

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:

We are incredibly proud of all the children for their second half term in Puffin Class. They have settled well, taken everything in their stride and have demonstrated fantastic learning.

Can we please ask as the colder weather approaches that we have at least one set of spare clothes, a warm coat, and hat (if your child is likely to wear it). Most of you have brought this in already. Please can we also ask that your child's clothing, bag, lunchbox/bag and drink bottle are named. This ensures that if they are ever misplaced, they can always be returned to their rightful owner.

Puffin Class

Our STARS of the month:

Week One: **Marley**

Week Two: **Harry**

Week Three: **Patrick**

Week Four: **Elijah W**

Learning that we have been focusing on this month:

We have been continuing to work hard in all aspects of our learning based around our topic of 'Wordly Celebrations'. We have been exploring firework night, by creating pictures of fireworks, and sparklers. We have also been trying different food which may be eaten at Diwali. We have also started to look at Christmas, and have started preparations for our Nativity! We have been choosing parts, learning songs and enjoyed lots of singing and dancing. As the cold weather is fast approaching, we have been enjoying getting dressed up to go outside in hats, scarves, gloves, coats and wellies and exploring different parts of nature such as jumping in puddles and seeing the frost on the ground.



Phonics

We have been looking at different sounds such as S, A, T, P, I, N and objects that begin with that letter such as 'P for penguin, T for tiger'. We have been matching pictures to the sounds and tracing the letters with our fingers in lots of different things, like shaving foam and icing sugar. We have also been working hard on listening to the initial sounds of words and finding that sound.

Literacy

In Literacy, we have been learning the story of 'Postman Bear'. This has tied beautifully into our focus of 'Different journeys'. We have listened well to the story, using visual clues to help us answer questions about the story.

We have been matching symbols to symbols and words to words. To develop our fine motor skills we have been using a pen to try and write our own letters. We have even had a go at retelling the story!



Maths

We have been incredibly busy in Maths. We have been continuing to develop our number knowledge, whilst also introducing geometry. We have been sorting objects, colour matching and sorting, and looking at different patterns and trying to continue the pattern. The children have enjoyed the different activities we've been doing to help us learn.

PSHE

In PSHE this month we have been focusing on different emotions, and how something might make you feel. Happy, sad, angry, surprised and tired have been our main focus, with looking at different facial expressions and body language to relate to that emotion. It has been an excellent way to get the children to express how they are feeling, and they have also enjoyed making the different faces themselves! We linked this to our DT topic and made lanterns with colours that made us happy.



Geography

In Geography this month, we have been exploring the world around us and learnt about Diwali. We looked at where India is on Google maps, tried some India dancing and tried some different foods, we really enjoyed the poppadoms.

Science

In science we have been learning about light and dark. We have explored a dark tent with torches and made shadows on the sides. We have sorted pictures and decided if they are light or dark.

