Term 5 Newsletter

Karl's Corner

This term is our annual Post 16 Prom. This is a fantastic opportunity for our Post 16 students to socialise and reflect on their achievements, as well as celebrate those students who will be leaving us this academic year.

This year, the Prom is being held on our secondary site and will follow the theme of 'Carnivals', including an opportunity for students to experience some real-life magic tricks from our resident magician.

During the day, Post 16 students will attend our makeover salon and get dressed in their finest and best, ready for their special day. We will then be visited by a wonderful fleet of vintage cars and our students will have the chance to drive around Thornbury, waving and honking horns at our local community so they can share in our celebration.

Later on, students will enjoy the tasty fare from Hawks House Burger Van and Dom's Ice-Cream Van, before kicking back and dancing to a set from our classic DJ team - DJ Bunjy and DJ Rhue.

We will also be celebrating the achievements and successes of our Year 14 students, who will be leaving us in July for pastures new after many years at New Siblands. We are so proud of our leavers and we wish them every success with their future.

- Karl

Around the school

Silver Class

During our Fashion & Textiles topics this term, Silver class have enjoyed exploring lots of different hats, dresses, wigs and costumes. We have practiced putting on clothes, sorting coloured and dark washing and hanging up laundry with pegs.

Red Class

Red Class have had a fantastic term exploring our Under the Sea topic. We've loved getting creative through water play and art, where the children have decorated and made their own sea creatures. In PE, we've been particularly enthusiastic about dancing along to Baby Shark and other underwater songs. We've also enjoyed making the most of the better weather when it's appeared! A real highlight this term was our immersive under the sea sensory tent, where the children could lie back and watch fish swimming all around them, making it feel just like being inside a giant fish tank.

Blue Class

We have been on a walk around our local area to find inspiration for this year's Thornbury in Bloom art competition. The theme is 'Our Beautiful Countryside', so we took a walk through Streamside Walk to find some natural materials to use in our painting.

Community news

FRIENDS OF NEW SIBLANDS SCHOOL
Supporting Achievement, Belonging and Celebration

5th July – Summer Fair!

2:30-4:30pm, primary site

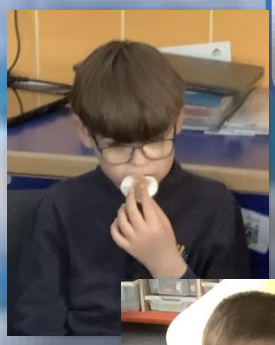
If you would like to volunteer some time in either the organisation or running of the event on the day, please contact the school office who will pass on your contact details to the FONSS team.

Jessie May Fire Walk

Alice Walton and Sarah Hancock (Blue Class) as well as Reagan (parent in Blue Class) took on the challenge of the Jessie May fire walk earlier this term! After a safety briefing, they and the 27 other participants took on the brave challenge of walking across 20ft of hot, burning embers in aid of Jessie May, a charity that supports young people with life limiting conditions and their families.

Alice and Sarah collectively raised over £500 for this fantastic cause, contributing towards over £4000 in total at the event!

Around the school



Indigo Class

This term we have loved sensology! We smelt vinegar and coconut, felt sand an ice pack, tasted salt & vinegar crisps and strawberry sauce, listened to a boat horn and a foil blanket, looked at CD reflections & torches! We used a communication board to identify our different senses and comment on if we liked them or not!

Gold Class

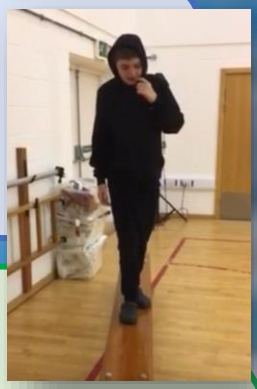
Gold class have had great fun this term riding different bikes at the Bristol Cycling Centre. It is a brilliant place to go because they have many types of bikes to suit everyone and a large flat track to ride around. We have been going every week and been making great progress with our individual physical skills.

More info about the cycling centre can be found later on in the newsletter.

Post 16 2

As part of Enterprise Post 16 2 have been planting potatoes to sell at the summer fayre.

Subject area in focus:
PE



At New Siblands School, we offer a wide range of PE opportunities designed to support pupils' physical development, coordination, confidence, and overall wellbeing. Our PE curriculum includes a variety of activities that help develop hand-eye coordination, balance, movement, and ball skills, alongside opportunities such as hydrotherapy and rebound therapy. Pupils access at least one dedicated PE lesson each week; however, physical activity is also embedded throughout daily routines through movement breaks, sensory circuits, and active learning opportunities.

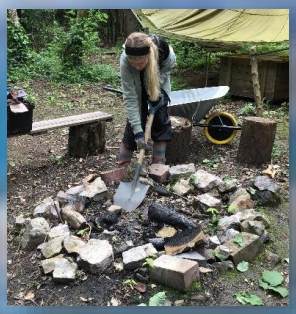
In addition to traditional PE lessons, we are fortunate to have our own hydrotherapy pool, which is accessed by pupils with hydrotherapy provision named within their EHCPs, as well as primary-aged pupils who take part in weekly swimming sessions. We also offer rebound therapy, which provides valuable opportunities for sensory regulation, coordination, and physical development. To ensure these sessions can run safely, we are always grateful for volunteers who are able to support as spotters during sessions. If you would be interested in helping out, please contact the school office.

Over the years, pupils have benefited from involvement with a range of community sports organisations, including Bristol Bears, Bristol Rovers/Robins, and South Gloucestershire Cricket. We are also excited about the opportunity to possibly attend the Bristol Bears Sporting Festival later this summer term, which will provide pupils with further inclusive sporting experiences and opportunities for participation.

Around the School

Post 16 3 – Work Experience @ Woodhouse

We have enjoyed our amazing work experience placement at Woodhouse Park Activity Centre. This has been very different to our other placements as it has been outdoors and has involved physical work. Our last session there involved building a natural barrier from trees that had been trimmed, clearing a firepit for a session that day and coppicing trees. We learnt that coppicing meant pruning trees in such a way that the pruned bits could be replanted to grow new trees. There was also time for a sticky grass fight and playing with a local cat that came to see what we were doing. We're looking forward to our next session there!



Ruby Class

One of our pupil's family dogs had puppies and we were lucky enough to have 4 puppies visit Ruby class! This was such a lovely, energised afternoon and everyone was so happy to meet these puppies. We even had some visitors from other classes come up to see them!

Around the School

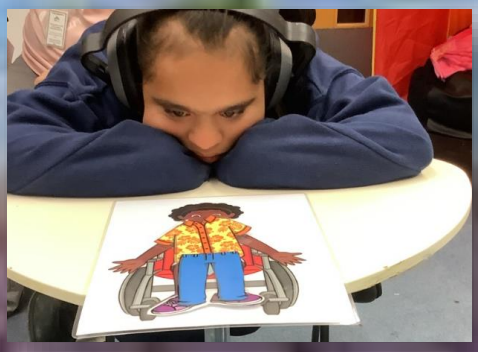
Violet Class

This term violet class has been really enjoying riding lots of different bikes at Bristol cycling centre!

Green Class

Green class enjoyed getting out in the community and taking part in a pizza making workshop! We made the dough and added tomato sauce and cheese, then cooked it in the oven. The children loved going somewhere new and making something from scratch.

Around the School



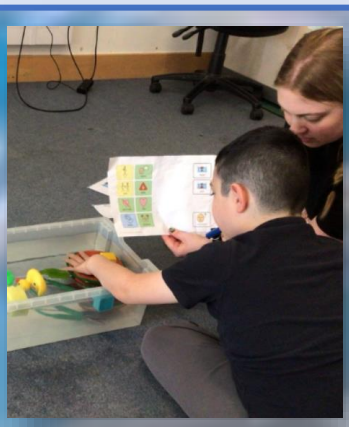
Emerald Class

Emerald class have loved exploring the topic of fashion and textiles. We have explored clothing around the world, designed our own clothes, made our own bags and loved our themed sensory music sessions! Lots of smiles and giggles whilst taking turns to pass around trousers to the song 'baggy trousers' and playing guitars to 'sharp dressed man!'

Yellow Class

Yellow Class have had a fantastic time exploring our "Under the Sea" topic this term. We especially loved transforming our group room into an aquarium, as well as investigating floating and sinking in science. We also enjoyed getting out into the community and spending time at our local park.

Term 6 Dates



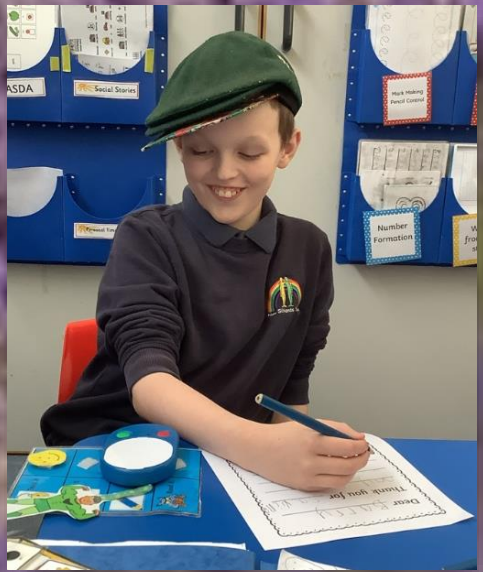
Term dates for pupils

Term 6:

Term starts: Monday 1st June

Term ends: Tuesday 21st July

There is an INSET day on Friday 19th June



Meet our new OT!

I am delighted to be working with Enable Trust at New Siblands Primary School and New Siblands Secondary School. I have over 25 years' experience working in child health within the NHS, including specialist leadership in children's occupational therapy and neurodiversity. Supporting children, young people and their families has always been at the heart of my work.

My areas of interest include Sensory Integration™, sensory attachment™ and parent coaching, with a strong focus on child- and family-centred, evidence-based practice. In school, my role focuses on understanding how sensory needs can impact pupils' learning, classroom engagement and participation in everyday school activities. I am very pleased to be working with the school community throughout the 2026 academic year.

- Caroline Jacques, OT

(You may receive consent forms in the coming weeks for Caroline to work with your child)

Congratulations to our primary site kitchen team, who this week received a food hygiene rating of 5 – the highest possible score!

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 email uniform@newsiblands.org.uk

Medication in school

If your child needs to have medication in school, please make sure that the medicine is in a **new, unopened** bottle/box with the child's name and prescription label (where appropriate) clearly printed.

You can follow the QR code below to find in the relevant permission forms.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					Family Cycling 9:45 – 10:30	Family Cycling 9:45 – 10:30
Schools 10:00 – 10:45	Schools 10:00 – 10:45	Schools 10:00 – 10:45	Schools 10:00 – 10:45	Schools 10:00 – 10:45		
Schools 10:45 – 11:30	Schools 10:45 – 11:30	Schools 10:45 – 11:30	Schools 10:45 – 11:30	Schools 10:45 – 11:30	Learn to Ride 10:45 – 11:30	Learn to Ride 10:45 – 11:30
Schools 11:45 – 12:30	Disability Cycling 11:45 – 12:30	Schools 11:45 – 12:30	Disability Cycling 11:45 – 12:30	Schools 11:45 – 12:30	Family Disability session 11:45 – 12:30	Family Disability session 11:45 – 12:30
Schools 1:15 – 2:00	Schools 1:15 – 2:00	Schools 1:15 – 2:00	Schools 1:15 – 2:00	Schools 1:15 – 2:00	Learn to Ride 1:15 – 2:00	Learn to Ride 1:15 – 2:00
Family Cycling 2:15 – 3:00	Family Cycling 2:15 – 3:00	Disability Cycling 2:15 – 3:00	Family Cycling 2:15 – 3:00	Schools 2:15 – 3:00	Learn to Ride: Next Steps 2:15 – 3:00	Learn to Ride: Next Steps 2:15 – 3:00

Bristol Cycling Centre, Old Whitchurch Athletics Track, Bamfield, Bristol, BS14 0XA

https://betterbybike.info/cycling-centres/bristol-cycling-centre/#about-us

At The National College, our #WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

HELPING NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN NAVIGATE THE ONLINE WORLD

Neurodivergent people tend to be early adopters of technology, and many influential innovations in this space are neurodivergent themselves. It's therefore likely that a neurodivergent child or young person may be drawn to the online world from an early age. This isn't a concern in itself, but understanding both the benefits and potential risks is essential. Here are ten key considerations to support safe and positive online experiences for neurodivergent children.

1 TREAT ONLINE LIKE THE REAL WORLD

You wouldn't allow a child to cross a road without guidance – you'd hold their hand, use a pedestrian crossing, and model safe behaviour. In the same way, a neurodivergent child's first experiences online should be supported by an adult who can guide and explain safe and responsible digital behaviour to them from the outset.

2 MODEL RESPONSIBLE USE

Children learn from what they see. Show all children, regardless of neurotype, what responsible internet use looks like. Reflect on your own use of social media and AI. Consider how often you use them and your own understanding of these platforms. Talk openly about when and why you use these tools, helping all children develop a balanced and informed approach.

3 KNOW YOUR LIMITS

Current government guidance suggests no safe screen use below the age of two, with a maximum of one hour per day for two- to five-year-olds. Screen time can support communication and connection when shared with an adult. However, passive watching can affect neurodivergent children's attention and language skills. Focus on the type of content they watch, encouraging slower-paced and meaningful material rather than fast-paced, overstimulating content.

4 CONSIDER AGES AND STAGES

For older children and teenagers, agreed limits are important. Screen time can be beneficial, but it should form part of a balanced lifestyle. Neurodivergent children may find online communication easier than real-world conversation, supporting their social interaction. However, it shouldn't be their only option. Encourage a range of activities, including creative play, physical exercise, and opportunities for real-world connections.

5 KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Discussions about online safety should begin early and continue as children grow. However, neurodivergent children may worry about getting things wrong or being misunderstood, meaning these kinds of conversations should feel open and fair, rather than like a lecture. If a child encounters a problem – such as a scam or inappropriate content – they need to feel able to speak to a trusted adult without fear of judgement or embarrassment.

6 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

You aren't expected to be an expert, but it's important to stay informed about the platforms, games, or apps neurodivergent children use in order to provide practical support. Social media platforms have age limits, and many apps and games offer parental settings that can control access. Schools and families should work together to understand these tools, helping neurodivergent children use them safely while keeping up to date with new features and changes.

7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Children and young people often know more about current technology than adults, meaning it's important to recognise that controls may be bypassed. Clear, predictable boundaries should be used, based on trust and consistency. Involving children in discussions that affect them helps them feel heard. This is particularly important for neurodivergent children, who may respond strongly to perceived unfairness.

8 UNDERSTAND AI CONTENT

Real / Fake

The internet now includes large amounts of AI-generated content, including images, videos, and stories. These can be difficult to identify. Children should be encouraged to question what they see and check the information using trusted sources. Neurodivergent children may interpret content literally, meaning adult guidance is important in helping them recognise what's real and reliable – and what isn't.

9 EXPLAIN AI LIMITATIONS

AI isn't the same as a search engine. It generates responses based on prompts and patterns, and its accuracy depends on how it's used. Sometimes, it produces incorrect or unreliable information, known as 'hallucinations'. Both adults and children need to understand this and learn how to check information carefully using reliable and trusted sources.

10 CLARIFY AI RELATIONSHIPS

AI can feel conversational and personal, but it's not capable of real relationships. It learns from patterns in user input rather than human understanding. Some neurodivergent children may experience a sense of connection with AI chatbots, particularly if they find social situations challenging. It's therefore important to explain that these are simulated conversations and aren't a substitute for real, human relationships.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Learn is a neurodivergent former SENCO and Advisory Teacher who works with nurseries, schools, colleges, and businesses to improve inclusion for neurodivergent people. She is the Founder and Director of Neurotorchers and the author of "The Other 2B – How Supporting Your Neurodivergent Learner Can Improve Teaching and Learning for the Whole Class".

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_wednesday /www.thenationalcollege @wake.up.wednesday @wake.up.wednesday

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Attention Autism at Home
Online Training for Parents

Attention Autism™
AN IRRESISTIBLE INVITATION TO LEARN
Home of the Curiosity Programme

Delivered by **Anna Burke** Attention Autism™ Advanced Practitioner and **Lyndsay Barlow** Co-owner and Director of Attention Autism™

Venue: Online (Zoom)
Workshop time: 7:30pm – 8.30pm
Workshop dates: Thursdays 4th and 11th June, 2nd July
Cost: £240 for up to two parents

If you would like to attend the training, please use this link:
Book here

In this series of three workshops, we will cover all 4 stages of the Attention Autism Programme, discuss the ideas behind it and use real-life examples to show exactly how and why it works.

You and your child will learn how to connect, get focused attention, keep it, share it and use it to develop communication.

- Understanding the ideas that drive the Attention autism programme
- Getting connected so interaction is shared and enjoyable
- Getting your child's attention, keeping it and sharing it
- Building understanding and confidence in getting the message
- Developing communication and moving forward to spontaneous expression
- Individualising sessions for your unique child
- Creating activities that are worth communicating about and inspiring the child to learn
- Creating sessions that everyone enjoys and remembers

As well as the three online sessions, each family will have three zoom coaching sessions with Anna Burke to help them implement the programme in their home.

bucket

Attention autism is a speech and language/attention intervention we use in school called 'Bucket'. It is a super way to teach our pupils listening and attention skills as well as some language acquisition.

SENDaWelcome

My Community Action Group

A Place for Everybody

Learning Disability Week on Gloucester Road

Monday 15th June - Sunday 21st June

A week of events and activities from your local learning disability action group

Games · Perfomances · Workshops · Crafts · Social Events

ella.sendawelcome@gmail.com

07386 493801

A Place for Everybody: Learning Disability Week on Gloucester Road

Monday 15th - Sunday 21st June	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday		Accessible Streets Workshop Boston Tea Party 2pm - 3:30pm	T-Shirt Design Workshop Brandon Trust shop 6pm - 7:30pm
Tuesday	Makaton Taster Session Bishopston Library 10am - 12pm	The Health Hub Horfield Baptist Church 2pm - 4pm	Flamingo Chicks Dance Class B+A Church Hall 7pm - 7:45pm
Wednesday		Afternoon Tea & Biscuit Decorating FACE Charity 2pm - 4pm	Boardgame Night Chance and Counters 6pm - 8pm
Thursday	Confidence Building Workshop Quakers 10am - 11pm		
Friday	Creative Showcase Horfield Methodist Church 10am - 12pm		Pub Night The Annexe 6pm - 8pm
Saturday	Gymboree Play + Music Workshop B+A Church Hall 10am - 11am	The Big Games Meet-Up Horfield Baptist Church 2pm - 5pm	
Sunday	Wellbeing Sensory Walk St Andrews Park 10am - 10:45am	Sunday Disco Sommerville Club 4pm - 6pm	

JIGSAW Community Dog Show

Saturday 23rd May | 10.30am - 2pm

Outside JIGSAW Thornbury

10:30	Members - young handler quiet sessions - sponsored by Bark Raw
11:00	Best young handler (young person under 18 yrs old)
11:10	Bark Raw Cuddle Companion Class (dog teddies)
11:20	Farm Friends Musical Sits challenge
11:30	Hard Pressed to Choose: Puppy Parade (up to 18 months)
11:40	About the Dog Dressed to Impress Award (fancy dress)
11:50	Blaze Tail Wagging Champion
12:00	Bring your own picnic
12:30	Albus' Golden Oldies (8 yrs and over)
12:40	Farm Friends Rescue & Rehome Hero
12:50	Bark Raw Top Trick Talent
13:00	Dog most like their owner (appearance and personality)
13:10	Don't Stop the 'Bark' - Musical sits
13:20	'Bark's' Paws on Parade - Dog parade
13:30	Celebration - Raffle, colouring competition & fundraising games winner announcement

JIGSAW You fit in THORNBURY

Raising funds to support our life changing work

Everyone is welcome

St MARY CENTRE

£3 per entry or