Term 3 Newsletter

Karl's Corner

At New Siblands we are so proud of our supportive and caring community. We are so lucky to be able to share special experiences together, such as last term's Nativity or Christmas Fair. We also know that, when it is needed, our whole community responds with the kindness and support we have come to expect.

The New Siblands community has had a very challenging time this term, as one of our pupils - Kaylan Watkins - died on 12th January, following a short period at Charlton Farm. Kaylan was 11 years old, was a member of Emerald Class on secondary site and had previously been a member of Blue Class.

Kaylan was a young man full of such joy and mischief, with an incredible smile that always lit up the room. He clearly loved coming to school and socialising with friends, as well as throwing himself with enthusiasm into everything that happened in school. He particularly enjoyed playing in the ball pit, hydrotherapy sessions and getting out and about, especially joining his classmates for weekly cycling sessions. Above all, he loved making connections with other people and enjoyed nothing more than a game of silly noises or the hokey-cokey!

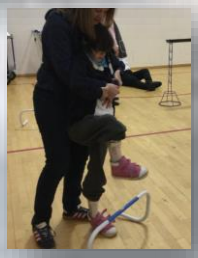
While staff have been deeply affected by this, it has been inspiring to see how our whole school community has pulled together to support each other. Some staff attended Kaylan's funeral on Wednesday 4th February and it was a privilege to be able to witness and share the love that was apparent from Kaylan's amazing family and friends, who celebrated his life.

Our thoughts are with Kaylan's family and loved ones at this time and we will be planning a celebration in school in the future so that staff and pupils can have the opportunity to celebrate Kaylan.

I hope you all have a lovely half term break. We looking forward to seeing everyone again in term 4.

- Karl

Around the school



Silver Class

We have been practicing moving over and under things in PE. Pupils have been amazing at stepping over and along benches and steps, over hurdles as well as crawling and sliding under bridges and tables.

Diamond Class

In diamond class, we have been preparing for our rainforest art gallery. We have created a soundscape using musical instruments, used junk modelling to create a snake and made our own rainforest trees out of felt.

Blue Class

We really enjoyed the Indian dance workshop this term, especially experiencing the drumming and wearing the costumes!

Community news

This term, FONSS have helped to fund some fantastic outdoor learning sessions for pupils to practise their practical skills in woodwork.

Plans will soon be underway for this year's summer fair!

If you would like to volunteer some time in either the organisation or running of the event on the day, please contact the school office who will pass on your contact details to the FONSS team.

Singing Hands event!

It was amazing to see our school community come together with the wider community – from as far afield as Worcester! – to see Suzanne and Tracy live! We had lots of fun singing and signing, playing instruments and dancing with scarves, and not forgetting plenty of selfie opportunities – for attendees and staff alike! Thank you to Nic and the FONSS team for organising such a fun event that highlighted not only the importance of Makaton signing, but also the feel of community and belonging. Safe to say we were all a little bit starstruck!

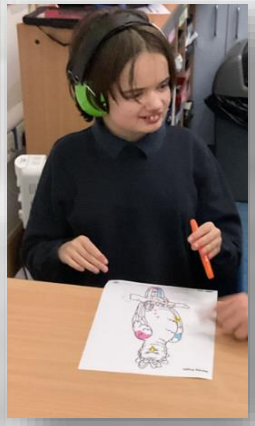
Around the school

Indigo Class

We have been really enjoying Rebound Therapy this term! We have been lucky enough to have a fantastic volunteer, Solomon, to help us!

Gold Class

Gold class have had a lovely time "In the Rainforest" this term. We especially enjoyed going on a virtual safari and using our hand made binoculars. Our class book has been Rumble in the Jungle so we made "Jungle Jelly", hiding edible animals in our green jelly.



Emerald Class

Emerald class have loved learning about the Rainforest. We have used our senses to explore what it would be like to live in a Rainforest, listened to the various sounds you would hear and created many masterpieces of the animals that live in the Rainforest including handprint monkeys, mark-making snakes and paper plate parrots!

Subject area in focus: Art

At New Siblands, art is a sensory-rich subject that allows our pupils to express themselves creatively and build confidence. Art is taught throughout our daily activities that are adapted to meet individual needs, with a strong emphasis on exploration and enjoyment of materials. Pupils develop key skills such as fine motor control, colour mixing, mark-making, pattern, texture and using a range of tools safely. Learning is often linked to topics, stories and sensory experiences to support engagement and understanding. Special events such as whole-school art days, seasonal projects and collaborative displays celebrate pupils' achievements and promote creativity across the school community.

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.

Around the School

Violet Class

We really enjoyed learning some Indian style drumming rhythms and dancing this term!

Green Class

Green class have been getting immersed in our 'India' topic! This week we made our own raita dip, and tried poppadoms, mango chutney, pilau rice, and tropical juice. We listened to Indian music and even did an Indian dance workshop.

Red Class

Red Class has spent this term exploring the sights, sounds, tastes and smells of our new topic, India. A major highlight was the Indian dance workshop, where the children enjoyed learning traditional movements and rhythms. We also tried our hand at cooking by making fresh raita, which the class loved tasting on poppadoms. Alongside these activities, the children have been busy creating their own Indian-inspired art, using traditional patterns and vibrant colours.

Yellow Class

This term, we have had so much fun exploring our topic, India! We immersed ourselves in our story through sensory experiences, enjoyed an Indian dance session (which we loved!), played the drums, and even created paintings using the muddy outdoor space. It has been a fantastic and memorable term for everyone!

Ruby Class

In Ruby class we have been completing different challenges in Jigsaw - everyone had lots of fun completing our marshmallow and spaghetti challenge!

Term 4 Dates

Term dates for pupils

Term 4:

Term starts: Monday 23rd February

Term ends: Wednesday 1st April

(Please note: Thursday 2nd April is an INSET day, Friday 3rd April is Good Friday)

CPD Corner

Term 3 began with an inset day which ensured half of our staff received Team teach training. Team teach is a proactive and compassionate approach to managing challenging behaviour. It focuses on de-escalation and positive reinforcement, building trust and rapport between staff and pupils. The rest of our staff team visited one of our other Trust schools for a session on functional behaviour analysis led by the head of EIT (Enable Inclusion Team.) The staff found the session to be extremely engaging and very relevant for working with our pupils.

In staff professional time, staff have also received refresher training on manual handling which involves the safe lifting, carrying, supporting, pushing, pulling, and moving of our pupils. It is a critical aspect of providing inclusive education and ensuring that all pupils can participate in activities that are accessible to them.

Our Relationships, Sex and Health education (RSHE) lead also delivered some fantastic training on the new RSHE policy that is coming into place in September 2026.

Finally, our Music lead led a session on musical playfulness, a way to build relationships, communication skills as well as intensive interaction and pupils' confidence in exploring different kinds of music and instruments.

New Siblands School in Thornbury is looking for volunteer Governors

We are a Special School for children aged 2-19years, part of Enable Trust

Governors are focused on improving educational outcomes for children

Governors need good communication skills and to work well in a team

You need to be curious and questioning but there is lots of training provided!

We meet once a term in school, usually late afternoon but also visit the school to monitor standards

For more info, contact:

Frances McMillan, Clerk to the Governors

Frances.mcmillan@enabletrust.org.uk

New Siblands School - Home

Ignite BRISTOL
Active. Inclusive. Together.

Women and Girl's Multi-Sport Festival

This festival provides d/Deaf, Disabled and Neurodivergent people, who identify as female / non-binary, the chance to try local inclusive sports and activities.

For more information on why this event is running, please email info@ignitebristol.co.uk

We're excited to team up with the **Bristol City Robins Foundation** to give every participant who attends, the chance to take home **TWO FREE tickets** to Bristol City Women's FC's final home match of the year.

BRISTOL CITY
ROBINS FOUNDATION

Sign up is now open!

Sunday 8th March 2026,
1 - 4 pm.

Hengrove Park Leisure Centre,
BS14 0DE.

Please let us know if you require a BSL interpreter.

Register your FREE place using this link or QR code:
https://forms.office.com/e/9vXNEfURe6