



# Co-Head Teachers Monthly Newsletter

November 2023

Dear Families,

It has been a real pleasure to drop in on classes this week. We have enjoyed visiting while children were being authors, mathematicians, scientists, musicians, philosophers and athletes. We are very proud of the pupils at Sea Mills Primary and we were delighted to see children persevering and 'being brave' when learning new things.

December is fast approaching and with it thoughts of the festive season. Below are some key dates as we head towards Christmas – it's going to be a busy, fun-packed month! Can we particularly draw your attention to the **Christmas Fayre** which is after school on the **6<sup>th</sup> December**. The PTFA have been planning some great stalls, activities and fun – it's not to be missed! Raffle tickets are on sale now with some great prizes. Get yours at the office, on the gate or on the day.

## Mobile Phones

When is the right time to get a mobile phone for my child? As a school, we would strongly encourage you to **delay as long as possible**. There are many downsides to children getting a phone early. Children's screen time shoots up and they are much less inclined to read books. They are much more likely to view unsuitable content as it is much harder to monitor a phone than a TV or tablet. Children also often struggle to message their peers in a sensible, mature way and we often have to deal with the fallout of thoughtless 'chat' or unkindness outside of school. Whilst we appreciate there are some positives – for example being able to contact an older pupil who is walking to school independently – if not really needed we would encourage you to think again before getting a mobile for your child.



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# DIARY DATES December 2023

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1<sup>st</sup> Y6 Dyson Workshop

5<sup>th</sup> Stay and Play 3 Year Old starters

6<sup>th</sup> Christmas Lunch (children may wear Christmas jumpers)

6<sup>th</sup> PTFA Christmas Fayre 3.30 - 5pm and FGB

7<sup>th</sup> Year 5 class assembly (time TBC) and Stay and Play 3 Year Old starters

7<sup>th</sup> Reception Nativity @ St Edyth's Church 10am

8<sup>th</sup> Christmas Jumper Day (£1.00 donation required for Save the Children)

12<sup>th</sup> KS1 Performance 2.00pm

13<sup>th</sup> Nursery Christmas Sing Along 11.15am

14<sup>th</sup> KS1 Performance 9.30am

14<sup>th</sup> Nursery Christmas Sing Along 2.15pm

14<sup>th</sup> Christmas 'Winter Warmer' Carols, Readings and Music @ St Edyth's 5pm

15<sup>th</sup> Class newsletters for T3 out to parents

15<sup>th</sup> End of Term - No After School Club

20<sup>th</sup> Free family Christmas Breakfast

15<sup>th</sup> January – Reception 2024 application deadline



# School Attendance target 96% or above



## Attendance and Punctuality expectations

At Sea Mill Primary School we recognise that attending school regularly and on time has a positive impact on learning, progress and therefore the best life chances for our students. Excellent attendance and punctuality is the key for our student's success. Therefore, we must ensure that attendance and punctuality are the highest they possibly can be in order to prepare our students for their future adult life. In line with the Government and Local Authority Guidelines, we expect all our students to maintain an attendance level of 96% and above. It is the responsibility of everyone in our school community – parents, staff, students and governors to ensure they achieve this. Therefore, we monitor and review the attendance of all

our students constantly. We encourage excellent attendance and punctuality for all students, by offering an environment in which our students feel valued and part of the school community.

Download: [Helpful advice on improving attendance](#)

## Why is attendance so important and how is it linked to attainment?

Logically if students are not in school, they are not learning and thereby allowing their potential grades to suffer. What might seem insignificant as they lounge on the sofa on a day off school is that if they are not genuinely ill they should be in school and working their hardest towards achieving their best, no matter what year group they are in. The process of education is life long and we build on what we already know and therefore, if they skip school they are damaging their future. Each year there are 190 school days which leaves 175 days for holidays, shopping, birthday treats and non-urgent medical and dental appointments. Therefore the school is very unlikely to authorise absence for these reasons.

As mentioned earlier our **School Attendance Target is 96% or above**, therefore, if your child attends for at least 96% of one school year they will have had less than 10 days absence.

## Absences

Schools are now prohibited from authorising any leave in term time; unless there are **exceptional circumstances**.

If your child requires **exceptional circumstances leave**, you must first ask permission from the co-headteachers, by completing and a 'Request for Authorisation for Absence' form available from the school office, and returning to the school. Only requests made on this form will be considered; please do not send letters, or emails.

- Please do not make arrangements or commitments for your child's absence before authorisation has been given.
- Requests for **exceptional circumstances leave** will only be considered two weeks before the date of leave to enable the co-headteachers to consider the items below and no leave will be authorised retrospectively:
  - How much education your child has already missed through illness or arriving late.
  - Have you requested exceptional circumstances leave before?
  - Can this leave be taken at another time?
  - Is this unavoidable?
- You will receive a reply notifying you if your request has been authorised or not authorised, soon after your form has been received.

When holiday is taken and the school has not authorised the absence, the school may request that the Local authority issues a Penalty Notice – more information is available from school office.

## When might a Penalty Notice be issued?

The school may issue a Penalty Notice to a parent in one or more of the following circumstances where more than 8 sessions of absence are recorded in 10 school weeks. There are 2 sessions per day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.



Please order by 24<sup>th</sup> November – see email

All children on a Bespoke Medical Diet menu must be provided with a suitable main and dessert from their bespoke medical diet menu

# Merry Christmas

## ALLERGY AWARE MENU '23

### MAINS

Roast Turkey  
OR Halal Roast Turkey

### VEGETARIAN/ VEGAN SUITABLE MAIN

SD Sweet Potato and Chickpea Roast

### ALTERNATIVE MAIN

Jacket Potato and Baked Beans

### SIDES

Roast Potatoes  
SD Vegan Mini Sausage  
Gravy  
Carrots & Peas

### DESSERT

SD Chocolate & Orange Crispie  
**CONTAINS GF BARLEY MALT EXTRACT**  
OR  
SD Shortbread

**GF = GLUTEN FREE SD = SPECIAL DIET**

**ALLERGENS ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN RED - IF THE ALLERGEN PRESENT IS UNSUITABLE FOR THE CHILD THEY WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE. \*PLEASE NOTE THAT SAUSAGES ARE NOT SERVED TO NURSERY AGED PUPILS**



# Diversity Week

At the end of last term we celebrated Diversity Week.

On Wednesday 18th we mixed up as a whole school into to our team houses: Aardman, Banksy, Brunel and Concorde. Each smaller house group had a country to explore and learn about. The children were then asked to take part in Engineering (DT) based activities. We ended the week with a walking exhibition here are some highlights!





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Together, we'll uncover savings and money you might not realise you are entitled to. If you need it, we can help you get ready and put you in touch with debt advice.

Many of our staff have used our service so understand what is important to you.

## ***Drop in***

**Mondays 11.00-12:30**  
Shirehampton JTE Hub  
Penpole Ave, Bristol BS11 0DY

## ***Contact***

**Email:** [bristol@cleanslateltd.co.uk](mailto:bristol@cleanslateltd.co.uk)  
**Call:** 0117 457 4287

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**KIDS XMAS CAMP**

**Henbury Court Primary Academy**

**COURSE DATES**  
18TH DEC - 22ND DEC 2023

**AGES: 5-14 YEARS**

**TIMES: 10AM - 2PM**

**FULLY FUNDED** for children on benefit related free school meals

**Zoo trip included**

**Join our Children's Sports Camp! Experience fencing, yoga, and a thrilling zoo trip. Ages 8-12 can enjoy a week of fun, fitness, and adventure with included lunch. Build skills, make friends, and create lasting memories. Limited spots available—reserve your spot now**

**Scan here to book now use code XMASHAF23 if eligible for a fully funded place or head to [www.pro-coaching.co.uk](http://www.pro-coaching.co.uk)**

## Diwali in EYFS

In the second week of November, our Nurseries and Reception class children gathered together to explore some different ways that Diwali can be celebrated. Thank you to all of our families who turned up to support the event. We ended the session by lighting some of our handmade diya lamps, listening to the story of Diwali and of course singing with Makaton signing.





# Sea Mills Primary Nature Reserve: new meadow project!

Nature Connect have been helping us to install a new 'mini-meadow' to encourage wildlife like bees and birds. The Eco Team helped plan the shape and site of the meadow, installed new signs and planted flower bulbs. Year 5 and 6 then helped strip the turf and all classes then helping to sow new seed. We're looking forward to a burst of bright flowers in the spring!

