



Sheepscombe Primary School

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Head teacher: Mrs Vicky Dangerfield BSc Hons GTP Primary

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April

Dear Parents & Carers,

**Whole School Bristol Visit - The Matthew and MShed Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

Next week, as part of our new theme, children from Reception to year 6 will be going to Bristol Harbour to visit the replica of the sailing ship The Matthew. You can find out more about The Matthew here: [The Matthew of Bristol](#) During this visit, they will set sail to take a short trip on the ship, sailing ship around Bristol Harbour (weather conditions permitting.). The Matthew neatly links our previous theme of Tudor Exploration with our new theme which has a combined Geography and History focus, Oak, Ash and Thorn, as The Matthew is a wooden ship, being a reconstruction of the original ship that John Cabot sailed to Newfoundland in 1497.

In May 1497 Cabot left England on The Matthew. With him went a local crew, and probably at least two Bristol merchants. They sailed west past Ireland into unknown seas, experiencing generally good weather, landing on the island of Newfoundland on 24 June. Cabot believed this land belonged to the Emperor of China. He was wrong of course; what he had stumbled into was North America. Cabot was not the first European to reach North America: Norse sailors had visited Newfoundland and Labrador five hundred years earlier, exploring west from their settlements on Iceland and Greenland. There were also millions of people already living on the continent of North America, by hunting, fishing and farming. But Cabot's voyage was the first modern European expedition to explore and chart the east coast of this northern continent.

Each class has a visit booked so the ship will sail three times during the day.

Whilst the children are at the Harbourside we have also arranged a visit for each class to the MShed museum [M Shed | Bristol Museums](#). MShed explores the city's history from prehistoric times to the 21st century. Stories about the city and its people have been discovered through working with experts and communities across the city. Rich collections of objects, art and archives also play an important part in bringing those stories to life. There are also working exhibits on the harbourside including steamboats, trains and cranes for the children to look at. Children will follow a self-guided tour with their class staff at the MShed.

All children will need to bring with them a packed lunch, morning snack and drink as this is an all-day event. It should be packed in a bag that they can easily carry themselves. They also need to bring or wear a waterproof coat.

The cost of this visit is £20.00 per child (the full cost of this trip has been subsidised by school) which can be paid via ParentPay before the end of the summer term.

**The coach will leave from, and return to, Stratford Park Leisure Centre on this day. Children need to be at Stratford Park for 8.45 a.m for a 9.00 a.m departure.** For those of you needing an earlier drop off time due to needing to be at work staff will be there from 8.30 a.m onwards - please contact Mrs Powell if you need this early drop off so that we know how many to expect at an earlier time.





**The coach will be back at Stratford Park for 3.15 p.m** all being well, as we are due to leave Bristol at 2.00 p.m. We will keep you updated by text message in the afternoon.

Little Lambs children can come to school as usual on this day as they are sadly too young for this trip.

Kind regards,

Vicky Dangerfield  
Head teacher

