Term 2 Newsletter

Karl's Corner

While this has been a long term with some tricky weather, as well as everyone fighting colds and flu, it is also a magical time of year to be in a school.

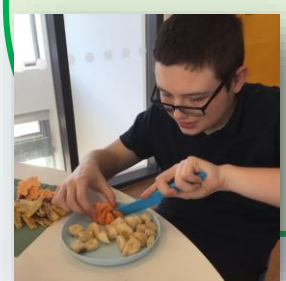
As the term progresses, we gradually become more Christmassy and this culminates in a number of lovely community events for us all to enjoy.

On Sunday 7th December we held our amazing Christmas Fair, which is organised and run by our incredible volunteers from FONSS (Friends of New Siblands School). This event was as magical as it always is and has already raised a wonderful £1800, which will all go to adding to the experiences of pupils in the school. It was great to see so many pupils past and present attending ,as well as families and friends. We are really thankful to FONSS and their army of volunteers who made this event possible.

Last week we held our Secondary Christmas performance and Primary Christmas Nativity. These are wonderful opportunities for us to be able to invite the families of pupils in to remind ourselves what is special about Christmas. We love seeing so many of our community in one place and having the opportunity to enjoy our pupils performing and enjoying Christmas.

We are now building up to the end of term, which will include our Christmas lunch and the chance for classes to have more special time together creating Christmas crafts, having discos and spending time with their friends.

Thank you again to all parents and families of our pupils for your ongoing support. We hope you have a lovely Christmas break and a fantastic new year. We really look forward to welcoming you all back in on Tuesday 6th January, following our INSET training day for staff.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

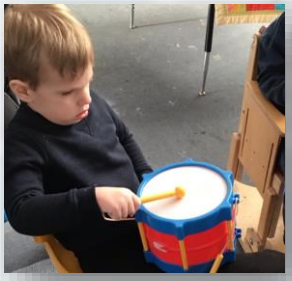
Around the school

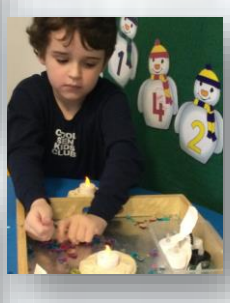
Emerald class

We have continued learning about our bodies as well as lots of lovely Christmas activities. We have been working extremely hard with our physio and communicating with visuals, communication boards and Eyegaze machines. We also had a surprise gift of a tickle tent which we all love! Huge thanks to the folks at Renishaw for the grant which paid for such a wonderful resource.

Red Class

Red Class has had a wonderfully engaging term exploring our Celebration Topic, which included learning about Bonfire Night, Diwali, Children in Need, Remembrance Day, and Christmas! We are all incredibly proud of how hard the children have been practicing for the Nativity performance, and they continue to make great strides in improving their communication skills every day.





Indigo Class

In Indigo we have been experiencing Diwali. We have been exploring rice to make Rangoli patterns, making Diya lamps from clay and watching fireworks. We have been learning the Makaton sign for fireworks too!

Community news

Uniform Swap Shop

Our uniform swap shop is up and running!

Pre-loved uniform is available upon request to be used by families. We are also accepting donations of uniform that no longer fits but is in good condition.

If you would like to make use of our uniform swap shop, please let your child's class teacher or the office know.

FRIENDS OF NEW SIBLANDS SCHOOL

Supporting Achievement, Belonging and Celebration

Thank you SO much to everyone who attended our hugely successful school fair!

We are thrilled to say that we raised an estimated £1800!

Huge thanks to FONSS for organising such a brilliant event.

Blue Class and Violet Class

We've had the opportunity to share our best Christmas singing and favourite songs with the community!
We went to the Haven Café in Thornbury to share our music with those with memory loss and their families and carers. They enjoyed the jolly music and smiling children!
A few of us also went to St Michael's Centre to perform to families of New Siblands and Pegasus schools. The pupils were brilliant ambassadors of our school!

Around the school

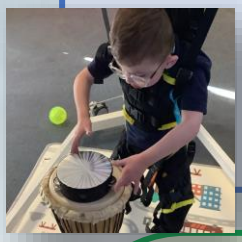
Post 16-3 – Smelter's Boxing Visit

Post 16 have been learning boxing skills as part of their PE sessions this term. To help us enhance our skills we went to meet Gary Cave from the Smelter's Boxing Club in Bristol. Coach Gary took us through a warm up, showed us the main punching techniques, helped us practice on the boxing bags and then went 1 on1 with us in the ring! The students thought it was great fun to practice their punches on Coach Gary and there were big smiles from all our students. A huge thank you to Coach Gary and the Smelter's Boxing Club for coaching and hosting us.

Gold Class

Gold class have enjoyed going out this term. We have walked along Stream side and also used the minibus to go into the town Centre. We have been to Dobbies Garden Centre to see the fish and lights. Recently we have walked to Crossways Farm.

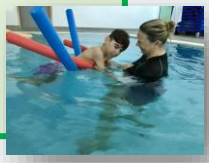
Subject area in focus: Music



Music is used across our school, not only as a subject on its own but also to supplement and support other curriculum areas. We use a music scheme called Charanga, which offers pupils the opportunity to experience a wide range of musical styles and skills. We also have close links with WEMA who provide different musical performers as well as multi-school events. We love visiting local community groups who invite us to sing and share music at their events. Finally, music is a powerful tool used to support students with transitions and cues for key parts of their day.

School development plan: Physical and sensory – hydrotherapy!

We've had a fantastic start to the school year in our hydrotherapy sessions. It's been wonderful to welcome students back to the pool—especially those returning after some time away—as well as to greet new students joining the sessions for the first time. Everyone has settled in well and we're looking forward to supporting their progress and sharing many positive experiences with them throughout the year.



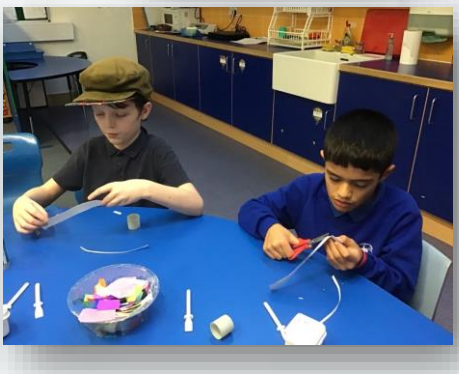
Around the School

Blue Class

We've had a fantastic term exploring different celebrations! We have learned about the importance of lights and candles as part of Diwali and Hanukkah, as well as exploring music and art at Christmas time.

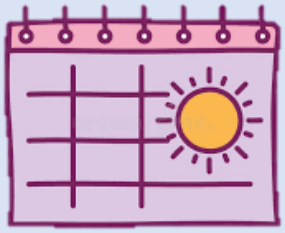
Violet Class

We made some friendship bracelets with our friends from Gillingstool!

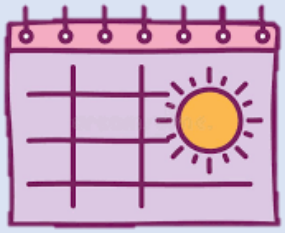


Yellow Class

This term in Yellow Class, we have been working hard to improve our fine motor skills and attention through fun Funky Finger activities linked to exciting celebrations such as Bonfire Night and Christmas, as well as our story Jack and the Beanstalk. We have also been extending our knowledge of number in maths and enjoying lots of practical learning along the way!



Term 3 Dates



Term dates for pupils

Term 3:

Starts: Tuesday 6th January

Ends: Friday 13th February

Home to school transport

We are currently receiving a high volume of enquiries regarding transport arrangements. Please be advised that the school does not organise transport. For any concerns, please contact the appropriate transport teams directly.

General transport enquiries:
01454 863924 / 01454 863925 / 01454 863926 / 01454 864110

Guide Escort enquiries:
01454 863940 / 01454 863929 / 01454 863066

Thank you for your understanding.

CPD Corner

Although we haven't had any inset days this term, the staff at New Siblands have still been engaging in a variety of continuing professional development (CPD) and training.

At the start of the term, one of our Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTA's) delivered some fantastic training on sensory circuits. With this knowledge we have further developed our sensory diets spaces and staff are using the training to ensure pupils sensory needs are being met throughout the school day.

Our assessment lead has also delivered refresher training on using Evidence for Learning. This is the observation and assessment tool we use at New Siblands to record evidence of progress for our pupils. All teaching staff are able to write up observations and link these to the individual pupil's priority learning goals to help us build a picture of their learning.

Finally, our English lead has met with teaching staff on both sites to discuss raising the profile of reading for pleasure for our pupils. We are keen to develop this new initiative which will encourage our pupils to engage in stories as well as independent reading if appropriate.

Cygnet Autism Support Courses start January 2026

- ✓ Free for parents or carers in South Gloucestershire
- ✓ whose children are aged 5-18
- ✓ and have a formal autism diagnosis from a professional

- Develop your understanding of autism.
- Look at practical solutions to support your child
- Meet other parents in a similar position.
- In a supportive atmosphere.

- 7 week course at either:
- Baileys Court Activity Centre starts 16 Jan 10am OR
- Online course starts 14 January 7pm.

Book now on EEQU - **https://eequ.org/cygnetautismsupportforparents**

For more information visit
www.turtlecyp.co.uk/welcome-to-turtle-cyp/cygnet

South Gloucestershire Council – Delivering with you

Funded by South Gloucestershire Council

BARNARDO'S Changing childhoods. Changing lives.

Cygnet Autism Support

Turtle CYP is a registerd charity, number 1104540

The Chase Information Event

We warmly invite Year 10 and Year 11 learners, parents and carers to join us at SGS College, Stroud on Saturday 17th January 2026.

The Chase offers a five-day specialist provision for young people aged 16-25 with high support needs, focusing on independence, communication and vocational skills.

There are 4 sessions running across the morning, each session is bookable via the QR codes on this flyer. Please only book 1 ticket per family. Spaces are limited.

Chase sgs South Gloucestershire and Stroud College

Session 1 - 9:30am | Session 2 - 10:10am | Session 3 - 10:50am | Session 4 - 11:30am

Saturday, 17th January, 2026

Sessions start at 9:30am

The Chase, SGS College, Stratford Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 4AH

- ✓ Tour the provision
- ✓ Meet the staff
- ✓ Understand our curriculum offer
- ✓ Ask questions

For more info:
chase@sgscol.ac.uk

Visit us:
https://www.sgscol.ac.uk/study/chase

Thank you!

North Bristol & South Glos Foodbank
Together with Trussell

This is to Certify that

NEW SIBLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL
THORNBURY

Donated an amazing **32.44kgs** of food and toiletries to Thornbury Foodbank as part of our Harvest Collection

This will help provide meals and other essential needs to families and individuals in need in our community

Your generosity is greatly appreciated

Thank you very much
from the Foodbank Team
November 2025

Singing Hands are coming to New Siblands!

Join us for a joyful, inclusive and interactive concert in support of Friends of New Siblands!

Suzanne & Tracy from Singing Hands will be signing, singing and filling the room with music, movement and Makaton magic. This family-friendly event is perfect for children, young people and adults of all abilities.

Date: 24 January 2026
Time: 10:00am (doors open 9:30am)
Venue: New Siblands Primary School

Tickets: £5 per person – each person must hold their own ticket. This will be a standing event – limited seating available for those who need it. Picnic mats encouraged!

All proceeds support Friends of New Siblands, helping fund experiences, resources and opportunities for our amazing school community.

Tickets on sale now:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/friends-of-new-siblands-school

Come join the fun — we can't wait to see you there!