



<http://www.newdigate.surrey.sch.uk>

25<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Newsletter 10**

Dear Parents,

I have reverted back to our newsletter format to share some information with you about our school. Although life is far from 'normal' this feels like the most natural way to communicate with you! We continue to have 'missing

**Our value this half-term is love & compassion.**



**We show love and compassion for each other.**  
*John 15:12*  
*Love each other as I have loved you.*

pieces' in our school jigsaw, and although we are now more used to being 'together apart' we still feel the sense of loss within our community. Now, more than ever before, our school values are driving our behaviours and helping us make the very best choices. Although we have decided to focus on our value of **love and compassion** this term, every value matters.

Many of you will be digesting the news from the government this week around the continued gradual release of lockdown with new rules coming into place from 4<sup>th</sup> July; you will no doubt be thinking about what it means for your family and your life. This 'recalibration' takes a lot of time and energy as we process another shift to our world. Here at Newdigate School **our guidance currently remains exactly the same**, so we will not be making any changes to our protective measures in order to continue to do all that we can to keep the children and staff as safe as possible. We are awaiting the next government guidance information regarding our return in September so cannot yet let you know what will be happening. This is very frustrating for us all, but cannot be avoided. We would usually be letting you know about classroom staffing and dates for diaries now, but like all schools we are not yet in a place to understand how our school will be organised. Please **trust** that we will be doing all we can to get that information to you as soon as possible. As always, we will be prioritising the well-being and safety of all of our staff and children. In order to do this thoroughly, we are using additional days to prepare ourselves. We had planned to close at lunchtime on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July as

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July is an INSET day, but we will now additionally be using Monday (20<sup>th</sup> July) all day and Tuesday morning (21<sup>st</sup> July) to train staff and re-write our risk assessment. **This means the school will close (at the usual time) on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July.** We do hope that no families are inconvenienced by this and that you understand that this precious time will be used prepare for what we **hope** will be a full school, but this will be quite a momentous shift for us. Please be ready to read any information from the school that is produced as a result of these days so that you are better prepared for September.

Many families are sharing their **thankfulness** about how our school has managed the last few months. This is lovely to hear and very reassuring in these difficult times. If you have the time we would really appreciate you sharing these thoughts in an e-mail so that we can capture the feedback and share it with governors and new families.

For those children who are back with us can we remind you that the route to inform the school of illness or non-attendance for any other reason is through the office e-mail ([info@newdigate.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@newdigate.surrey.sch.uk)) or by telephone on the day of absence. Please do not use the class e-mails as these are not checked daily. The office are also responsible for several layers of attendance reporting to the government, as well as organising our packed lunches. Whilst we appreciate many things are different in our world, we are keen to hold onto as many procedures and structures as we can!

**Assemblies**

With the help of Mrs Bennett, we are now able to record and send links for a range of videos here at Newdigate. Please **forgive** me, I have not yet mastered the art of uploading my assembly video! I am attaching a link for the assembly we held this week with a royal guest who helped us understand our own value through the lens of 'kindness.' You may want to look at it with your children and talk about the content. It of course ties in with our bee rule as well.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AI8ox2bX\\_rQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AI8ox2bX_rQ)

Hopefully you will also have received the sports day challenge from Mrs Cleather, so we look forward to seeing your contributions.

I mentioned in my last newsletter that we are welcoming a new staff member in September, Miss Jones, and that I would give you a little more information this week. Here is a brief summary that she has written for us:



Hello,  
I am Miss Jones and I am excited to be joining the Newdigate C of E Primary School team in September. I am originally from South Wales, but I completed my teacher training in the University of Worcester and now live nearby. My favourite children's author is Elisabetta Dami and I love sharing her stories with my class. I cannot wait to bring my fun ideas and personality to the school very soon.  
Some fun facts about me:

- I used to have a pet cow called Bluebell
- I had two very friendly goats called Henry and Heidi who had their own trampoline!
- I am learning to play guitar
- I enjoy painting and arts and crafts (especially if it is done outdoors)

I am looking forward to meeting you,  
**Miss Jones**



We have not put any dates in our diary this year other than the following INSET days as it does not seem appropriate at this moment:

Tuesday 1st September 2020  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021

**Stay well and safe.**

**Paula Bliss**

Finally, our school feels very calm and peaceful which is due to a number of changes we have made to limit our numbers and respond to Covid, but it has also allowed us to introduce some positive changes that we plan to continue in the future. Thank you for your support but please can we gently remind everybody of the need to remain vigilant and follow the measures in order to avoid any infection spread.

- Make sure you follow the **social distancing markers** on the floor when dropping off and picking up
- Only **1 parent** to come to school for drop-off and pick-up times
- Aim to send the children into school each day with **freshly washed clothes** that are comfortable and suitable for outdoors (we do not require school uniform)
- Help your child to **calmly, quietly and quickly** join their allocated bubble group
- Explain that there are many changes but they will soon get used to them as they have with many other changes in our world at the moment
- Only bring your child to school if they are **healthy and free of symptoms of any illness**
- **Drop off and collect your child promptly** should we have concerns about your child's health.
- **Bring your child to school within the specified drop of time and collect at the specified time** (If you are late the office staff will direct you to send your child to their allocated classroom using the outside path)
- **Leave the school grounds swiftly** to ensure social distancing between households and school bubbles
- **Follow all government rules** especially about social distancing out of school, to protect yourself and your family, which in turn will protect all the school children, staff and their families.

Love & Peace

Trust & Thankfulness

Forgiveness & Hope