



NEWSLETTER

Happy Friday!

Orchard Day

Last Saturday our orchard was a hive of activity as the redevelopment continued. Thank you to the team of parents, children and Mr Potter who, under Rachel Seaton-Lucas' expert guidance, wove hazel fencing along the path edges (hazel very kindly donated by Jim Twine); cleared rubble left from previous work; imaginatively repurposed pallets to build seating and compost bins and put in lots of new plants and seeds.







This all comes at the perfect time with Spring just around the corner and I am really looking forward to seeing this already lovely space continue to come alive over the next few weeks and months thanks to everyone's hard work on Saturday. Thank you again if you were part of the working party - amazing work!

Southfest Build-up - Vee's Video Message

This week we were treated to a video message from Vee (Venessa Scott) who is another of our Southfest artists. The video showcases Vee's previous work and then finishes with a personalised message just for us.

You can see the message here: <https://youtu.be/bwyRlz86xfY>

In it, Vee explains how she loves to use her art to spread happiness and joy and asks the children to create a piece of art that she can use for inspiration for her mural which will be in our Myrtle Street building. Her piece is going to be based around the theme of Connection and she would like the children to use pattern, colour and images in their art.

If your child would like to contribute an idea, please get them to do so on an A4 piece of paper (we will be scanning and emailing the artwork to Vee) and hand it to their class teacher by Wednesday 21st February.

In the first week back, I will be introducing the children to the amazing collage work of Tom Hodgkinson - our final Southfest artist. I will also share more information with you about Southfest, including when you will be able to come and see the artwork for yourself.

Exciting times ahead!

Whole School Assembly Theme

This week's assemblies at Merrywood and Myrtle were led by Dan Blythe, the lead instructor (and Kung Fu black sash!) at Ashton GB Fit. He shared his love and passion for Kung-Fu and, thanks to the assistance of a number of Southville experts who attend his classes, showed us some of the basic punching and striking techniques involved in the sport. When answering a question about how he became a black sash, Dan emphasised the importance of hard work, concentration and commitment. Many of the children (and staff!) left the assembly feeling inspired and eager to find out more about the sport. If your child has shown an interest in taking up Kung Fu and joining a class, you can find more information on the GB Fit website: <https://iamgbfit.com/>.



Multi-faith Assembly Guests

As part of ongoing efforts to bring diverse perspectives and experiences to our students at Southville, we are looking for people from our community and beyond who would be willing to lead an assembly to provide an insight into their religious beliefs and celebrations. If you are aware of an individual or group who would be interested in helping us with this, we would greatly appreciate your recommendations. Please feel free to email contact information to the office FAO Miss Watts.

Author visit for year 3, 4 and 5 - Thursday 29th February

Author / illustrator Nadia Shireen will be visiting Myrtle site on Thursday 29th February for a very special event to celebrate the publication of the third book in her fantastically funny Grimwood series, *Attack of the Stink Monster!* She will be presenting the crazy cast of Grimwood characters, sharing how to draw some of the characters and talking about what it's like to be an author / illustrator – there may even be time for a game of treebonk!

If you would like to pre-order one of the books in the Grimwood series from Storysmith bookshop please follow the link below, and Nadia will be able to sign your copy on the day of the event! Please place your order by Wednesday 21st February, and please include pupil name and class when you check out.

storysmithbooks.com/nadiasouthville



World Book Day, March 7th 2024... *'Dress up as a word'*

For World Book Day this year we're inviting children to come dressed as a word! This could be as simple as wearing your pyjamas to represent the word 'sleepy', or dressing as Harry Potter for the word 'wizard'. We've included a few ideas below for inspiration and there are lots more online. Also, our school community speaks over 50 different languages so you may want to choose a word in the language that your family speak. As always, there's no obligation for children to dress up if they don't want to.

Ideas:

- Lots of different coloured clothes for 'colourful'
- Superhero outfit for 'brave/hero'
- Odd socks for 'mismatched'

- Bubble wrap for 'fragile'
- As the tiger from The Tiger Who came to Tea for 'hungry' (or 'tiger'!)
- As book character Alex Rider for the word 'spy'.
- School uniform for 'smart' or 'red'

Myrtle Book Swap - in partnership with Eco Club

The children involved in Eco Club will be hosting a Myrtle Book Swap for World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. Over the next few weeks, we would like children to bring in any good condition children's books they no longer need at the drop off point (next to bike shed). Eco Club will give them a book swap token for each book they drop off. On the 7th March, all KS2 children will get chance to visit the hall in school time where the books will be laid out and they can use their book swap token to pick a new book to take home.

Parents and carers - if you're having a spring clean and need to offload a box of books but really don't need your child to bring that many books back home, please just drop them off with the Eco Club and let them know you don't require that many book tokens!

Any children who don't have a book to swap will be provided with a book token so they can still choose a book to take home.

We would also like to thank local bookshop Storysmith who have kindly agreed to donate some books for this event.

Eco Club will be collecting after half term, every morning 8.45-8.55am.

Crêpe café news

The children did an amazing job of having real French conversations last Friday as they asked for their 'crêpe au chocolat' etc. Bravo the Year 6 'serveurs' who listened carefully, worked hard, and spoke French all afternoon. Also thank you to the fabulous parents and to Mrs Mathias who made the delicious crêpes! Madame Turvey.



Upcoming Sporting Fixtures

At the end of each term, we are going to share with you the events and fixtures that are coming up next term. This is because we prefer to communicate directly with the children when it comes to gaining interest as it develops a bit of autonomy on their part,

however you being aware of what is coming up will enable you to give them the encouragement to give something a go if you wish to do so.

With that in mind, here are the **sports events taking place in Term 4:**

- Y2 Dance Festival @ Ashton Park
- Y3/4 Football League (continued on from Term 3)
- Y3/4 Girls' Football Festival Day
- Y5/6 Girls' Football League
- Y6 Bristol Sport Foundation Netball Tournament
- Y5 football fixture vs Ilminster Academy
- Y6 Football League Finals

Places for each of the events are limited and we know that this can cause disappointment if children aren't selected. Whilst we provide opportunities for selected children to compete against other schools at a high level, we do also recognise the value of every child who wants to being able to represent their school and so we look to create a balance of both opportunities. We will be talking to the children in advance of each of the events to gauge interest and will contact you with more details when their place is confirmed.

Activities over Half Term

The South Bristol Families in Focus team has compiled a list of half term events and activities within the South Bristol area and I am attaching it to this newsletter for your perusal. There are some great groups, activities and places to visit included so please do take a minute to scroll through.

However you spend the time, I hope you have a lovely half term and look forward to seeing you on Monday 19th February. Andy Bowman

[South FiF Bulletin - Parents and Families - February 2024.pdf](#)