

# Monthly Head Teacher Newsletter

Dear Families,

Thank you for your continued support this term. As always, it has been jammed packed with whole school activities, trips, visitors but most importantly exciting learning.

Last week Mr Kinnear and Miss Lewis conferenced children about behaviour and feeling safe in school. All of the random children selected to be conferenced said they felt safe, happy and enjoyed school. Children felt very supported. The adults listen to them and act quickly when something upsets them. Children felt that bullying, racism or any form of discrimination was not ok and if it happens then it was dealt with quickly and very seriously.

One area for improvement that was mentioned was break times and some children felt that some boys engaged in too much rough play. This sometimes can lead to children getting upset or hurt.

We will be keeping a close eye on this in the playground and stopping it. We will also remind children in our assemblies and PSHE lessons that rough play is not allowed.

## Staff News

Miss Blair will sadly be leaving us at the end of T5 due to the end of her maternity contract. I am sure you will all join me in wishing her the very best and our deepest thanks.

To take over from Miss Blair, Mrs Jordan Thomas, a very experienced teacher, is returning to work following her maternity leave. She has already been in to school during T4 and has more visits planned throughout T5. She will return during the final week of T5 and be spending the full week getting to know the Y1 class and meeting parents to ensure a smooth transition.

Miss Pearson will be beginning her maternity leave on the 21<sup>st</sup> March. Once we have some news we will be sure to share it with our families.

We welcome Mr Sam Hollis Pack to Sea Mills in T5 our Y5 teacher who met the children and parents at the beginning of this week.

March 2023



Key Dates

April

5<sup>th</sup> – Free Family Breakfast 10am-12pm

12<sup>th</sup> – Free Family Breakfast 10am-12pm

17<sup>th</sup> – Term Begins

21<sup>st</sup> – Miss Pearson's last day (Maternity Leave)

21<sup>st</sup> Eid

23<sup>rd</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup> - Year 5/6 Camp

27<sup>th</sup> – Possible Teachers Strike

May

1<sup>st</sup> - BANK HOLIDAY

2<sup>nd</sup> – Possible Teacher's Strike

2<sup>nd</sup> - KS1 SATs month

5<sup>th</sup> – School Coronation Event (see poster)

8<sup>th</sup> – BANK HOLIDAY

9<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> - KS2 SATs Week

17<sup>th</sup> – Y3 & 4 Trip to Slimbridge

19<sup>th</sup> – World Culture and Diversity Day  
(arrangements TBC)

22<sup>nd</sup>– JT returning to work

26<sup>th</sup> – Miss Blair's last day

**Take our poll!**

Would you be interested in a paid summer childcare provision?

<https://take.quiz-maker.com/poll4754248x6a854Aca-147>

# Holiday Hubs

As we approach the Easter school holidays, we would like to remind you that the Your Holiday Hub (YHH) programme in Bristol will be running from 1 April until 16 April 2023.

The YHH programme provides a range of free activities, food workshops and hot meals for children and young people from Reception to Year 11 who receive benefits-related free school meals.

The activities are carefully designed to be fun and educational, helping your child to learn new skills and make new friends during the holidays. Activities range from arts and crafts, to sports, to forest school. Alongside each four-hour activity, your child will also receive a hot meal. We strongly encourage all eligible families to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity.

All available activities for the Easter school holidays can be found on the YHH website [www.yourholidayhubbristol.co.uk](http://www.yourholidayhubbristol.co.uk) and can be filtered by age group, activity, location and date. Activities can be booked directly with the provider. All this information can be found on the YHH website. A list of all the providers who have received HAF funding can also be found on the Your Holiday Hub website.

If you have any questions regarding the programme or eligibility, please use the 'get in touch' page on the Your Holiday Hub website [www.yourholidayhubbristol.co.uk/get-in-touch](http://www.yourholidayhubbristol.co.uk/get-in-touch). Thank you for your attention, we hope to see your child at one of the Your Holiday Hub activities this Easter.

Kind Regards,  
Reena Bhogal-Welsh  
Director Education and Skills

## THRIVE- What is it?

Sadly, more and more school children are struggling to cope with their mental health. Through Sea Mills' Thrive approach of using the latest research into brain development we know that the brain has incredible plasticity.

This means that new pathways can be developed in a child's brain! Our skill as Thrive practitioners is to help the child to develop new pathways where they are needed most by using skilled assessment around six Thrive Developmental Strands.

Our Thrive practitioners have undergone rigorous training to ensure they are fully equipped to work with the wider staff team to deliver breathtakingly simple and effective strategies and activities which support the development of each unique child. These tried and tested strategies and activities are individualised for children and their families to provide unique experiences, which done repeatedly with a familiar adult do many things including:

- developing a child's strong sense of self-worth
- supporting a child's growing capacity to make sense of the world
- supporting the development of neuronal pathways in the brain that positively contribute to healthy stress management systems
- enabling a child to be able to think whilst having strong feelings
- building a child's ability to be able to make choices about their behaviour
- building a child's capacity to self-soothe and understand their emotions



# More about SEND @ Sea Mills

## What should I do if I think my child has special educational needs?

If you feel your child may need some extra support in school, please talk to **their teacher** about your concerns. If you have already done this, you can arrange to see the SENCO directly to discuss their needs. We strive to have open and honest relationships with our families and would hope that you feel confident in talking to us about the support you feel your child needs.

## How does the school know if a child may need extra help?

We would use the following ways to identify whether or not a child may have special educational needs:

- Concerns raised by a parent
- Meeting with the child's pre-school setting/ previous school
- Concerns raised by the child's class teacher
- Meeting with outside agencies e.g. a speech and language therapist
- Health diagnosis from a paediatrician

## How will my child be taught and supported?

Our SENCO oversees all the support that is offered to children requiring additional help across the school. Your child's class teacher will oversee, plan for, and work with, each child with additional needs in their class, to make sure they are making progress in every area of the curriculum. They will follow the guidance of medical and outside agency professionals to make sure they are giving the best support they can. Your child may have a Pupil Passport, which will identify barriers to their learning and useful strategies being used to support your child.

There may be an LSA (Learning Support Assistant) working with your child, either individually or as part of a small group. Different LSAs may work with your child throughout the day, depending on which intervention they are doing. LSA time is carefully timetabled and states the support to be given to individuals and groups of children.

## How will I know my child is doing the right sort of work?

Teachers will use their knowledge of your child to plan work which is just right for them. They will make sure there is sufficient challenge and support, sometimes providing different activities for small groups. The teacher will also direct any other adults in the room, such as LSAs, who are working to support your child. The class teacher and SENCO will decide, at least three times a year, which interventions children need to do to support their learning and progress.

## How will you, and I, know how well my child is doing?

Teachers regularly assess children's progress and compare it to school, national and personal attainment. They may use standardised tests and assessments to make their judgements.

You will have the chance to meet with your child's teacher at **least twice a year**, when you can discuss and find out about the support your child will be having and the progress they are making. All parents/ carers will be informed if their child is receiving interventions at the start of each term by the class teacher.

If your child is on the SEN register, they may also have a Pupil Passport, showing the strategies and support being used. If they are accessing an intervention, this will be planned and monitored on an IRAM by the adult leading the intervention – this will be discussed with the class teacher and regular feedback provided. If your child has meetings with outside agency staff, such as Occupational Therapists or Speech and Language support, then you will be invited into school to meet them and see how their suggestions are being carried out in school. Some children may have multi-agency meetings where many different staff from a variety of outside agencies meet to discuss progress and decide the best ways to support. You will always be informed and invited to these meetings as your views and thoughts are vital to building a clear picture of the child. If your child's teacher has concerns during the year about the progress your child is making, they will contact you to discuss these.

**Remember communication is key and works both ways! We will communicate with you formally 3 times a year through parents evenings and reports. If you want to know more in-between these times the classroom door is always open!**

More information can be found here: [Special Educational Needs and Disabilities - Sea Mills Primary School](#)



# World Book Day



# KING CHARLES III CORONATION STREET PARTY



Parents are invited to join us for a special  
coronation street party on  
**Friday 5th May at 2,00pm.**

Parents may collect their children via outside  
classroom doors from 1.50pm- gates will be  
open but supervised

**Children will be parents responsibility once  
collected. Families may leave from 2.45pm**



To make the event a success we will need donations  
of cakes/ biscuits.

Please can families make cake donations to the  
office on the morning of 5th May





# Governor Development Day

**Chair of Governors:** Jenny Winfield

**Vice Chair of Governors:** John Vasey

**Clerk:** Jayne Roberts

The Governing Body has responsibility for the effective management of the school. Governors have legal duties, powers and responsibilities.

What we do...

- The Governing Body work as a team, and in co-operation with the staff, ensure a safe and happy learning environment where children can prosper.
- Monitor the strategic thinking of where the school is going and how we get there.
- Working with the Headteacher and senior staff, Governors are responsible for strategically setting and delivering the school's aims and policies. This includes:
  - Improving standards of teaching and learning.
  - Implementation of statutory legislation.
  - Setting and monitoring the school's budget.
  - Staff appointments and interviews.
  - Safeguarding and equal opportunities.
  - The School Development Plan (SDP).
  - Risk assessments and general care of the school's estate.

Last term all of our school governors spent a full day at Sea Mills Primary. They explored every part of the school day visiting breakfast club, spending time in classes, popping into interventions, participating in as well as watching break/lunchtimes. Governors also questioned and spoke to parents, children and staff about how they felt about school.

## **Governors were hugely impressed with everything they saw!**

Governors learned that most of our children love school, feel safe and listened to. That bullying although rare is always dealt with quickly and is not tolerated. Children were able to tell governors who kept them safe and if they had a problem; they knew at least two adults who they could go to for help.

Parents were also very complimentary and expressed that they felt the school was well led and would highly recommend it to others. Some parents did express that communication can sometimes be too much and they'd been having issues with the Arbor app. As a result, we have worked hard to try and consolidate our communication as much as possible. In addition, we have fed back to Arbor about issues with the parent app.

Throughout the day, governors expressed how impressed they were with the well organised, calm and purposeful school and classroom environments. Children were taking active roles in their learning as well as being able to enthusiastically talk about their learning.

All governors had a brilliant day spending a day in the life of a Sea Mills child and came away very impressed!

If you would like to know more about their day please feel free to speak to one of our governors.

More general information about governance can be found on our website:

[Governors - Sea Mills Primary School](#)

# SCHOOL UNIFORM DISCOUNT

[www.brigade.uk.com](http://www.brigade.uk.com)

Are pleased to be able to offer all parents the following discount;

Date: Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>-Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April

Discount 10% on all orders

Code: Enter **SPRING23** at the checkout to activate the discount

## Uniform Reminders

“We believe that the wearing of a school uniform enables children to identify with their school, gives a sense of belonging, is practical and smart, reinforces a positive work ethos and reduces expenditure for families”.

Preloved Uniform is available free at the school office.

Iron on badges for non-branded uniform can be purchased at the school office.

## Winter:

- Red sweatshirt, jumper, cardigan or fleece
- Plain white/red polo shirt or blouse
- Black/navy/grey trousers/ leggings, dress or skirt
- White/black socks or tights
- Black/brown shoes

## Summer

- As above or red/white checked dress
- Black/navy/grey knee length shorts
- Closed toe, sturdy sandals

Jeans, tracksuits, high-heeled shoes/boots, Crocs, flip-flops, football shirts, shirts with large slogans/logos etc. are not acceptable schoolwear.

## PE Kit

Plain white t-shirt or school polo shirt, plain black shorts, trainers, plimsolls or daps. A black tracksuit is also useful for outdoor activities during the winter.

## Jewellery

On Health and Safety grounds, we do not allow children to wear jewellery to school. The exceptions to this are stud pierced earrings. We ask the children to remove these during PE lessons or, if they cannot be removed, to cover them with a plaster brought in from home. This is to prevent them from causing injury.

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Or

Click on the link to order from My Clothing – [myclothing.com](http://myclothing.com)