

DATES FOR SEPTEMBER

Monday 17th: Welcome Service, All Saints' Church at 9.15 am (everyone welcome) **POSTPONED**

Parent Tour for 2019 at 11.00 am

Meet the Teacher Year 5 & 6 at 3.20 pm

Wednesday 19th: Year 5 & 6 Curriculum PE at Gemini Gym at 1.30 pm

Year 3 & 4 Trip to Lye Cross Farm

Backwell School Open Evening at 6.30 pm

Monday 24th: Parent Tour for 2019 at 11.00 am

Wednesday 26th: Year 5 & 6 Curriculum PE at Gemini Gym at 1.30 pm

Thursday 27th: Nailsea School Open Evening at 6.00 pm

Gordano School Open Evening: 6.00 pm - 8.30 pm

SCHOOL CLUBS

This is a polite reminder that the times for collection for after school clubs are as follows: 4.15 pm, 5.00 pm & 5.30 pm. Whilst we allow a discretionary few minutes, please be advised that you will be charged to the next collection time if you do not pick-up your child promptly. This also applies to the end of the school day: children who have not been collected will be placed in after school club and you will be charged accordingly.

Choir starts on Wednesday lunchtime next week. Orchestra is moving to Friday.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Although all children in Reception and Year 1 & 2 receive free school meals, it is important that all eligible parents apply formally for free school meals (whatever their child's age), as this brings other funding that school can use specifically for your child's benefit. Applications for free school meals can be made at any time, but the additional funding will be received soonest if you apply by the end of September.

Children whose parents or carers receive any of these benefits are entitled to free school meals:

- income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit with annual Take Home Pay/Net Earnings below £7,400 (which equals £616.67 per month) benefits not included

The application process has now changed. You can [apply online here](#) to get an instant result. If you are eligible, your entitlement will begin on the day you apply and last until the end of the school phase that your child is in as at 31 March 2022. You will not have to reapply during this time.

If you are eligible you will be able to download an eligibility letter. If you are applying during the school holidays, the school will be notified for you. If you are applying during term time, you'll need to show the school the letter in order to get your free meals. Keep a copy of the letter in case the school asks to see it again.

If you are already entitled, you do not need to apply again until the end of the school phase your child is in as at 31 March 2022.

YEAR 6 APPLICATIONS TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Earlier this week letters were sent home to Year 6 parents regarding applications for secondary school places, a copy of the letter is attached to this newsletter.

You are now able to apply for the school(s) you wish for your child to attend next year. The closing date and time for the submission of applications is Wednesday 31 October 2018 at 23:59 hours.

You can submit your application via the online application service which is available at: www.n-somerset.gov.uk/admissions. The online application service is secure, and you will receive an e-mail receipt once your application has been submitted. If you have previously registered on the online service, you can login using your e-mail address and password. Please ensure that all details listed under 'My Account' are up to date.

Alternatively, you can submit a paper application form. The application form is also available on the [North Somerset admissions website](#) or you may contact the School Admissions Team to post one out to you.

TENNIS LUNCHTIME CLUB

Backwell tennis club have offered to run a free taster session for Years 1, 2 & 3 this Tuesday lunchtime to see if we can generate a little more interest. We currently have three children signed up and need to have at least 8 for the club to run. If you have already made your payment on ParentPay then don't worry, we will refund it if the club is cancelled.

NAILSEA SCHOOL OPENING EVENING

Please see the attached invitation to year 6 parents for the open evening at Nailsea school.

CHURCH NEWS

Sunday 23rd September 16:30 - Food@4:30, Cross Tree Centre

We will be "Getting Ready for Harvest", hot food will be served suitable for all diets. Please contact Jules Harris jules.curate@gmail.com if you would like to join us.

Friday 5th October 19:00 to 22:00 - Parish Harvest Barn Dance, Failand Village Hall

Come and celebrate the Harvest!

Tickets include a ploughman's supper

Adults £6

Children £3

Family (2 Adults + Children) £15

Please contact Parish Office for tickets.

Auction of Promises

We are raising for money for the CTINAD youth worker at Nailsea School. We are having an Auction of Promises which can be found at

<https://www.wraxallwithfailand.org.uk/991726100444.htm>

There are a number of interesting items including Dinner at the Rectory and a Christmas Hamper. If you are interested in placing a bid please contact Fran franmbinding@gmail.com. The winning bids will be announced at the Harvest Barn Dance

MESSAGE FROM MR TUCKER

Dear Parents/Carers,

Surely, surely it is time for another holiday now. All this sitting in my office, staring at the view (and trying to manage Beth) is really tiring stuff, you know.

If anything, Reception are feeling a little like me at the moment: 'Wait. What? We have to keep coming back? Nar, you're alright, thanks.' It has been quite a shock to their little systems that they are actually expected to keep returning to us. I feel their pain. However, I am delighted to report that they continue to thrive and are going from strength to strength. One of the main activities for the week has been their painting of their portraits, which are nothing short of stunning. Particular attention has been paid to their colour choices and the orientation of their features. That said, eyelashes are impressively lengthy, eyebrows heavy, and ears... well, 'ears' are in slightly surprising places. If you get a chance to look at them, I promise they will brighten your day.

When asking Mrs Brierley about the learning taking place in Year 1/2 this week, I had to go and clean my ears out as I could have sworn that she said they were studying 'fire'. Turns out, this was no mistake and Beth is now in the process of contacting our insurance adjusters in case they take a more 'hands on' approach to the topic. One of the ways to ignite (see what I did there?) children's enthusiasm is to take a cross curricular approach so that the main topic bleeds across lots of subjects: writing about the benefits of fire in Literacy; sorting substances into flammable and non-flammable in science and, in this case, creating fire pictures in art. Using hand prints to represent flames, they had to work collaboratively to create a collage of camp fires. While they look great, it was the way that they supported each other that was particularly pleasing.

Following on from their drama work last week based upon the Ice Palace, Year 3/4 have been designing games as if they were villagers trying to take their minds off the impending danger of Starjik. Working in small groups, they have devised all sorts of catching games. Clearly, this is great fun to take part in but why spend all this time developing games based on the book? A significant part is the immersion side of things, helping the children understand the emotions and feelings of the villagers so they make stronger connections in the book. What it also provides, is a real-life context to base their instruction writing on, thus allowing them to write a piece with far greater clarity and accuracy. Lots of imperative verbs and fronted adverbials to start sentences, and even questions in the introductions to draw the readers in. They were not bad. I might even go so far as to say passable. At this stage of the year, that is heady praise from me: 'passable'.

Their World War II Topic is well and truly gripping Year 5/6. A sure fire way one can tell this is by how many artefacts they bring in. So far, we have had helmets, ammunition belts, pictures of great grandparents, ration books and even a soldier's identification booklet. These primary sources of information have been supported with internet and (good old fashioned) book research so that the children can really start to delve in and find out more about the areas that particularly interest them. For instance, did you know that Anderson Shelters were named after John Anderson who was a government minister at the time (I thought they were named after their designer) and that your financial situation governed whether you had to pay for them or not?

Our Stars of the week are Ruby & Isla in Year 1/2, Sienna, Raf, Rose, Holly & Phoebe S in Year 3/4 and Yaz & Jess in Year 5/6. Very well done. The house with the most conduct marks was Dragon, which also had the greatest number of work marks.

If you have not yet come across the author Lauren St John, you may well want to give her a whirl. She is probably most famous for her Laura Marlin mystery series (think a more up to date version of Enid Blyton). You may also like to try Kat Wolfe Investigates. Aimed at mid – upper KS2, this is a superb story of a mystery-loving girl, her feral wildcat and the peculiar disappearance of a local pet owner. Set in a seemingly peaceful village on the beautiful Jurassic coast, this intriguing tale is both gripping and entertaining.

Have a lovely weekend. Play safely and take care. What do you think, warm enough for one last BBQ this weekend before the end of the season? Nar, it is wishful thinking, you're probably right.

Mr Tucker