



NEWDIGATE CofE INFANT SCHOOL
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2nd December 2020

Newsletter 4

Dear Parents,

Christmas Cheer

As we enter December our minds turn to the season of advent, and of course Christmas; this is a time of joy and celebration and we are once again challenged to find a way

to continue to bring that to our school and maintain our safe environment. In my last newsletter I mentioned our plan for a **virtual Christmas advent calendar**, and thanks to the genius work of Mrs Bennett, Mrs Priestley, Mrs Rennles and Mrs Moon, we have sent you our very first doors! I do hope you enjoy our new offering. Look out for a new door each day that will give you a glimpse into our festive celebrations.

Our value this half-term is peace.



We will make a peaceful school and world.

Psalm 34:1

Seek peace and pursue it.

We have a number of things planned this term that will help us celebrate the festive season:

- 11th December – Christmas Jumper Day**
- 16th December – Pied Piper Theatre Company Panto**
- 17th December – Class Christmas Parties**
- ...and a Christmas lunch, date to be confirmed**

From today (Wednesday 2nd December) we will move out of lockdown and back into our tier system, but we will notice very little change here at Newdigate School as we continue to follow our current risk assessment. Below is a summary poster and a link to look at the overall guidance for Tier 2 areas. On Sunday evening the government also issued guidance for the Christmas period that included the possibility of parents attending School nativity plays in Tier 2 areas, as long as the appropriate measures were in place. Given the very short notice and the obvious practical limitations in doing this (small socially distanced

audiences, minimising movement across classes not to mention the cleaning that would need to follow) we have decided that we will continue with our current plans and spread the Christmas joy safely. This is likely to be mirrored in other schools but we have not had the opportunity to discuss this locally. I am sure you understand the reasoning behind this choice.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/938047/COVID-19_Tier_Posters_2020_Final_High.pdf



TIER 2 HIGH ALERT

Find out what support you can get

If you have any coronavirus symptoms

For more information and detailed guidance visit gov.uk/coronavirus

We are continually making adaptations to our practices and of course ready to listen to the ideas and feedback from parents, however I feel it is vital that we remind you of the extra work, time and effort that goes into even the simplest of choices, and systems that we had previously embedded well into our school life have inevitably been affected by our pandemic response. We thank you for your support and patience as we navigate these tricky issues. We are always on the end of the phone to talk things through.

Watching the world react to so many unprecedented challenges, it has become clear that views and opinions are so often divided and people cannot always appreciate or agree with the perspective of others. We have been using our value to guide our responses as adults and talking to our children about this through our school value. We have learnt that it is during these difficult times that it is **even more important** that we not only hope for **peace**, but make it our job to create and **seek** it, to be **'peacemakers'**, to work together to resolve difficult issues, to support those in need, to deliver a caring word or show a kind smile to those around us.

Anti-Bullying Week 2020

In the middle of November, we participated in **Anti-Bullying Week**. Across the nation schools thought about how important it was to 'Unite Against Bullying', as we do each year. Of course, this is a subject that should be talked about not just for a week. It is our view that on-going discussions about how to make good choices (here it is always related to our Bee Rules) is the foundation for creating an ethos that makes bullying much less likely. We will of course always support children who fall out with each other and help them resolve friendship issues, but it is important that we use this opportunity to highlight the difference between them. You may want to go over the ideas covered with your child at home, a link to the website is given below:

<https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/anti-bullying-week-2020-united-against-bullying#:~:text=The%20theme%20for%20Anti%2DBullying,day%20of%20Anti%2DBullying%20Week.>

"This year, more than ever, we've witnessed the positive power that society can have when we come together to tackle a common challenge."

"Anti-Bullying Week is no different. Bullying has a long-lasting effect on those who experience and witness it. But by channelling our collective power, through shared efforts and shared ambitions, we can reduce bullying together. From parents and carers, to teachers and politicians, to children and young people, we all have a part to play in coming together to make a difference. "

"We're all a piece in the puzzle, and together, we're united against bullying."

Road Safety Week 2020

Last week we moved onto more learning about staying safe through our involvement in **National Road Safety Week** and were lucky enough to have Mrs Moon visit each class and help them learn more about staying safe near roads. Children have been reminded that they should hold the hand of their adult or stay very close to them so that they are safe near any road, but particularly our fast-moving Village Street. Please support us to get this message across to them.

Christmas Card Delivery!



From this coming Monday there will be a post-box at the top of the path, on the way into school (weather dependent). Children may post their cards in the morning. The last collection will be on Thursday 10th December. The cards will be quarantined for 72 hours before they are delivered to the children to take home.

Fleece and Warmth



We have been enjoying some beautiful days with blue skies and sunshine, however the temperature has also started to drop. All children participate in outdoor learning and we are guided to make sure our rooms are well ventilated, as a result our classroom doors and windows are often open so the classroom at times can be chilly; we would like to ensure that all children are cosy, so you may like to consider buying your child a fleece if they haven't already got one. You can purchase a fleece for £15 and pre-loved fleeces are £2. Alternatively, your child/ren can wear an alternative fleece, with one solid dark colour; no large logos or decorations please as we want the children to still look smart as well as being comfortable.

Curriculum topic letter

Hard copies of our curriculum letter for our Christmas topic have now all gone out. If you haven't received one please let the office know or you can find it on our school website.

New Governor

We are thrilled to announce that following receipt of her nomination (therefore there was no need for an election) we are welcoming a new parent governor to our community. Mrs Elizabeth Baldwin, mother to Britton in Foxes Class and Jett and Ellie in pre-school, will be joining the governing body and no doubt using her journalism skills to support and improve our school.

Please note that we will be staggering our finish times on our last day of term, **Friday 18th December** in order to make the end of term run smoothly.

Year R (Hedgehogs) to be collected at 1.30 p.m.

Year 1 (Foxes) to be collected at 1.40 p.m.

Year 2 (Owls) to be collected at 1.50 p.m.

Stay well and safe.

Paula Bliss

Love & Peace

Trust & Thankfulness

Forgiveness & Hope