



Church of England Academy
Newsletter

2024 - 2025 : Term 2

As we come to the end of this term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly special time for our school and to share some exciting news about the future.

Looking back over this term, I couldn't be more proud of our children's hard work and achievements. From the beautiful performances in our Nativity play to the choir's moving performance at Clifton College, the brilliant and joyous singing by Years 3 & 4 at our Christmas Carol service and the incredible efforts of our athletics team, the children have shown dedication, talent, and teamwork. They've been a credit to themselves and to our school. A heartfelt thank you also goes to the staff and families who have supported them every step of the way.

The strength and energy at Fishponds is palpable and visitors have been so impressed by the staff and pupils. I remain, as always, an incredibly proud headteacher. The future continues to look exciting with our moving Trusts (see the following page) as well as us continuing to plan improvements to ensure we are thriving in all areas.

We're so excited to announce the upcoming launch of our new Wraparound Care provision, which will provide much-needed before- and after-school care for our families. This is a wonderful addition to our school and something we know will benefit many in our community. More details about this will follow in the new year.

As we approach the holidays, I want to wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas break. Thank you for being such an important part of our school community, and we look forward to welcoming you back in January as we step into an exciting new chapter together.

Michelle Omoboni

Headteacher



LIGHTHOUSE SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

We are thrilled to confirm that in the new year, our school will officially transfer from the Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust to Lighthouse Schools Partnership.

This is an important step for us, and as part of the transfer, our school name will be changing to Fishponds Church of England Primary School as this was the legal name on the document.



Alongside this, we'll be introducing a brand-new school logo, which we can't wait to share with you all (above right)! These changes represent a fresh chapter for our school while continuing to celebrate the values and traditions that make our community so special. Please don't worry - we will be altering all materials in the school to the new name and logo over time and uniform will remain with the Fishponds CE Academy name and logo until new uniform is purchased. No child will get told off or look out of place if they wear our current uniform.

The Lighthouse Schools Partnership is a Schools Trust providing education to children and young people from Nursery to Sixth Form. They are a not-for-profit charity organisation and believe that education changes lives for the better and forever. In fact, the previous headteacher, Mrs Debbie Coker, works as part of the Lighthouse Schools Partnership and has popped in to say hello!

Mr. Gary Lewis (CEO of Lighthouse Schools Partnership Trust), will be popping in during the first week back to say hello, present us with all of the official certificates of transfer and take photos. He will also write to you all to welcome you to the Trust during that first week.

We are thrilled to become part of such a successful partnership of schools and really excited for the future. Mr. Lewis has already met with staff and has sold the shared vision well.

Year 2

Year 2 enjoyed an exciting trip to the Bristol Spiegel tent for the KS1 Winter Sing. After having a picnic lunch in the classroom, we got onto the bus with great enthusiasm. Getting off in the centre, we had plenty of time to spare so took a quick detour into the Central Library where we enjoyed a story read by Mr Hodgkin. Following this, we walked a short way to the Bristol Spiegel tent where we joined around 200 children from around Bristol. It was so much fun! We waved our electric candles and sang our hearts out! What a lovely day!



Year 6

This term, year 6 have had some wonderful opportunities and experiences. We have been to see Charlie and Chocolate Factory at the MET which amazed us with their talent and incredible set design (they had a real waterfall on stage!).

However, our big performance. Our night in the spotlight, saw our children take part in the Bristol Beacon's Winter Sing with 500 other children. The students worked incredibly hard to learn all of the beautiful songs and they performed them with professionalism and enthusiasm.



Geography

This term in our topic learning we have all been Geographers and have been doing an amazing job! Year 1 have been answering the question "What is special about the UK?" and have been using maps to learn about the Capital Cities of the UK. They had learnt and remembered a lot. Year 2 have been answering the question "What are the physical and human features of Fishponds?" They have been on a couple of fieldtrips and used their Geography skills to notice physical and human features.

Our Lower Key Stage 2 children (year 3 and year 4) have become potato experts and have been answering the question "Why does farming matter?" They are looking forward to connecting with a farmer and learning more from him. Year 5 have been answering the question "What makes a rainforest a rainforest?" with a focus on Brazil. When I spoke to them about the biomes around the world, I was so impressed with how much they knew.

In Year 6 they have been answering the question "How do natural disasters happen?" and learning about how mountains are formed. If you need to know about the different types of mountains and how they are formed then ask one of our Year 6 children.



Recorder Revolution

Year 3 really enjoyed the Reorder Revolution concert at St George's in November. Our children were a great audience, taking part by clapping rhythms, learning actions and asking questions to the performers afterwards. We were all amazed that the different recorders could make such contrasting and beautiful sounds.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

Year 3 have worked incredibly hard the last two terms on their Global Citizenship lessons. We have learnt all about homelessness including the three main types of being homeless (sofa surfing, temporary accommodation and sleeping rough). We've also learnt all about refugees and the challenges they face. To end our topic, we decided to make kindness bags for the homeless. We got in touch with the local charity 'Help homeless believe' who will kindly distribute these over the Christmas period. Thank you to all our amazing families for the donations - we really couldn't do it without your support! Well done Year 3!



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INCLUSION

Thank you to all parent/carers who came and talked to us on parents evening and for all those who completed the recent SEND questionnaire. SEND stands for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and here are some of the things noted by parents that are going well:

If you didn't get the chance but would like to share your views about SEND at Fishponds, scan the QR code.



You have good interventions.

Staff give the children time to regulate.

Your individual approach is incredible.

My child had great support with her speech and language needs.

To help, you use the zones of regulation, children have access to the Nurture Nest and access to fidget objects and wobble cushions.

You support all children to attend school trips.

Teachers and teaching assistants are supportive, understanding and very helpful.

You are accepting of the children first, and manage their needs within the boundaries acceptable for life.



The Bristol Rovers footballer, Chris Lines, visited school to talk about his ADHD. He shared that he has built resilience and managed his ADHD which has helped him become successful. The children enjoyed an assembly from him and loved chatting to him at break time!

The SEND Team

Mrs Caddell
SENDCo



Mrs Hickmans
Assistant SENCo
Dyslexia Specialist



Want more information about SEND at Fishponds?

Come and get a leaflet from the school office or speak to one of the SEND Team.

Music

This has been an extremely busy term for music at Fishponds.

First, Fishponds Choir performed at Clifton College as part of their Advent Carol Service. This was an incredible experience for all who attended; it was truly magical. The Head of Music at Clifton College said that their enthusiasm, behaviour and musical quality was a highlight of the service.

Here are some of my favourite quotes from the children about their experience; you'll notice that the food was a favourite!

“My dream has come true. I have arrived at Hogwarts.”

“I liked that the chapel was really nicely decorated and I liked the harpist and the instruments that were played.”

“I really liked the food.” “The food was the best part.” “Everyone is talking about the food.”

Next, Year 6 performed at Bristol Beacon as part of the KS2 Winter Sing. Both myself and Ms Omoboni thoroughly enjoyed ourselves watching the children perform with such confidence and enthusiasm. They truly sparkled and shined!

Then, Year 2 attended the KS1 Winter Sing with Bristol Beacon at the Spiegeltent which was a magical, Christmassy experience. Our children sang beautifully. We're so proud of them!

To finish off the term, we had the amazing Year 3 & 4 Carol Service and the brilliant Reception and Year 1 Nativity.



The Reef

The Reef have had a wonderful term! They have really enjoyed learning to play basketball and developing their shooting skills!

We loved playing in the snow, as brief as it was!

We have continued learning our Word of the Week. Very aptly we have learned how to sign 'cold'!

We look forward to exploring more new topics and learning some more skills in Term 3.



Reception

In EYFS this term we have been looking at celebrations as our topic. We were very lucky to watch an Indian puppet show as part of our Diwali celebrations. Later on in the term we explored harvest; we linked our learning to the story of the Little Red Hen and made our own bread. It was delicious! Our Christmas celebrations tied in with our rehearsals for our Nativity play which we performed in front of the school and then our adults!

Year 3

Year 3 have really engaged in our Design Technology learning this term. They researched pop up books and made prototypes of V fold mechanisms. The children are really looking forward to designing and making their own pop up books for children aged 5 - 8 to help them to engage in reading!



Sports

Fishponds have competed twice this term. Our first competition of the term was a basketball competition against 5 other local schools at MET. We managed to win two and draw one of our games. The children were a credit to the school and received the following feedback from the even organisers:

"I was impressed by their behaviour and effort throughout the activity. They were respectful, focused, and demonstrated a positive attitude at all times. While performance wasn't my primary focus, I must say they did very well. What stood out most, however, were the values they displayed—teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship. They represented Fishponds CofE brilliantly and were a credit to both you and themselves."

On Tuesday 17th December, a team of 20 Year 5 and 6 children went to City Academy to compete in an athletics competition against 7 local schools. Fishponds competed well and finished in the top 3 for 14 out of 24 events (including finishing 1st 7 times!). Overall, Fishponds won the event and will progress onto the next round in February. Well done to everyone involved!



SCHOOL COUNCIL

In our meetings this term School Council have been talking about improving break time as this is part of our School Development Plan. So far, we have decided that in the New Year we will be appointing play leaders to teach children some new playground games. School Council will be advertising and interviewing for these roles in the new year and are looking forward to seeing the playground full of new games! The adults have already started teaching some new games to children. We have also been busy talking with our classes about what they would they think would improve play and will be implementing some of these things in Term 3.



Year 5

This term Year 5 have been learning all about biomes and rainforests. In English they have been looking at the book 'The Great Kapok tree' which is all about the creatures who live in the Amazon, explaining why we must protect it. They have been writing persuasive arguments for why you should not cut down the Amazon rainforest.

In science Year 5 have been learning all about the life cycles of several different species. They even escaped the classroom, going on an expedition to identify the parts of plants found in the exploration area.

Year 1

Butterfish Class have loved being scientists this term and are really getting into experimenting and observing. In our Materials topic we have tested and observed materials to see if they are absorbent or waterproof and discussed how these properties determine how we should use materials. For example, we all agreed that it would not be a good idea to make a saucepan out of chocolate or to make a coat out of sandpaper! We thread our Seasonal Changes topic throughout the year and have picked a tree on our field to observe the seasons through. It was a great excuse to get outside and play with the Autumn leaves!



Nativity

Reception and Year 1's Nativity 'A Miracle in Town' was a fantastic success! The children's singing was beautiful and we are so proud of our Year 1 actors for having such confidence to learn their lines and go on stage in front of each audience they performed to. This year the children were amazing at projecting their voices across the room so everyone could hear them. Reception shined as sparkling stars in Stickleback Class and were dazzling angels in Minnows Class. Thank you to parents and carers for providing costumes and supporting children with learning their songs and their lines at home. A big thank you to all the staff members who supported putting the Nativity together. Finally, a big well done to Reception and Year 1, we thought you were wonderful and pulling it off really was a miracle!



WRAP AROUND CARE

Our exciting new Wraparound Care Provision will open on Monday 13th January 2025!

Fishponds CE Primary Breakfast and After School Clubs will be packed with fantastic activities to keep children engaged and having fun while learning. From specialist sports coaching for budding athletes to arts and crafts sessions where they can let their creativity shine, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

On top of that, we've got a dedicated homework help session with friendly staff who are ready to support children in catching up or staying on top of their school work, creating opportunity for additional, invaluable family time.

What's even better? Children who already participate in Premier Sports Clubs can easily transition into After School Club! It's a great way to extend their day with more fun and enriching activities in a safe, supportive environment.

All food served at the After School Provision meets the silver standard for the Bristol Eating Better Award. The Award supports and rewards, schools that offer healthier food options and promote food and environmental sustainability such as including more plant-based ingredients and minimising food waste.

All staff will be qualified to support children with both play and educational activities, they will also hold a current first aid qualification and food hygiene certification. The club runs Monday to Friday, 3.15 – 6.00pm, making it a convenient option for busy families.

Further information, including pre-registration details and terms and conditions, can be found on the Wraparound Care page of our [website](#).



SCAN ME



TO PRE-REGISTER

FISHPONDS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL WRAPAROUND CARE PROVISION

UNLOCK YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL
WITH OUR ENGAGING AND ENRICHING
WRAPAROUND CARE PROVISION.

Designed to complement the school curriculum and provide a supportive environment for growth and development, our provision offers a diverse range of activities and experiences to ignite their passions and inspire their minds.

✓ Specialist Sports Provision

✓ Homework Assistance

✓ Enrichment Activities



Starting
Monday
13th January
2025

Breakfast Club: 7.45am - 8.45am
After School Club: 3.15pm - 6.00pm
Fishponds Old Library

Attendance



School Attendance: The law is changing

From 19th August 2024

Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are changing

The government is introducing a new National Framework for Penalty Notices

5 days of unauthorised absence

Penalty Notice fines may be issued for any term-time absences that are unauthorised (for example, a 5-day term-time holiday) - whether these absences are taken consecutively or cumulatively over a rolling period of 10 school weeks

10 sessions of unauthorised absence in any 10-week period

Penalty Notice fines will also be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in any rolling period of 10 school weeks

A school day has 2 sessions:
1 morning and 1 afternoon session per day

A school week means any week in which there is at least one school session. The threshold can be met with any combination of unauthorised absence (e.g. 6 sessions of holiday plus 4 sessions of arriving late after the register closes all within 10 school weeks). These sessions can be consecutive (e.g. 10 sessions of holiday in one week) or not (e.g. 6 sessions of unauthorised absence taken in 1 week and 1 per week for the next 4 weeks). The period of 10 school weeks can also span different terms or school years (e.g. 2 sessions of unauthorised absence in the Summer Term and a further 8 within the Autumn Term).

What is a Penalty Notice?

A Penalty Notice is an out of court settlement which is intended to change behaviour without the need for criminal prosecution. If repeated penalty notices are being issued and they are not working to change behaviour they are unlikely to be most appropriate tool. Therefore, from August 2024, only 2 Penalty Notices can be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within a 3-year rolling period and any second Penalty Notice within that period is charged at a higher rate. Any further offences may result in criminal prosecution.

The law will be clear that where a Penalty Notice threshold met – in each individual case, the school must consider if a Penalty Notice is appropriate

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term-Time Leave of Absence or irregular attendance, the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child (if paid within 28 days)

Reduced to: **£80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days**

Second Offence (in a 3-year rolling period)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term-Time Leave of Absence or irregular attendance to the same parent for the same child the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child (if paid within 28 days)

There is no reduction in the amount.

Third Offence or Any Further Offences (in a 3-year rolling period)

The third time an offence is committed for a Term-Time Leave of Absence or irregular attendance by the same parent for the same child (including those by other Local Authorities) a Penalty Notice will NOT be issued but will be referred to Bristol City Council's Education Welfare service for Prosecution which may result in fines of upto £2,500 per parent, per child.

Cases found guilty in a Magistrate's Court can show on a parent's future DBS certificate.

Bristol City Council have the discretion to issue Penalty Notice fines before the above threshold is met in cases where parents are deliberately avoiding the national threshold by taking several term time holidays below the threshold, or for repeated absences for birthdays or other family events.

Unchanged

Penalty Notice fines are issued Per Parent, Per child. This means that fines are issued to each parent, for each child who is absent. For example: If 2 siblings are absent for a term-time holiday this will result in each parent receiving 2 separate fines.

What's on Next Term

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Week 1 | Monday 6th January - Inset Day Thursday 9th January - Rock Steady Music visiting school |
| Week 2 | |
| Week 3 | Wednesday 22nd January - Year 1 and 2 Calculation Workshop Thursday 23rd January - Years 3 - 6 Calculation Workshop |
| Week 4 | |
| Week 5 | |
| Week 6 | Thursday 13th February - Non-uniform Day Friday 14th February - Additional Inset Day |



MENU

Our school lunch menu can be found on our [website](#). We will be starting Term 3 on week 1.

2024 - 2025 Term Dates

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Term 1 | Monday 2nd September - Friday 25th October 2024 Inset Days - Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd September 2024 |
| Term 2 | Monday 4th November 2024 - Friday 20th December 2024 Inset Day - Monday 4th November 2025 |
| Term 3 | Monday 6th January 2025 - Friday 14th February 2025 Inset Day - Monday 6th January 2025 Inset Day - Friday 14th February 2025 - NEW DATE |
| Term 4 | Monday 24th February 2025 - Friday 4th April 2025 |
| Term 5 | Tuesday 22nd April 2025 - Friday 23rd May 2025 Bank Holidays - Monday 21st April 2025 and Monday 5th May 2025 |
| Term 6 | Monday 2nd June 2025 - Friday 18th July 2025 Inset Days - Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd July 2025 |

WISHING YOU ALL

love and joy

DURING THE FESTIVE PERIOD

