

Newsletter – November 2025



Important dates for your diary:

8th December – 12th December – Reports to parents and parent meetings.

10th December – Christmas Dinner

11th December Christmas jumper day

Week beginning 15th December – Gold Eye week

16th December – KS1 Nativity – 9.30am and KS2 Nativity – 13.30

17th December – KS2 Nativity – 9.30am and KS1 Nativity – 13.30

18th December – End of term church service

19th December – Newsletter to parents

19th December – Christmas parties and special visitor.

Monday 5th January – Development day 2 – All sites closed to pupils.

Tuesday 6th January – Start of Spring term – Newport sites.

Headteacher update:

I hope this November newsletter finds you all safe and well. It has been another busy month with lots going on across both sites. There are some important updates within this newsletter so please do take the time to read and digest the information but always do contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Work on School Lane site:

As many of you may have noticed, the sleeper edged path along the main pedestrian walkway has been deteriorating for several months. We were hoping to have had this replaced over the summer however were let down by contractors. It has now got to a point that this is causing a real health and safety issue for all pupils, parents, staff and visitors so we have instructed work to commence as soon as possible. The new gabion cage wall will run the entire length of the path but unfortunately there will be some disruption during the arrival and dismissal of pupils at the School Lane site. The path will be fenced off for the duration of the works so anyone wanting to access the top hall entrance will need to use the zebra crossing and then walk through the car park to the drop off/ collection area.

There will be an increased presence of staff during these times to ensure that everyone is kept safe during these particularly busy times of the day.

Chillerton Update:



The Chillerton team have been working this half term to ensure that we will be ready for our January launch. Our new deputy headteacher, Lianne, has been working hard to get all resources ready for our new Medina House pupils. We have recruited three experienced teachers and are in the process of shortlisting from a very strong field of teaching assistants to join our team and work with at the Chillerton site. Mark has moved over from our Newport site and will be the sites caretaker and we are recruiting for the role of office administrator also.

Our additional three class names will be Reef, Shoal and Lagoon.

MHS Stars and notifications:

Several parents have contacted the school regarding our MHS Stars and that they seem to have received notifications for a different child. This occurs when staff award the whole class a Star for showing great achievement in either Learning, Staying Safe or Being Kind and then personalise the award. We have shown the team how to avoid doing this so it should not happen in the future but reassured that all Stars are being awarded correctly.

Up to date information on Arbor:

Please can all parents ensure that their contact information, including emergency contacts, are updated on Arbor as a matter of urgency. Please contact the office if you need any help with this.

Also, you can make changes to most permissions through the parent portal/ Arbor app so please ensure that these are also up to date and accurate.

Updates on staffing:

There will be some changes to class teams in January, specifically some teachers. This is due to either opportunities presenting themselves at our Chillerton site, Maternity leave arrangements or the need for further support for individual classes.

These will all be communicated directly with parents next week, but rest assured that teams are already starting to prepare handover information to ensure a smooth transition for all.

Website class pages:

There are some final changes being added to the individual class pages of the website. I can only apologise for the delay with this.

As always, if you do have any concerns or questions then please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Best wishes

Chris

Class team update: Jellyfish class have had a very busy month of learning where children have continued to work on their relationship building and transitioning skills. Could we please add a polite reminder to ensure that your child is sent to school with suitable all weather clothes in order for them to fully engage and enjoy in areas such as outdoor learning.

Jellyfish Class

Our STARS of the month:

Week One: Brieon

Week Two: Henri

Week Three: Roscoe

Week Four: Dudley

Learning that we have been focusing on this month:

Jellyfish have been focusing on the topic of worldly celebrations. We have enjoyed sensory stories such as Happy Birthday Gruffalo where the children have engaged fantastically. We have been looking at many different celebrations and how different countries celebrate. The children have explored different forms of lights and have explored many different types of foods related to celebrations. Jellyfish have enjoyed Children in need day where they attended a yummy cake sale. It was a pleasure to see so many parents attend stay and play sessions, a lovely treat for both the children and the team. We look forward to a busy few weeks leading up to the Christmas holidays in Jellyfish class.

Literacy

In literacy we have been exploring our new sensory story "Happy Birthday Gruffalo". Everyone has really enjoyed discovering what is inside the Gruffalo's Birthday presents. The children have shown excellent use of Makaton whilst listening to the story and when exploring the activities related to the Gruffalo in the

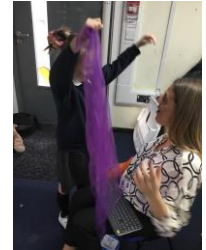


tuff tray. Jellyfish continue to attend daily dough gym and squiggle wiggle sessions, building upon their fine and gross motor control. Jellyfish have been engaging within 1:1 reading and have highly enjoyed visiting the library on a weekly basis.

Phonics/ Squiggle wiggle

We have continued to use rhyme time during our phonics sessions each day with the children now beginning to become more familiar and enjoy a range of different songs.

Squiggle wiggle has become a firm favourite with the children and they are progressing with their fine and gross motor skills.



Maths

In maths we have continued engaging with number songs and we have used the interactive whiteboard to practice the tracing of numbers. We have also been exploring different shapes within the environment. The children have enjoyed using physical resources such as building blocks and weighing scales to support their learning and understanding within maths.



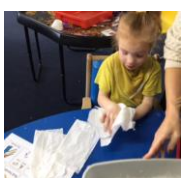
Outdoor learning

Jellyfish have been exploring our class outdoor area where they have been noticing the change in the weather. They especially enjoyed playing with the water that had frozen in the tuff trays overnight due to the cold spell. The children have also enjoyed role play in the house. We also spent time on the field gathering sticks, pine cones, leaves etc which we then used for our Gruffalo story.



PHSE

The children have been learning about hand hygiene and how to keep physically clean. We have been practicing our hand washing skills and still continue to brush our teeth after lunch every day. We are also continuing to explore positive relationships with our peers and adults within the class. Jellyfish class are showing progression with their transitioning skills around the main school building and playground and we have observed lovely relationships being built with peers both in and out of Jellyfish class.



PE

We have been working on controlled movement and moving safely in a range of activities/ games. As well as the indoor gym we have also made good use of the dry days and have managed to get out into the outdoor gym to use our skills safely on the different equipment.



Science

Jellyfish have been looking at different types of lights. We have engaged in work around Diwali where lights play an important part of their celebrations. We made use of the dark room but also made our own dark area using blankets to make a “den”. The children enjoyed using different types of lights in these areas to explore.



Geography

We have been learning about celebrations around the world and the different traditions that happen. The children have listened to different music and tried new foods such as chicken korma, rice, poppadum's and naan bread. We have also made some Scottish shortbread for St Andrews Day.



Art

Over the past few weeks we have created many different pieces of artwork related to different key events that have happened. We have made firework night pictures using tissue paper, used an apple and paint to create poppies for remembrance day. We have also made and decorated paper lanterns which links to our topic.

