

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:

As the weather is becoming wet and cold, please remember to have a spare change of clothes in your child's bag. If anyone has any of schools spare clothes at home, please could they be return, as we are getting very low.

We have got a very busy half term, so please do keep an eye out for the different events that will be taking place.

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Cheryl and Turtle Team.

Turtle Class

Our STARS of the month:

Week One: Bethany

Week Two: Teddy

Week Three: Thomas

Week Four: Finley

Learning that we have been focusing on this month:

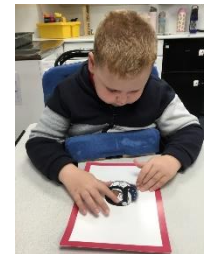
This half term our topic is Worldly Celebrations. The children have really engaged with the various celebrations that we have been looking at. We have explored Diwali, bonfire night, birthdays and remembrance day. The children have shown great focus and attention to all learning activities and they have really enjoyed the sensory elements to learning.

Literacy

We have been working really hard during literacy and have been consolidating our skills, as well as learning new ones. We continue to develop our mark making and pencil control and have had great focus on tracing different words and letters, linked to our stories.

We have really enjoyed the sensory story, Bonfire night, as well as Happy birthday Gruffalo. We have looked at different describing words using the pictures as cues and also identifying different emotions from the pictures in the book.

We have had great focus and engagement during our literacy sessions and brilliant anticipation during the stories.



Numeracy

We have been working on developing our ordering of numbers and recognising different amounts. Some of us have been adding and removing 1 more, then counting how many, as well as making groups of 2 and 3 and finding the numeral before and after a given number.

We have continued with our number songs, using the props and it's lovely to hear the children ask for which song they want next.

In measurement we have been working on big and small, least and most and exploring sand play. The children have been developing their knowledge of the concepts full and empty and have really engaged in sensory play to enhance their learning.

Creative Arts

We have had such fun during our creative arts sessions. We have been exploring food, looking at lanterns and seeing what celebrations they come from.

The children really enjoyed making fruit fireworks. Some were able to follow and read the instructions and enjoyed making the repeating patterns. The children loved exploring the fruit with all of their senses.

We have also been making our own lanterns. The children made paper lanterns by folding, cutting and decorating their lantern. This has helped develop the children's fine motor skills, communication and shown us their creative sides.



Geography

During Geography, we have been looking at various countries and what different celebrations they hold.

The children enjoyed looking at the different pictures from Diwali and dancing to the various music. They have also been exploring the rice and using it to make different patterns and making their own patterns using the paint pads.

They have also enjoyed looking at the celebrations around bonfire night. The children had great fun exploring with their senses to make toffee apples and hotdogs.



PSHE

Our focus in PSHE has been different celebrations and how we can celebrate these together. We began by looking at Bonfire night and listening to the Guy Fawkes story. The children then explored the sensory bonfire tuff tray with jelly and cereal and made their own chalk firework pictures.

The children have also been thinking about remembrance day. We watched a video on the importance of the day and then made some poppies. The children used choice boards to make their selections and focused well on the activities.