

Newsletter

July 2023

As we reach the end of a fantastic academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude and warmest wishes to our school community. The support and dedication of parents, staff, and pupils have made the first year of my Headship truly remarkable.

First and foremost, I want to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of our Co-Headteacher, Mr Neil Carpenter, who will be leaving us at the end of this term. Mr Carpenter has been an invaluable member of our school family, and although he was only with us for a short time his passion for education has left an indelible mark on our pupils' lives. His innovative ideas, guidance, and commitment to fostering a positive learning environment have been nothing short of remarkable. On behalf of the entire school, I extend our sincere thanks to Mr Carpenter and wish him the very best.

I am delighted to introduce the newest member of our leadership team, Mrs Jacquelyn Noble, who will be stepping into the role of Assistant Headteacher. Mrs Noble brings with her a wealth of experience, a passion for education, and a deep commitment to ensuring the success and well-being of every pupil. We are thrilled to welcome her to our school community and look forward to the positive impact she will undoubtedly make.

Congratulations are in order for all our dedicated staff and hardworking pupils who have demonstrated exemplary commitment by attending school every single day throughout this academic year. Your determination and dedication to education have not gone unnoticed, and it gives me great pleasure to have awarded each of you a 100% attendance badge. This achievement is a testament to your resilience and will serve as a reminder of the importance of regular attendance in shaping successful futures.

We understand that unforeseen illness or circumstances may have caused some absences, and we appreciate the support of parents and guardians in working with us to improve attendance. Together, we strive to ensure that every child has the opportunity to make the most of their educational journey.

A HUGE thank you to FoFA and all the dedicated volunteers who helped organise the Summer Fair. The event was a resounding success and undoubtedly left a lasting impact on our community. The Summer Fair not only brought together families, students, and teachers from Fishponds Academy, but it also welcomed members of the broader community.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer break. Please take this time to relax and recharge, ready to return in the new academic year with renewed enthusiasm and determination. We look forward to welcoming back familiar faces and embracing new ones.

Michelle Omoboni

Headteacher

The Lion King!

A group of staff took some of our pupils to see The Lion King at Bristol Hippodrome. It was a magical show! The children were enthralled and loved singing along to the songs they all know and love!

It was a very late finish and there were lots of very tired children on the bus home. Well worth the late night though!



Horseworld

Everyone involved in Horseworld seemed to greatly enjoy it. All showed remarkable care and respect towards the horses, while also demonstrating clear engagement and focus on the tasks presented to them. Everyone worked well as a team during the activities that involved pair work. Notably, one child said that he wants to 'live at Horseworld'!

Girls Football Festival

On Tuesday 10th July, girls from KS2 attended a Football festival hosted by city academy at Whitehall playing field. The girls took part in many activities which included, crab football, steal the ball and playing a match. The girls started training at the start of the term with Mr Simons and have showed lots of skills and have really enjoyed there Monday after school sessions. We hope to continue next year and play matches against other Schools.



Best Sports Day EVER!

Thank you to all the children who competed and gave their very best. Lots of you had smiles on your faces. I could sense the rush of adrenaline. You were all pumping your muscles as best as you can.

Thank you to the teachers and staff members, especially Mr Simons, who supported Sports Day. There were some amazing signs from years 3 and 4!

Thank you to the FOFA team for their excellence on the day. I encourage as many parents and carers to join the FOFA team so that they can keep up the good work.

We really enjoyed Sports Day because all the children were so kind to each other and everyone participated and had a go at something. Next year, we want it to be even bigger and better!



Summer Holiday Activities

Bristol City Council and the family partnership have put together a [document](#) collating a huge variety of activities open to families and young people across the summer.

By attending sessions throughout the holidays, children and young people can build their confidence and social skills through play, sport, adventure, and friendship. Anyone that attends a session will also get a free healthy meal! There are lots of exciting activities and events to participate in!

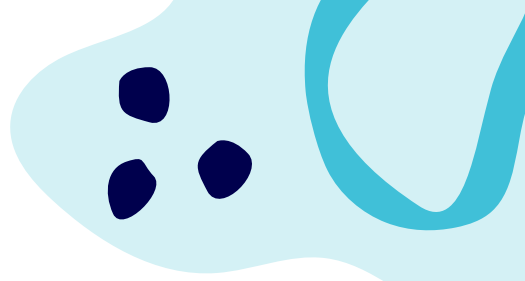
**Your
Holiday
HUB**
Bristol



The cost of everything seems to be going UP at the moment and navigating school holidays with kids can seemingly cost even more!

Luckily though, a wide range of establishments from supermarkets to hotels and bars are running either “Kids eat free” or “kids eat cheap” not just during half terms but some of them, all year round!

The full list of establishments can be found on [Total Bristol](#).



FoFA Summer Festival

The FoFa Summer Festival was a HUGE success. It was wonderful to see so many families and staff come together to mark the end of a brilliant year!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time, energy and made donations. Without you the event wouldn't have been so fantastic!

Y3 Greek Day

To celebrate the end of our topic about Ancient Greece, Year 3 had a Greek inspired day. We dressed up in traditional costumes and everyone took part in a carousel of activities. These included making hummus, making and cooking flatbreads on an open fire, designing and making mosaics and creating a garland headdress out of leaves. The day culminated with a delicious feast (many thanks to all parents and carers who contributed towards this) and a mini Olympics with javelin and discus throwing. Children had the opportunity try new food and are challenging themselves to make their own hummus over the summer.

Y5 Art Exhibition

This term, Year 5 designed and made installation art linked to our refugee topic. They created extremely thought provoking and creative pieces which challenged the discriminatory views that some people hold as well as the devastating events others may go through. We also represented the safe area we wish to provide for those who go through such struggles. In addition to the art, there were recordings of the children reading poetry to showcase their oracy and some poems were presented for the visitors to read. The exhibition came together nicely and impressed a lot of parents, our chair of governors as well as two ambassadors from Bristol Refugee Festival. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend and well done year 5!



The Reef

Our Resource Base, The Reef, officially opened at the end of Term 4. The Reef is a Resource Base for pupils with communication and interaction needs. We are pleased to share that we are now full and have 8 pupils ranging from Reception to Year 2. One of the pupils participated in the opening event by cutting the ribbon!

The Reef Garden has been named after Jane Leo who initially began the Reef's journey. Sadly, Jane passed away in June 2022. Jane's daughters, one a landscape gardener, helped us design the sensory garden which looks beautiful and well-liked by the children. The Resource Base is a fantastic addition to our school and the pupils are slowly transitioning in to the mainstream to access some of the curriculum learning.

The Reef also went on their first school trip, to Windmill Hill City Farm, where they had a wonderful time.



Uniform

In September, we will be renewing the standards for our school uniform. The uniform guidance requires all students to wear plain black shoes, along with a choice of either grey or black trousers, dress, skirt, or shorts. The standard attire also includes a smart and comfortable blue polo shirt, complemented by a blue jumper to ensure a smart and professional appearance. Lately, we have observed a growing number of children wearing PE t-shirts in place of the prescribed blue polo shirt. To address this, we have decided to make an adjustment to our PE kit. From now on, the PE uniform will consist of a crisp white polo shirt paired with black sports shorts, encouraging a sporty yet smart look for our students during PE.

We understand the importance of affordability and accessibility for our families, with the exception of our school jumper, the majority of our uniform can be easily purchased at most supermarkets for just a few pounds, making it a convenient and budget-friendly choice. School jumpers with the Fishponds logo can be purchased online or in store from Doug Hillard.

Uniforms play a significant role in fostering a sense of belonging, promoting discipline, and creating a focused learning environment. We believe that adhering to these renewed standards will not only enhance the overall appearance of our students but also instil a sense of pride and unity within our school community.

Culture Week

The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors started our culture week with their assembly to the whole school. They had sent out a cultural questionnaire and taught us about a few different cultures in our community.



It was a pleasure to see the children in their cultural outfits—they were so varied and colourful! The children were proud to tell me which country they represented.
-Trish Dodds, Chair of Academy Council



On the Wednesday, children came to school dressed in their cultural clothing—and they looked amazing. We loved seeing the range of clothes and everyone being proud of their own culture as well as curious about each others.

My favourite part was dressing up
-Pupil



It was a wonderful culture week!
My favourite part was doing my play rehearsal in my kilt.
-Pupil



Year 5 loved striking a pose at the end of the catwalk to show their cultural outfit to their class.

Throughout the week, we were fortunate to have many parents generously volunteer their time to speak to multiple classes about their cultures and traditions.



Two parents who taught us about Bulgaria and organised a video call to a Bulgarian school!

It was a pleasure to participate!
-Parent



A volunteer teaching us about his Irish culture.

My favourite part was learning about the Irish culture.
-Pupil



Kim Samuels came into year 1 to read her new music book and carry out some activities.



An amazing Spanish lesson in year 5!



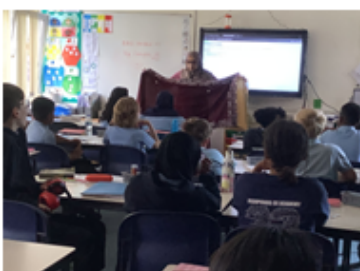
A parent who came to read a Nigerian story book to year 2.

I liked learning about the culture in Pakistan.
-Pupil

I was very impressed with how engaged the children were when I came to talk.
-Parent



A parents and their children telling us all about Argentina.



Two volunteers teaching us about Pakistan.

A big thank you to all students and teachers for making this meeting 'mission possible.' You are amazing.
-Bulgarian students

Children in The Reef got involved in culture week and did a range of activities: traditional flag making, country finding and ethic food making. They also make smoothies and listened (and danced) to traditional songs.



Year 4-6 conducted some research into the different cultures we have in our school. In groups, they then organised this information and presented it to younger year groups. They really had to practise their oracy skills here!



It was such an exciting, interesting and enriching range of activities for the children to learn about other cultures and, most importantly, about each other's backgrounds and traditions.
-Parent

I've learnt a lot over the last days. I particularly enjoyed the strategy games from around the world which we played in maths,
-Pupil



The pride my class have shown when speaking about their heritage has been so lovely and equally matched by the interest of their classmates demonstrated.
-Mrs Gio-Batta

Year 6 even got to explore some maths activities from different cultures.

Food Festival!

Wow! What an amazing turnout! Thank you to everyone who cooked and served throughout the festival as well as the ladies who created such beautiful henna patterns.

This was an amazing event not only for the children but also for the parents. It was an opportunity to learn and to communicate with each other.

-Parent



The culture week was so fun. My favourite part was the food festival.

-Pupil



Today's food festival was such a lovely event.

-Parent

The Food Festival gave us the opportunity to enjoy one another's company but to also taste food from across different cultures. It was amazing to see so many children trying new foods!



The Food Festival, which had delicious dishes from all over the world, was a fantastic event. It allowed children and adults to try a huge variety of authentic foods from different cultures.

-Parent

The Festival of Food was a complete triumph. It was amazing to see so many children trying different and diverse food... have never seen so many plates piled high!

-Parent

African dancing!

We were luckily enough to organise African dance workshops for the children. This was a fantastic opportunity to have some fun and learn in a different way. We loved it!



Both of my children loved the African dance workshop and were keen to share and talk about everything that they learnt.
-Parent



2023 - 2024 Term Dates

Term 1	Friday 1st September 2023 - Friday 20th October 2023 Inset Days - Friday 1st September and Monday 4th September
Term 2	Monday 30th October 2023 - Friday 15th December 2023 Inset Day - Monday 30th October
Term 3	Tuesday 2nd January 2024 - Friday 9th February 2024 Inset Day - Tuesday 2nd January
Term 4	Monday 19th February 2024 - Thursday 28th March 2024
Term 5	Monday 15th April 2024 - Friday 24th May 2024
Term 6	Monday 3rd June 2024 - Tuesday 23rd July 2024 Inset Days - Monday 22nd July and Tuesday 23rd July



Year 6



The Island that Rocks

On Wednesday 12th July, our Year 6 students gave a phenomenal performance of 'The Island That Rocks'. Their singing was nothing short of extraordinary, captivating their audiences with their harmonies and emotive voices. The talent and dedication displayed by our Year 6s made for an unforgettable evening, showcasing their bright futures as exceptional performers. A heartfelt thanks to the Year 6 staff (Mrs Gio-Batta, Mrs Seretny and Mr Jones) for their dedication in putting it all together. What a show!

Goodbye and Good Luck

As we say goodbye to our Year 6 students and their families, we cherish the incredible journey we've shared. We thank them for their trust and support. We wish our students success in secondary school and a future filled with limitless possibilities. Though we part ways, the memories and impact will endure. Best wishes to our Year 6s and their families for a bright future.