

# Term Newsletter



## Karl's Corner

Welcome to our first school newsletter of this academic year! We hope you all had a lovely summer and that you have settled back into the routine of school. It has been great to see our established pupils return to school and we offer a particularly warm welcome to our new pupils and their families, who are joining us to start their learning journey at New Siblands.

I know that there have already been some exciting things happening across the school, from visiting cricket coaches, to class trips. We have lots more planned for this year to support and enhance our specialist curriculum.

This year, we have several key curriculum focuses which I am keen for you to know about.

Firstly, we are continuing to develop our Physical and Sensory curriculum, which includes PE lessons, swimming or hydrotherapy, our use of sensory rooms, outdoor learning, physical or sensory strategies used across the curriculum and improving the resourcing for all of these planned activities. Our staff Physical and Sensory team have undertaken research and started working with other local special schools to begin to develop a more bespoke physical and sensory curriculum that can even better meet the needs of all of our pupils.

In addition, another key focus for us this year is our work on what Ofsted call 'Personal Development and Wellbeing'. This includes ensuring we have an inspiring range of trips, visitors, extra-curricular experiences, careers and preparation for adulthood support and assemblies for our pupils. It also includes our ongoing work developing pupil social, moral, spiritual and cultural understanding, their awareness of the wider British Values within which their education sits and our teaching of Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE).

Our leadership team and teachers will be focusing on these key areas this year and will be interested to consult with you to understand your perspective on these key aspects of our curriculum.

We are really looking forward to working with you all this year. Have a lovely half term break and see you in Term 2!

- Karl





# FONSS

Friends of New Siblands School

# SAVE THE DATE

## Sunday 6th December 2026

## *Christmas Fayre*






Please save your empty jars to make

***Jolly Jars***

for the popular Jolly Jar stall!

**We would love:**

- New unwanted gifts
- Bottles for the bottle tombola
- New unwanted toys for the toy tombola

If you can help on the day, even for an hour or so, please get in touch.

fonsscharity@gmail.com

# Around the school





## P16 -1

Post 16-1 enjoyed a school trip to Noahs Ark Zoo Farm, this was a rescheduled trip from last year as we had to cancel due to the heatwave. Everyone enjoyed exploring the park and looking at all the different animals, we saw elephants, rabbits, crocodiles, tapirs and gibbons. The most popular animals were the lions and the goats.



## Red Class

Red Class have enjoyed welcoming some new pupils into the class and all have had an exciting first term. This term Red class have loved exploring Autumn. They have also enjoyed exploring different musical instruments during a WEMA music session.



Community news

# Charity 10k!

A team of staff past and present ran the Cardiff 10k at the beginning of September to raise funds for Children's Hospice South West in memory of Kaylan who we lost at the beginning of this year.

They have raised an incredible £2,280!

"It was a brilliant – and surprisingly warm! – day. We loved the opportunity to remember Kaylan in this way and take part in such a big event.

Thank you to everyone who sponsored us and cheered us along the way, from training in summer heat waves to race day!"



# FONSS

**Friends of New Siblands School**

## Meet Our Team

Welcome! To those of you who don't already know us, we at FONSS are a group of enthusiastic and friendly parents, carers, family members, teachers and members of the local community. Our aim is to raise money via fun events like the Christmas Fair to support the school in lots of different ways.
In the last couple of years, we have funded Forest School sessions, musical instruments for curriculum lessons and a sensory projector as well as other resources and extra curricular opportunities for the pupils.
The team below are just some of the wonderful volunteers at FONSS. If you are interested in joining the team, or would like to volunteer at one of our fairs, please email fonsscharity@gmail.com



**Sophie**: Hi I'm Sophie and I have been chair of FONSS for almost 10 years. I love New Siblands with all my heart and I am so grateful for the incredible friend I have made along the
way. Always thankful for our amazing team, and ready to welcome new members.



**Debbie:** Hi I'm Debbie, I have been the treasurer for FONSS for around 25 years! My Sarah was at New Siblands for 16 years and loved her time there. It's been a long time since she had to leave but I have stayed in my role. Being a part of the FONSS family means a lot and I am still enjoying my part in it.



**Nic:** I'm Nic, Vice Chair of FONSS. I really enjoy being part of the team – lovely people pulling together to make a difference to the students and support their learning.



**Rachel:** I'm Rachel, committee member and graphics guru. New Siblands' staff and students are just amazing, so I think it's important to give them amazing support!



**Sue**: I am Sue and I'm the resident cake-maker and often lead the refreshments. I love being able to support the amazing work being done at New Siblands School. You'll often see me at events during the school year offering squash, biscuits and homemade cakes!



**Alice W**: I have been teaching at New Siblands for over 10 years and am privileged to be part of FONSS; seeing the support and teamwork that goes in to creating magical events for our school community is nothing short of amazing! We are incredibly grateful as a school for all the work the FONSS team put in.



**Our team of crafters, helpers and supporters** go out of their way to support New Siblands any way we can!

# Around the school







## Indigo Class

We loved having Alex, from Hilltops Forest School, to lead an Outdoor Learning session this term. The pupils used hammers and drills to make wooden butterflies! Thank you to FONSS for making this happen!







## Violet Class

Violet Class enjoyed taking part in softball cricket sessions with the Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation. The children had great fun developing their batting, bowling and fielding skills, while showing excellent teamwork and sportsmanship. Thank you to the coaches for delivering such enjoyable sessions.

# Around the School





## Ruby Class

This term Ruby class has really enjoyed our topic, 'In the sky!'. We have learnt all about birds; their habitats, food, and features. During one outdoor learning session we built nests in trees - which were brilliantly built as they are still there weeks later!





## Silver Class

Our main focus throughout term 1 has been to build positive relationships, learn new routines and expectations and encourage friendships between peers. We have had fun exploring new activities as we discover everyone's favourite toys, books and games. We are so proud of how well everyone has settled into class.



# Around the School



**Emerald Class**

Emerald class have loved learning about our topic: Up in the Sky! We have learned a lot about Space, made collage kite pictures and hot air balloons out of paper mache to name a few! We have also had Flamingo Chicks Inclusive Dance Teachers visit us which has been brilliant.







**Yellow Class**

This term, we have had lots of fun exploring our topic, "Autumn". We enjoyed our sensory story The Leaf Man, explored autumn colours through creative activities, and discovered the different things we might see during autumn. We are so proud of how brilliantly everyone has settled back into school, especially those joining a new class. Well done, everyone!

# Around the School



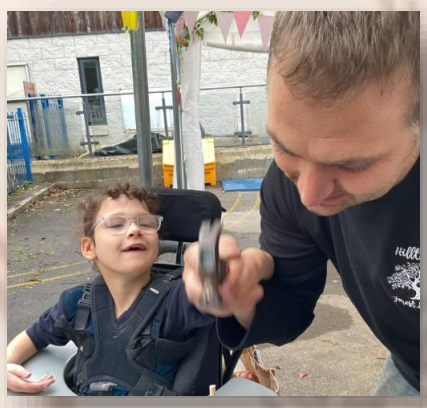



## P16 -4

Post 16- 4 have really enjoyed finding out about key people who have helped shape history and can be celebrated through Black History Month. Activities have included a session of First Aid to remember Mary Seacole, a range of sports for identifying award winning sportspeople and shaving foam planet art for Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock.





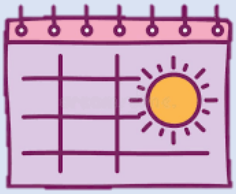




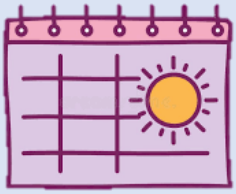
## Blue Class

We've had a busy term using tools to make butterflies for the garden and learning where our food comes from – we've even harvested our own vegetables!





# Term 2 Dates



## Term dates for pupils

Term starts:
**Monday 2nd November**

Term ends:
**Friday 18th December**

**You can find all term dates and inset days for the year on our website:**
https://newsiblands.greenhousecms.co.uk/Dates-and-Calendar-Dates/




## 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

# INSET days and Staff professional time

Our two INSET days at the start of term were packed with important training and updates for staff, including safeguarding, the use of visuals, and positive behaviour strategies. Staff also had dedicated time to complete essential documentation, such as intimate care plans and travel passports.

On the Wednesday, Alice delivered an inspiring training session, *Inside the Sensory Brain: How Sensory Systems Shape Learning*, which staff found both informative and thought-provoking. We also welcomed external professionals from Nutricia and Lifetime, who provided valuable training on medical needs and PEG feeding.

During staff professional development time this term, our Occupational Therapist has delivered specialist training on sensory processing difference. This has helped staff to develop a deeper understanding of how these differences can impact a pupil's ability to regulate, engage and learn throughout the school day.

We also have upcoming training on our assessment platform, Evidence for Learning. The training will focus on ensuring that observations are meaningful, linked to individual outcomes and used effectively to celebrate achievements, inform planning and support our understanding of each pupil's learning journey.

Finally, our recent INSET day provided an opportunity for all staff to take part in professional development meetings. Each member of staff met with a senior leader to discuss their professional targets, reflect on their practice, and explore their future development opportunities.

# Leadership structures

As in any school, we have a number of staff who lead on and are responsible for specific areas in our school. It can be useful for parents to be aware of this structure.

The Senior Leadership Team is responsible for leading the Whole School. Led by the Headteacher (Karl Hemmings) and Deputy Headteacher (Margarita Steer) who both work across the whole school. Gemma Britton and Hazel Sinclair (Assistant Heads) lead Primary site and Krissy Emery (Assistant Head) leads Secondary site.

The Designated Safeguarding Leads -responsible for pupil safety are Hazel Sinclair (Mon-Tue) and Gemma Britton (Wed-Fri). Deputy Safeguarding Leads are Karl Hemmings, Margarita Steer, Krissy Emery and Gemma Britton.

The Extended Leadership Team consists of class teachers, who also have whole-school responsibilities:

- Tracy Rogers (English and Communication)
- Angela Windsor (Assessment, Vulnerable Groups and Post 16)
- Alice Walton (Belonging Pathway, Physical and Sensory Team, Music Lead)
- Chloe Newman (Pupil Personal Development and Wellbeing – including Careers and Relationship/Sex/Health Education)

All Class teachers also have a whole-school area they are responsible for:

| | |
|---|---|
| Katie Griggs-Trevarthen | Geography Lead |
| Ellen Scotford | Outdoor learning Lead |
| Emma Shearman | Physical Education (PE) Lead |
| Rachel Smith | Physical Education (PE) Lead |
| Heather Collins | Student Council |
| Karen Salailagi | Science Lead |
| Lynn Bevan | AQA Accreditation / Duke of Edinburgh |
| Tom Oram | Maths Lead / ICT Lead |
| Wendy Boffin | Religious Education Lead |
| Nina Stephenson | Parental Engagement lead |
| Beth Sinclair | Assistant English Lead |
| Alina Skelt | Art Lead / Design & Technology Lead |
| Isabel Phillips | History Lead |

We also have Higher Level Teaching Assistants who have whole school areas of responsibility:

| | |
|---|---|
| Karen Miller | Behaviour Lead |
| Sally Compton | OT Therapies Lead |
| Natalie Yau | Medical and Physical Lead |
| Donna Edmonds | Pupil Wellbeing Lead |



WEMA CREATIVE HEALTH
AUTUMN 2026

# Music Makers

## SEND Sessions

Creative music sessions for young people with additional needs and their families.

**FREE!**

**29th October**

New Siblands Primary School, Gillingstool
Thornbury,
Bristol BS35 2EG

**Booking essential**

**10.30am–12.00 · Open Family session**
Songs, games and instruments to explore together — no experience needed.

**1.00–2.30pm · Complex Needs session**
A slow, calm pace with accessible instruments and music technology. Children must attend with family member or adult.

Ages 5–12, all welcome.
Accessible instruments, high staff ratio, changing facilities on site.

West of England MUSIC & ARTS

BOOK YOUR PLACE

**wema.org.uk/form/music-makers/**

Contact: jenni.parkinson@wema.org.uk

# Future Me

Small Steps, Big Possibilities

JIGSAW You fit in THORNBURY

**For 14 to 25 year olds to explore their strengths and aspirations**

## Who am I?

Thursday 12th November,
6:00pm - 7:30pm
at JIGSAW Thornbury

## Building Resilience

Wednesday 2nd December,
6:30pm - 8:00pm,
Online



www.jigsawthornbury.org.uk

# Schools Newsletter
# Autumn/ Winter 2026

## Thornbury Town Council are taking part in some fantastic family events - here are some dates for your diary!



**Streamleaze Play Area is almost ready!**

Thornbury Town Council's refurbishment of Streamleaze Play Park is almost complete and it includes a brand new goal and basketball hoop combination so bring your ball for a fun game!

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**Freshwater Lab at Mundy Playing Fields on Tuesday 27th October 11.30am to 2.00pm**

Discover the tiny animals living in our streams and ponds, learn how to care for watery wildlife and try some fun nature crafts. Find out about Water Guardians and River Detectives and hear about plans for a new natural water play facility at the Mundy. Meet at the Town Council gazebo in the Mundy Playing Fields park area. All activities are free!



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**Knit or Crochet a Poppy for Thornbury!**

This Remembrance we hope to fill the railings outside Thornbury Town Hall with hand-knitted and crocheted poppies. Patterns are available from the Town Hall or you can create your own design. The RBL website has patterns available too!

Please bring your finished poppies to the Town Hall by **1st November 2026**.

Donations to the Royal British Legion can also be made at the Town Hall.

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**Thornbury Round Table Fireworks on Saturday 7th November – Mundy Playing Fields. Gates open 17.30 - late**

This event raises money for local charities and good causes. It is run by Thornbury Round Table and features fantastic fireworks displays for children and adults with stalls and refreshments.

Earlybird tickets: Adults £7.50 | Children £4 from Thornbury Round Table's website.



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**Remembrance Parade on Sunday 8th November starting at 9.30am outside Thornbury Town Hall**



Thornbury's annual Remembrance Parade brings together the Town Mayor, MP, veterans, serving personnel, cadets, uniformed youth groups, local organisations and emergency services, led by the Mace Bearer and Royal British Legion Standard.

The parade will be followed by a memorial service at St Mary's Church, with wreaths laid in memory of those who have lost their lives in wars and conflicts.

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**Thornbury Christmas Lights Association - Saturday 21st November 2pm - 7pm on Thornbury High Street**



This event starts the countdown to Christmas! Held on Thornbury High Street the event features rides, refreshments and music. The Light Switch On is run by the wonderful Thornbury Christmas Lights Association. Thornbury Town Council will also have a stall with a free competition and freebies - come and say hello!

Town Hall, 35 High Street, Thornbury, Bristol, BS35 2AR

communications@thornburytowncouncil.gov.uk

# THE TOGETHER PLACE BRISTOL



## 28TH OCTOBER

£8 SESSION

ADDITIONAL SIBLINGS - £2

A spooky-themed taster session for children with SEND and their families to come along, explore, play and experience our stay and play group together.



### SENSORY SPIDERS

*A small group session for pupils who may have complex medical or physical need. A calmer session where pupils can be on the floor.*

*FOR ALL AGES*

**10:00-11:00**

### BUSY BATS

*For learners who enjoy energetic, interactive activities with messy, hands on fun!*

*FOR AGES 4-12*

**11:30-12:30**

### SPOOKY SQUAD

*For learners who engage best through sensory exploration and individually adapted experiences*

*FOR 13+*

**1:00-2:00**



To find out more or book a space, please contact us at : thetogetherplacebristol@gmail.com



Pucklechurch Community Centre
Abson Road, Pucklechurch
BS169RH