



Nunney First School
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 10th January 2017
 Newsletter 4

Dates

January	
Monday 9 th	After school clubs resume this week
Wednesday 11 th	First swimming session of term 3 - then every Wednesday until 8 th February
Sunday 15 th	Deadline for applications for September 2017 Reception and Y5 places to be received by Somerset County Council
Wednesday 18 th	Otter Class attending Inter-Schools Sports Festival at Oakfield Academy 10.15 - 11.45 am
Friday 20 th	Cake Sale in the hall - 2.45 pm
February	
Wednesday 1 st	Mufti Day - bring a donation to contribute to fundraising for Jamie Mines and his family - details below Book Fair open in the school hall 3.00 -3.30 pm Deadline for Y4 PGL residential visit payments
Thursday 2 nd	Book Fair open in the school hall 3.00 -3.30 pm
Friday 3 rd	Book Fair open in the school hall 3.00 -3.30 pm
Tuesday 7 th	Otter Class trip to Earth Science Centre
Thursday 9 th	Last day of term 3 for pupils
Friday 10 th	INSET Day (5 of 6) - school closed to pupils
Monday 20 th	First day of term 4 - no after school clubs this week
Wednesday 22 nd	PE but NO SWIMMING
Monday 27 th	After school clubs resume this week
March	
Wednesday 1 st	First swimming session of term 4 - then every Wednesday until 29 th March
Thursday 16 th	Meeting for Y4 pupils and their parents about the residential visit - AT HAYESDOWN FIRST SCHOOL 5.00 - 5.45 pm - details below
Friday 31 st	Last day of term 4
April	
Tuesday 18 th	First day of term 5
Wednesday 19 th - Friday 21 st	Y4 residential visit to PGL Liddington
Wednesday 19 th	PE but NO SWIMMING
Monday 24 th	Parents' Evening (1 of 2) 2.30 - 4.30 pm After school clubs resume this week
Thursday 27 th	Parents' Evening (2 of 2) 2.30 - 4.30 pm

StoryBox Theatre Performances

Term 3 got off to an exciting and engaging start as pupils from Nunney and Hayesdown First Schools came together to watch a spellbinding performance of Jack and the Beanstalk performed by Rod Burnett of StoryBox Theatre. It was wonderful to start the new term with such a superbly crafted show. Rod Burnett of StoryBox Theatre is a master puppeteer who is incredibly skilled in his use of the creative arts.



Thanks must be passed to Hayesdown First School's PTA for paying StoryBox Theatre for the two performances and to Nunney Governors for agreeing to use money that comes into the Governors' Account from fundraising to be used to pay for transport. These combined acts enabled all pupils to be part of something very special at no cost to parents.

120 Year Fundraising - Huge Congratulations Go To Mrs Andrews, Mrs Garrod, Mrs Black and Mrs Jeffries

At the Christmas outdoor nativity staged on Saturday 10th December, tributes were paid and heartfelt thanks expressed to Mrs Andrews, Mrs Garrod, Mrs Black and Mrs Jeffries for their achievement in raising over £10,000 through their amazing fundraising efforts in Nunney First School's 120th year. Thanks were also extended to the amazing parents of Nunney First School who were so generous in their support of fundraising events across the year, providing hands-on support as well as donations and money. Money raised has been used to construct a play castle for the children and this is almost complete. Mrs Andrews plans to use extra money raised to put a path up to the castle and a multi weather surface beneath it so that it can be used across the seasons. She also has ideas for a carved, wooden storytelling chair! Mrs Andrews' energy is boundless; she is also a truly inspiring leader. Congratulations, well done and thank you to everyone.

School Dinners

Richard Nickless who used to provide hot meals for Nunney pupils from Castle Kitchen in the village has moved premises and is now operating from Manor Farm Kitchen in Witham Friary. I am pleased to announce that Richard is continuing to provide the high quality meals Nunney pupils are used to and that he has not increased the price of each meal.

Mufti Day To Raise Money For Former Nunney Pupil, Jamie Mines - Wednesday 1st February

You may have heard from local news broadcasts that a fund has been set up for Jamie Mines and his family following a freak accident shortly before Christmas, which resulted in Jamie needing to have his leg and both arms amputated.

In their childhood, Jamie and his brother Ben attended Nunney First School until their family moved from Trudoxhill. Some staff at Nunney remember Jamie and his brother well and would like to contribute to fundraising for Jamie and his family in their time of need.

Wednesday 1st February will be a no uniform day to mark our fundraising. Staff will be on the playground before school with buckets into which we ask you to place your donations. Thank you.

Deadline For Applications For September 2017 Reception and Middle School (Year 5) Places - Sunday 15th January

Kindly be reminded that applications for September 2017 Reception and Year 5 places need to be received by Somerset County Council by Sunday 15th January at the latest. If you fail to apply by this first round deadline, your child may not get a place at your school of preference.

School Closure In The Event Of Severe Weather

In consultation with Mrs Allom, Chair of Governors, should I need to make the decision to close the school details will be shared in the following ways:



1. Information will be posted on the Somerset Learning Platform:
<https://slp.somerset.gov.uk>
2. A text will be sent - in times of high demand it can take some time for messages to come through so this is not fool proof;
3. A message will be placed on the school website - this will be located on the homepage as a 'News' item.

I will endeavour to update messages on a regular basis and keep you fully informed. If you do not have Internet access please arrange to phone a friend who has an Internet connection.

School Attendance - Improvement Needed

We need to work together to improve school attendance. Nunney First School's attendance is currently 94.14 per cent. This is significantly below the national attendance figure of 96.0 per cent. The Department for Education (DfE) and Ofsted look very closely at school attendance and an attendance figure that is nearly 2 per cent below the national is likely to result in Ofsted placing a school in Requires Improvement or Special Measures regardless of academic standards or the quality of teaching.

The main reason for attendance being so low is children being taken out of school in term time for holiday purposes. It appears that this has previously been the norm at Nunney **but it needs to stop**. The DfE is clear in its message that there are 13 weeks of each year when children are not in school and the expectation is that families will go on holiday at times when children are not expected to be in school. I appreciate that travel and accommodation are more expensive in school holiday periods but this is the same for every family in the country.

To raise the profile of attendance, each week in our Friday assembly we will be giving every pupil who has full attendance that week, a special sticker. At the end of each term children who have had full attendance will also be presented with an attendance certificate to mark their achievement.

I appreciate that from time to time children are ill and do need to be at home. Please be assured that there is no problem with this. What we need to address is the time that children are out of school when they are well and could be at school in lessons.

I provide the following data to help you understand the extent of the problem.

School Attendance

	2015-2016	2016-2017 year to 28.11.16	2016-2017 year to 08.01.17
% Attendance	95.3	93.4	94.1
% Absence	4.7	6.6	5.9
% Unauthorised Absence	0.3	0.4	0.4
Number of pupils with absence above 15% (Persistent Absenteeism)	1	5	4

Cells shaded green show attendance that is at or above the level expected

Week Ending	Reception 6 pupils	Year 1 8 Pupils	Year 2 5 Pupils	Year 3 9 Pupils	Year 4 10 Pupils	Whole school average
Percentage Attendance						
09.09.16	100	87.5	100	100	85.6	94.6
16.09.16	93.3	87.5	93.3	97.8	83.3	91.0
23.09.16	96.7	86.3	96.7	97.8	86.7	92.8
30.09.16	100	92.5	90.0	97.8	82.2	92.5
07.10.16	93.3	90.0	86.7	86.7	88.9	89.1
14.10.16	93.3	95.0	100	81.1	100	93.9
21.10.16	100	95.0	100	95.6	94.4	97.0
Term 1 Average	96.7	90.5	95.2	93.8	88.7	93.0
04.11.16	79.2	84.4	100	97.2	100	92.2
11.11.16	100	98.8	94	98.9	95.6	97.5
18.11.16	98.3	86.3	100	97.8	96.7	95.8
25.11.16	97.2	96.3	100	90.0	88.9	94.5
02.12.16	96.7	98.6	100	93.3	94.4	96.6
09.12.16	93.3	98.8	100	92.2	93.0	95.5
16.12.16	96.7	98.8	92	100	96.0	96.7
Term 2 Average	94.5	94.6	98.0	95.6	94.9	95.5

If all year groups could aspire to the standard set by Year 2 across term 2, our school would be in a significantly better position.