

December 21/January 22

Monthly Head Teacher Newsletter



KEY DATES

January 2022

3rd – Bank Holiday

4th – INSET Day – no children

5th – Term Begins for children

21st – INSET Day – no children

24th Maths and Computing Enterprise Week

Dear Families,

We have come to the end of another year and as the end approaches, on behalf of all the staff, I would like to thank you all for your ongoing support. We have re-introduced many aspects of 'normal' school life such as extra-curricular clubs and we even managed to get a few assemblies in. I am so proud of the resilience and adaptability shown by our children and staff. They have continued to work exceptionally hard despite continued challenges. I know you will all join me in thanking each and every one of them!

The last two terms have been outstandingly positive and we have had so much going on. We have had classes out on trips, countless visitors in as well as theme days, Christmas markets, parents evening, walking exhibitions and so much more!

We are very excited for the new year-we have so much planned! We must be realistic however that there may be some tougher times ahead particularly with the Omicron variant.

All children will return to school on Wednesday 5th January. The DfE are recommending that during the holiday period families continue to lateral flow test at least twice weekly. We politely ask that all families lateral flow test their children on the Tuesday 4th January before returning to school on the Wednesday and continue twice weekly. That way we can start off on the right foot and ensure that no new germs are introduced to the school site following a quarantine period over the Christmas break.

We hope you all have a wonderful holiday, a very Merry Christmas (if you're celebrating) and a happy New Year!

Attendance Figure of the Term:
94% needs improving

Any absences linked to Covid are NOT calculated in any attendance figures (e.g. isolating, awaiting test results etc)

Our attendance policy can be found on our website

Days off school add up to lost learning

175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping, household jobs and other appointments					
180 DAYS FOR YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION EACH YEAR	10 days absence 180 DAYS OF EDUCATION	10 days absence 171 DAYS OF EDUCATION	20 days absence A term missed 161 DAYS OF EDUCATION	30 days absence 152 DAYS OF EDUCATION	47 days absence 143 DAYS OF EDUCATION
100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
Good Best chance of success. Get your child off to a flying start.		Worrying Less chance of success. Makes it harder to make progress.		Serious Concern Not far from your child's education!	

Always going the extra mile!

At Sea Mills we pride ourselves on going the extra mile for our children, families and community. The family and community are core to our schools intent: [Curriculum - Our Intent - Sea Mills Primary School](#).

This winter I truly believe that we have gone above and beyond all other schools in Bristol to support our children and families; giving those who are most in need the extra support to make the Christmas break as special as possible.

Nicky our brilliant family support worker was able to secure luxury family hampers, Lord Mayor Vouchers (that will fund our future free holiday events e.g. Breakfast clubs and Children's Day) and a special gift for every single child who attends Sea Mills. Thank you to those parents and community members who helped us wrap them all!

None of this support is a statutory requirement and is on top of our core educational offer, we give because we genuinely care about our children and families. I honestly do not know of any other school in Bristol who gives such brilliant child and family support (wellbeing, emotional, mental and family). I am exceptionally proud that we are able to continue supporting our families.

Free Holiday Sessions

Children and young people who are eligible for free school meals will be able to access over 190 four-hour inclusive, free sessions at Your Holiday Hubs (YHH) across the city this school winter holiday.

Around 35 organisations across the city will be running YHH programmes during the break, which will include a variety of fun activities, offering opportunities to learn and develop skills, alongside a nutritious, hot meal.

Activities include sport, cooking, arts and crafts, drama, dance and music, with organisations like Bristol City Robins, Bristol Somali Youth Voice and the SS Great Britain Trust.

A list of organisations and locations running YHH programmes are available on the Bristol City Council website here: [Find a holiday activity in your area - bristol.gov.uk](#)



PTFA Christmas Market

A huge thank you to all of the PTFA, Nicky and Andrew Kinnear for organising the excellent Christmas Market we held at the end of last term. Nearly £2000 was raised, thank you to all those who attended. Below are some highlights!



Keeping Children Safe

Safeguarding is defined as:

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- protecting children from maltreatment;
 - preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development;
 - ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
 - taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes
- (Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE), 2021)

Child Protection refers to the situation where a child is suffering significant harm, or is likely to do so, and action is required to protect that child.

Aims

Sea Mills Primary School fully recognises the responsibility for child protection.

Everyone in our school shares an objective to keep children safe by:

- Providing a safe environment for children to learn in.
- Supporting children's development in ways which will foster self-esteem and independence.
- Identifying and responding to children in need of support and/or protection.

School commitment:

1. To establish and maintain an ethos where children feel secure and are encouraged to talk, and are listened to.
2. To ensure that all children have effective means of communication with more than one adult in the school.
3. To give opportunities for class and group discussions of thoughts and feelings in an atmosphere of trust, acceptance and tolerance.
4. To include in the curriculum activities and opportunities for PSHE/Citizenship which equip children with the skills they need to stay safe from abuse.
5. To ensure safe recruitment practice and the checking of suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children.
6. To follow the procedures set out by the Bristol Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) and take account of guidance from the Department for Education

Who's Who

The School's Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) are: **Mrs Sian Randall, Mr Kinnear and Mrs Nicola Philips.**

The safeguarding Governor is **Mrs Jenny Winfield.**

The Local Authority designated officer (LADO) is **Nicola Laird.**

Mr Howard Davies is our e-Safety officer [e-Safety - Sea Mills Primary School](#)

Playtimes and Lunchtimes

At break time we always have at least 5 members of staff out on duty who cover the entire playground. This is well above the legally required ratio. We always have a fully trained first aider available.

At lunchtimes we have our SMSA team on duty who cover the entire playground as well as a member of SLT every day again well above the legally required ratio. We always have a fully trained first aider available.

Pastoral Team

Alongside our teachers we have a pastoral team that look after the mental health and wellbeing of our children and families. More information can be found here: [Families and Community - Sea Mills Primary School](#)

School Policies

We have a set of specific policies that we use to ensure we are consistent and work in line with government guidance and law to keep your children safe. These can all be found in the policy section of our website.

[Policies - Sea Mills Primary School](#)

Why is READING so important?

Reading at home has never been more important! Reading at home and reading for pleasure can have a massive impact on a child's education, social skills, wellbeing and mental health. So much research has been conducted which proves that reading is the key to unlocking learning across all subjects.

At Sea Mills all children have reading journals that should be used to record their reading at home. Never seen it? Ask you children where they are as they have them and should be using them every day.

You should aim to read with your child every day or at least 3 x per week, logging this in their reading journal. All children across the school have access to reading rewards such as lucky dip prizes and free books! In a nutshell the more they read at home the more they win and benefit educationally which surely is enough of an incentive!

WHY READING TO KIDS IS IMPORTANT

Below are some of the invaluable benefits of reading to your child between the ages of two and five.



- 1 A STRONGER RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU
- 2 A FOUNDATION FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
- 3 STRONGER BASIC SPEECH SKILLS
- 4 UNDERSTANDING HOW A BOOK IS READ
- 5 BETTER COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- 6 MASTERY OF LANGUAGE
- 7 SHARPER LOGICAL THINKING SKILLS
- 8 EXPOSURE TO NEW EXPERIENCES
- 9 ENHANCED CONCENTRATION & DISCIPLINE
- 10 THE KNOWLEDGE THAT READING IS FUN!

AND LASTLY, QUALITY TIME SPENT TOGETHER!

BLOG.EARLYMOMENTS.COM

READING IS GOOD FOR YOU

On average, readers have better:



Physical Health



Empathy



Mental Health

Reading for as little as 6 minutes can



= 60%

↓ **STRESS**



reduce stress by 60%, slow heart beat, ease muscle tension and alter your state of mind

Reading reduces stress:

68%

100%

300%

600%

more than:



Listening to music



Drinking a cup of tea



Going for a walk



Playing a video game

Healthier
Together

NHS

Let's get the jab done



Walk in Covid Vaccination Clinic (16+)

The Rock Community Centre

St Peter's Hall, Ridingleaze, Avon, Bristol BS11 0QE

Saturday 18th December, 10am-4pm

1st and 2nd Covid Vaccinations, Booster and Flu jabs (10am-3pm) available

*(Subject to availability)



find local walk-in clinics,
visit **www.grabajab.net** or scan the QR code.

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