

# Minerva Primary School



8th December 2023

## News from the Trust

I've had such a wonderful last few weeks. It's been such a delight to join you at so many fabulous nativity plays, beautiful concerts, amazing Christmas fairs and lovely church services across the Trust. Christmas is always my favourite time in school - it is truly magical and creates so many memories for all the children. I am sure, like me, you can recall your Christmas nativity so I know the events now will remain with the children for many years to come. I'd like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a fantastic 2024.



## A message from Gareth Nation



We've had an amazing Autumn Term at Minerva Primary School. The children continue to demonstrate our School Values on a daily basis and have shown such incredible resilience over the past few weeks. They have challenged themselves in and out of the classroom. Whether focusing on their learning in Maths, History, Geography or Science; applying themselves to clubs such as axe throwing, cooking with their parents or playing chess. They have excelled in every way.

Once again, the staff have gone above and beyond to ensure the school is a safe, welcoming and caring place for the children (and staff) to learn. It is a pleasure to be part of such a committed and dedicated team. We have hosted various events for parents/carers and family members and it has been lovely to see so many of you in attendance. We finished the term with the most marvellous Christmas Fayre which was well attended - testament to the support from everyone who is part of Minerva Primary School. Our PTA has raised a good amount of money that has helped support the cost of the school trip among various other initiatives in school. Well done to the team for organising and running various fundraising events. A special thanks to Mrs Glenn and Mrs Caldecott for all their efforts and of course to the entire team from PoMs (Parents of Minerva) and all the staff for their contributions.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers. Whether you support reading, gardening, swimming, with school trips or with the superb Christmas Fayre - thank you. You make such a difference to the children.

I would like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy precious moments with your wonderful children.

## The Photo of the Week



*It's a Baby!* Our Reception and KS1 children put on a lovely nativity play



This school is part of the The Redstart Learning Partnership, a Multi Academy Trust of primary schools in Somerset.

## Dates for your Diary

- 13th December - Christmas jumper day
- 13th December - school Christmas dinner
- 14th December, 10am - choir singing carols at Asda
- 14th December, 2pm - carol service in church
- 15th December - last day of term
- 2nd January - INSET day (school closed)
- 3rd January - school reopens

Head of School: Gareth Nation

Minerva Primary School,

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T: 01823 337051

[minerva@redstartpartnership.co.uk](mailto:minerva@redstartpartnership.co.uk)  
[www.minervaprimarieschool.co.uk](http://www.minervaprimarieschool.co.uk)

## Attendance Breakdown: (for this month)

River Tone - **81.73%**

Quantock Hills - **92.37%**

Hestercombe - **94.88%**

Taunton Castle - **94.31%**

Bath Place - **95.64%**

**Whole School - 91.79%**

## Safeguarding

Safeguarding is high priority at Minerva Primary School. We take every opportunity to ensure that our pupils' safety is paramount. We want our pupils to be healthy and happy and to develop well, both physically and mentally. The school follows the latest Government Guidance to ensure we are fulfilling our duties in this important area.

Our Designated Lead (DSL) and contact at Minerva is Gareth Nation, our Assistant DSL & Safeguarding Officer is Debbie Glenn and our Deputy DSL is Kate Caldecott.

Our school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy can be found online at: [www.minervaprimarieschool.co.uk/449/safeguarding](http://www.minervaprimarieschool.co.uk/449/safeguarding)

If you have any concerns about the safety of a child you can either talk to our DSL or DDSLs or you may phone Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224.

There is lots of online safety advice on our website – please follow [this link](#) to help keep your child safe.

## Contact Information

If you change any of your contact details, please inform the school office as soon as possible so that we may update our records. It is imperative that we have up to date details at all times.

## River Tone, Quantock Hills and Hestercombe

Another term comes to an end with such speed! We have been working so hard in school and the children have continued to impress.

All the children in Reception and KS1 have been working very hard on the nativity, which many of you would have seen. It was so lovely to see so many of you supporting the two performances. We hope you were impressed with all that we have been doing with the performances.

It is encouraging to see so many are reading more at home. However not all the children are hitting this target. It is a school expectation that the children are heard at home and it is recorded on their reading records. We are handing out dojo points to those children who achieve our target when we check.

All the children have made some beautiful Christmas decorations that are for sale at the Christmas fair. Everyone is looking forward to raising lots of money.

As a very busy term comes to an end, all the adults wish you all a lovely Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all after the holiday! Thank you for your support.

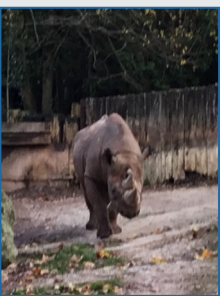


## Taunton Castle

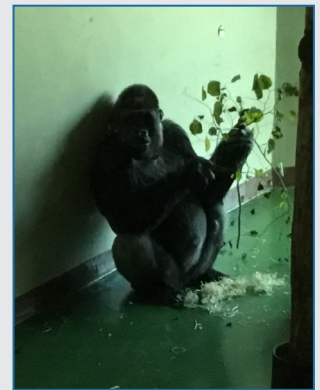
Taunton Castle has had a very exciting couple of weeks. In English, we have been continuing the story *The Wind in the Willows*. The children are writing letters as one of the characters from the story. They are writing to a friend explaining all of the adventures that Mr Toad has got himself into. They are remembering to set their letter out correctly and include addresses, paragraphs and remembering to keep their writing in the first person.

In maths, the children have been recapping how to add and subtract using the column method. They have now become quite good at this and we are ready to move on to our new textbooks after the Christmas holidays. As usual, we have been practising our times tables online and also using the more traditional methods of reciting and problem solving.

The children have been enjoying their topic of farming in their geography lessons and have been finding out all about farming in our local area. They know the difference between arable and pastoral farming and know that Somerset produces more cider apples than any other county in the UK. They have also contrasted our farming methods with those used in South Africa.



The whole school had a lovely visit to Paignton Zoo. Taunton Castle class loved seeing all of the animals and trying to spot where some of them were hiding. It was a very successful trip and I am very proud of all of them. Have a very Merry Christmas!



## Bath Place

What a fantastic last month we have had, and we are looking forward to our last couple of weeks before Christmas! We have had fun making Christmas snowmen (which will be on sale at the Christmas fayre) and have been getting fully engrossed in our Science experiments... not to mention our exciting trip to the zoo!

In Science, we have been learning about the human circulatory system. The children have tested how the blood is pumped around the body and explored how the nutrients are absorbed from the small intestines into our blood. They have learnt about the four components that make up our blood and what happens when the heart pumps blood around our bodies.

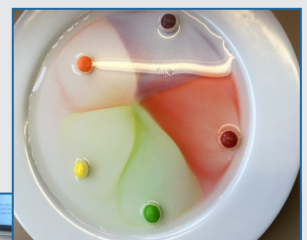
In Geography, the children have been naming countries in the seven continents using atlases and Google Maps. We looked at what Brexit means and the impact it has had on our country. The class compared England and France, focusing on both human geography and physical geography. We have understood what connections we have with France.

In RE, the children have learnt all about Christianity, in particular what 'Emmanuel' means. Moreover, we have explored what it means to Christians that Jesus came and lived among them. We have compared Christianity's God to the God of other faiths.

We have learnt about the French artist, Henri Rousseau, analysing his paintings and using these as a basis for creating their own art pieces. Bath Place have explored tonal variation and used water colours in their own creations.

We have learnt all about fractions in Maths: how to find equivalent fractions, convert mixed numbers to fractions, add and subtract fractions and compare fractions. We will continue to learn about how to multiply and divide fractions on the lead up to Christmas.

In English, the children are learning how to write persuasive letters. I'm sure you already know this, but they can be very persuasive when needed! ;-)) They have analysed letters and found the features of



persuasion in them and then applied these to their own letters. Over the next couple of weeks, the children will be writing an information text based on the book *How Kids Celebrate Christmas Around The World*.



## Vivary Park Nursery

I can't believe there is only one more week of this term! We have had a very busy week celebrating Christmas and have another week to come. We have been doing lots of messy and glittery crafts and creations. The children have been enjoying dressing up, wrapping up boxes and decorating our Christmas tree in our Christmas corner.

Please see the photos of the children finger painting Christmas lights and making melting snowmen. They enjoyed eating those straight away!



I just want to say a big THANK YOU to all those who came to our Christmas stay and play session on Wednesday. It was lovely having you and seeing you enjoying the activities and singing with your children.

Please don't forget that next Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 1:30 to 3:00pm, is the nursery children's Christmas party. Letters have all gone out but please see Becky in nursery for further info if you need it. Hope to see all the children there. Wishing you all a very merry Christmas.



## Christmas Jumper Day



On Wednesday 13 December we are having our Christmas jumper day to coincide with our Christmas dinner. Children may wear a Christmas jumper instead of their blue school jumper or cardigan (normal school uniform underneath, please).

## Baby Bluebirds: 1 2 3 Sing With Me

We are very grateful to Baby Bluebirds for coming along to our toddler group every morning to do *1 2 3 Sing With Me*. Their next session will be on Wednesday 10 January, and all parents with pre-schoolers are welcome to join us.



# Baby Bluebirds

SKILLS FOR LIFE  
MULTIPLY

## 1,2,3 SING WITH ME!

Free workshop activities for you and your little ones  
Taunton | Bridgwater | Burnham on Sea



### Fun Music, Arts & Maths Group for Young Families

Taster workshops coming soon to toddler groups & schools across Somerset - leading onto 5 week courses.

Thanks to funding from 'Multiply' we can now help parents to up-skill and support their children with maths skills through fun music/arts activities. We can also help to demystify your child's maths homework tasks. This is an extension of our popular music and theatre workshops as Baby Bluebirds and The Bluebirds Theatre Company.

\*This course is free, subject to eligibility, for the adult learners who don't have Maths GCSE at grade C/4 or above, or any equivalent, or £25 for a 5 week block. If you do have GCSE maths already but don't feel confident teaching your child mathematical terms or techniques please contact us:  
TheBluebirdsTheatreCompany@gmail.com



## Holiday Activities

<p><b>KIDS XMAS CAMP</b></p> <p><b>PRIORSWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL</b></p> <p><b>COURSE DATES</b> 20TH DEC - 22ND DEC 2023</p> <p><b>AGES: 5-13 YEARS</b></p> <p><b>TIMES: 9:00AM - 3:00PM</b></p> <p><b>FREE</b> for children on <b>FREE</b> school meals</p> <p>Our Multi-Activity Sports and Art Courses offer the opportunity to enjoy a fun packed day full of sports, activities and games. Tenpin Bowling trip also on one of the days.</p> <p>BOOK ONLINE AND USE CODE PROVIDED BY SCHOOL @ PLAYWAZE USING THE QR CODE</p> <p><b>FREE LUNCH PROVIDED</b></p> 	<p><b>KIDS XMAS CAMP</b></p> <p><b>TAUNTON VALE SPORTS CLUB</b></p> <p><b>COURSE DATES</b> 18TH DEC - 20TH DEC 2023</p> <p><b>AGES: 5-13 YEARS</b></p> <p><b>TIMES: 9:00AM - 3:00PM</b></p> <p><b>FREE</b> for children on <b>FREE</b> school meals</p> <p>Our Multi-Activity Sports and Art Courses offer the opportunity to enjoy a fun packed day full of sports, activities and games. Plus a tenpin bowling Trip</p> <p>BOOK ONLINE AND USE CODE PROVIDED BY SCHOOL @ PLAYWAZE USING THE QR CODE</p> <p><b>FREE LUNCH PROVIDED</b></p> 
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**CHRISTMAS TECH CAMP**

Next Thing Education

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18th - 22nd December

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CHILDCARE VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS 2023**

What else is on?

Festive Filming, Cosmic Crackers, Ingenius Inventions, Magical Minecraft, Light-Up Cards

Different activity theme each day, please check website for your camp activities

**WHAT TO BRING...**

Packed Lunch and Snacks (NUT-FREE), Water Bottle, Medication If Required, Weather Appropriate Clothing

**HOW TO BOOK**

CLICK HERE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.nextthing.education](http://www.nextthing.education)

FIND YOUR LOCATION

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**The BEST camp around!**

My daughter is fully inspired and will not stop talking about the amazing time she had. The Staff were experienced, welcoming and encouraging..  
- Happy Parent 😊

**www.nextthing.education** E: [Info@nextthing.education](mailto:Info@nextthing.education)  
T: 01442873150

# TAUNTON VALE HOCKEY CLUB



Would like to invite the year 2 & age 6+  
students of

## MINERVA PRIMARY SCHOOL

to join our training sessions on Monday 7pm.

**We're a fun, vibrant, sociable and  
diverse crowd of people, and are  
always looking to welcome new  
members.**

If you are interested in coming along,  
please contact -

juniorvalehockey@gmail.com  
<http://www.tauntonhockey.co.uk>