

Happy Friday!

Shuffle Up Morning

I always love shuffle up morning, seeing the children with their new teacher for the first time and taking those first important steps towards next year. Greeting our current Year 2s as they arrived at Myrtle and hearing their excited chatter as they followed their new teacher around to their new classroom was lovely and although there were of course nerves and uncertainty, they worked through this together and had a really positive morning.

Next week, you will receive a welcome book for your child's new year group which contains the main pieces of information you and they may want to know or be reminded of over the summer. We will email it to you via weduc so please do look out for it.

Year 2 Performance

On Wednesday and Thursday we were treated to the Year 2 performance 'Bee Musical'. After lots of hard work by the children (and staff), performance time arrived and the children did brilliantly. The singing, dancing and acting was all superb and the extra special part for me was seeing the care, humour and friendship between the children as they encouraged, helped and in some cases giggled their way through two wonderful performances. Well done to everyone involved!

Sing Up with Pride

This morning we brought years 1 to 6 together in our Myrtle hall for *Sing Up with Pride* to coincide with Bristol Pride this weekend. Sing Up is a national organisation which encourages and supports schools to sing, providing new songs to learn and resources to help. They hold a national Sing Up day every March but we prefer ours to coincide with Bristol Pride as singing is such an inclusive and unifying thing to do and the songs we chose were positive and celebratory to reflect the spirit of Pride.

We talked about the significance of the rainbow for Pride, with beautiful individual colours combining to create something special and discussed how this morning was about each of us being proud of who we are, how we look and who we love, and coming together to create something beautiful.

Over a sea of rainbow coloured clothing, hair bands, hats and glasses, the children sang their hearts out before enjoying the rare opportunity to all play together outside. It was so lovely seeing the year groups having fun together.

Thank you to Mr Pearce and Miss Munnings for helping the children to learn the songs, and an additional thank you to Miss Munnings for leading the show today! If you are going to Bristol Pride tomorrow, have a fantastic time.

Staffing Updates

We are sad to be saying goodbye to the following members of our support staff team at the end of this term:

<u>Emily Poole</u> is an extremely talented LSA who has been at the school for almost 13 years. As well as supporting hundreds of children, most recently working 1:1, she also introduced us to Lego Therapy and this is now an established part of our inclusion offer. Emily's experience and calm, skilled approach making her an extremely valuable and popular member of the team and the children love her! Emily is leaving to take up an exciting new post working in a specialist secondary school. This is a great opportunity for her to pursue her passion, and we wish her all the very best.

<u>Sophie Morely</u> will also be leaving us to begin an exciting new chapter as she relocates to North Wiltshire. Sophie has been a valuable part of the team for 8 years and it is hard to imagine Reception without her there. She has welcomed hundreds of children in to Southville Primary and has shown so much care for the families she has worked with, but a new life beckons 'cross the border and we wish her lots of luck and happiness.

<u>Kim Wogan</u> has been working as a 1:1 and small group LSA at Myrtle for the last two years in which time her patient, calm manner has enabled her to become a very popular member of staff with children and adults alike. From September, Kim will begin teacher training with UWE. We are delighted that she is taking this exciting next step and really proud to have been part of her journey towards it. We are so grateful for everything she has brought to Southville and wish her lots of luck for the future.

This year we have also been lucky to work with several members of staff from agencies this year who will be moving on to other roles and challenges in September. Liam Jones, Noah Pillar, Annie Matthews and Elliott Furniss have all been fantastic additions to the team and we wish them well with their future endeavours. They have made a huge difference to the children they have been working with this year.

Amazon Wishlist

A few weeks ago we launched our Amazon wishlist. There was, and is, absolutely no expectation for parents and carers to buy from this. As a community you generously support us through the PTA and food bank, not to mention various requests for everything from plants to play equipment. The PTA helps us immeasurably, providing things that enrich the experience of the children throughout the school, and your support of them makes a huge difference to us.

The Wishlist has a very different purpose, which is to support us with resources that we would otherwise either not be able to afford (because they are considered non-essential), or that we need and would have had to fund out of our school budget. We

have been blown away by the response and are so grateful for every item that has been bought for us. I am sorry that I am not able to thank each of you individually, but please know that your generosity is very much appreciated and will impact upon the children and staff directly.

End of Year Reports

Today you will be receiving your child's end of year report. I wrote to you earlier in the week to outline the improvements we have made to the reports and the reasons for these changes. If you would like to discuss any aspect of the report with your child's teacher we will be holding informal drop-in sessions next week straight after school at Merrywood on Tuesday 16th and at Myrtle on Wednesday 17th.

Missing Photos

Last week there were two missing images from the newsletter so I wanted to try again this week. One was the contact information for Ms Charnock's new venture:



The other is related to our very own Lucas Ball who is raising money to fund his trip to the Youth World Kickboxing Championships in Hungary, where he will be representing GB.



In case the problem reoccurs, I am attaching the images to this message separately - I am determined you will get to see them!

It is frustrating that this and other formatting issues occur from time to time. We are looking at how we can resolve this from September as it is not always as slick as I would like it to be and I apologise for any confusion this causes.

Juggling Workshops

Thank you to the PTA who have arranged an end of year treat for the children. On Thursday or Friday of next week, every child from Reception to Year 6 will have the chance to take part in a juggling workshop led by Lucas Jet. We will also get the chance to see a circus skills performance on Friday morning at Myrtle which we will be walking the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children down to enjoy.

It will be a lovely way to round off the term so thank you to Jen Gibson for organising it and to the PTA for funding it.

Top Tennis!

I always like to hear about the achievements of children out of school and Lucas in Year 5 had an incredible weekend experiencing top level tennis at the County Cup National Tennis Finals. Team Avon battled it out with the eight top counties in the UK for the chance to win the County Cup. Team Avon finished second in their group to Surrey (the eventual winners) and then fought hard in the 3rd/4th place play offs to a secure 3rd place! A fantastic result!

Have a lovely weekend, Andy Bowman

<u>Amy flyer.jpg</u> <u>Lucas fundraiser.jpg</u>