we really appreciate it if it can be paid for in the office (cost of book is on the letter) or replace it with the same title. Recently, we've had several books returned, ripped, missing pages etc so we have reminded children the books need to be looked after carefully whilst they're borrowing them. Thank you for your help with this.

Handfuls of Harmony

During Friday lunch times, some children have been learning songs for the Handfuls of Harmony choir, run by Miss Munnings.

The songs are also now available for the children to listen to on our website.

Go to <https://www.handfulsofharmony.org>

Click on "**Practice Tracks**"

Click on "**Schools and families choirs**"

Enter Guest Password: **singsingsing**

Dates for the diary:

Weds 22nd Nov: All schools rehearsal, 4pm - 5:15pm at Ashton Gate Primary School (Upton Road site)

Sun 26th Nov concert: Main Hall, Ashton Park Secondary School, Blackmoors Ln, Bower Ashton, Bristol BS3 2JL

Performance starts at 5pm (children arrive at 4pm)

Further information will be emailed to those parents and carers who have shown an interest.

Myrtle Street Car Park

Smart Parking have installed a camera on the lamp post in the Myrtle street car park which will capture vehicle registration numbers as drivers enter the car park. If you use the car park at any point, please be aware that you will need to pre-book a space, or pay on the app immediately upon entry. Fines for non-payment are issued by Smart Parking - we have no control over this and you will need to communicate directly with them if you receive a fine.

This enforcement will commence on Sunday, 26th November 2023 at midnight so please be aware of this.

Whole School Assembly Theme

On Monday, children at both sites had a visitor from FarmLink into Assembly. Liz spoke about the meaning of Harvest, farming and seasonality of our food. This year we are not collecting harvest food donations at school. We would encourage anyone who would like to make a donation to contact BS3 the local food bank ([see link](#)) who have a list of preferred items, or contribute to our own foodbank ahead of the Christmas food parcels in Term 2. Thank you in advance.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for sharing your fantastic children with us this term. Have a great half term break and we will see you on Monday 30th October.

Andy Bowman