



**NEWDIGATE CofE INFANT SCHOOL**  
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<http://www.newdigate.surrey.sch.uk>

27<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## Newsletter 11

Dear Parents,

With half of the summer term gone it is about time the sun has finally come out and what a difference it makes to finally feel the warmth on our faces! I am hopeful that we will be able to carry on enjoying this over our half-term break. Despite the lower temperatures and rainfall we have still found the time to use our outdoor spaces and our key stage 1 children have even been able to enjoy cricket session on the Brocus with John Calcutt. Swimming sessions are now sorted thanks to those volunteers who have offered to help us and will start with year 2's crash course in our first week back.

Earlier this month the government released new guidance for schools following the movement into the next step of the national road map. Despite the fact that life outside school is now very different, very little has changed in our school guidance. We have made some small adjustments to our measures but are still being advised to avoid gatherings unless necessary. **Please note that at the moment we are still asking that all visitors wear a mask as we are aware that the new variant needs to be considered and a cautious approach seems the best one to take, this will be reviewed at the next stage of the guidance.**

### Transition Arrangements

All schools are now prioritising transition arrangements as the guidance now allows that to happen with risk assessments in place. This means children can be supported well in their next steps of education. In the Dorking area **29<sup>th</sup> June** has been chosen for the **'Moving Up Day.'** Our year 2 leavers should be spending the day at their new school, and we will also be giving our own children a chance to experience their new classrooms as well as welcoming our new intake on that day. This is great relief as we were not able to do this last year.

Sadly however there are a few things we are still not able to do, this includes large community gathering such as Sports Day and our May Queen and fete day. We are planning equivalent experiences as far as we possibly can for both of these events. Our May Queen will be crowned by our chosen escort and attendants following a procession as part of our **Leaver's Service** which will be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July at 1.30 p.m. This will be for parents of

Year 2 children only and will be all held outside. Whilst I know this is a disappointment for us all, we will do all we can to make it a memorable occasion for all the children by asking you to provide special occasion clothes as usual. A letter will be sent explaining this to all parents as it has been a while since we did it, but if you imagine a mini royal wedding type event you are pretty close! We want children to feel comfortable so please talk to class teachers if you have any concerns.



### Bee Rules

As you know here at Newdigate School we guide children to make good choices by referring to our bee rules. One of those rules is **'Be Safe'** and we need your help to make sure children stay safe as they enter and leave the school site. We have noticed that children are running ahead of their adults both as they arrive and leave and this can create a bit of a flurry and on occasions cause children to fall or more concerningly to run towards the road. We are also mindful that we want children to arrive at school calmly so they can quickly settle for learning. Please can we ask that you make sure your children stay near you and do not run around (especially on the pre-school garden area) when they are waiting in line. We are not opening the gates early as we have been guided to avoid gatherings and you have been brilliant at lining up along the path with social distancing so this seems the safest way to start our day.

Love & Peace

Trust & Thankfulness

Forgiveness & Hope

**'I am a litter picker and I pick up lots of litter!'**



I wanted to share a photo of our litter picking work that I mentioned in a previous newsletter. Your children have been superstars and are now all doing their bit for our pledge. Some are even keen to join litter picks in their local areas. How reassuring that the children want to make their world a better place! Thank you Jessie-May for leading the way; you are a courageous advocate!

<https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean/pledge-to-pick>

Talking of courageous advocates, one of our year 1 pupils is also thinking of others before themselves. I am attaching information about his challenge and a Just Giving link for those able to support him below. Well done Joseph!

Joseph was born with cerebral palsy and is a left hemiplegic which affects his left leg and foot and his left arm. After an intense series of appointments Joseph decided that he wanted to set himself a challenge and raise money to help other children like him and worse than him. He wants to cycle the equivalent of Brighton and back from our home in Beare Green – a distance of 70 miles. He hopes to total this distance by doing numerous shorter rides throughout May which will add up to the 70 mile target. The money he will raise will go towards buying an Ipad for the physiotherapy unit for patients like Joseph to use whilst they are being fitted for AFOs, being measured as part of the CPIP process and to help keep them calm whilst doing their physiotherapy. He wants to raise £500 to Help support the First Community physiotherapy unit with equipment to keep patients entertained during physio and CPIP measurements.

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/josephhodgson>

If you haven't already done the Big Ask survey, please take a look as it will soon be closed. It is a positive way for children to have a voice and be heard about bigger issues than just themselves or their immediate community.



For the first time ever the Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, is conducting a Nationwide survey called 'The Big Ask'

to find out what young children think and what they need to live happier lives. The survey is available on-line, and we have spoken to all of our children about how exciting it is to have their voice heard and make a contribution to future decisions that affect children. The surveys are age and stage matched, but our children will still need some help to complete it. The link to participate is:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/>

More information can be found on the website given below. Please can we encourage you to take the short time it will take to take part in this initiative.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/faqs/>

**As usual we would like to remind you that the school will need to be contacted if your child has a confirmed case of Covid-19 with symptoms seen before 3 p.m. on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May. Please call the school office and leave a message (Mrs Moon can pick it up remotely). If you do not receive a reply please continue to call until you speak to her.**

1 INSET day left for this academic year 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021

**School INSET Days for 2021/22:**

1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

21<sup>st</sup> February 2022

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022

Parking is an on-going concern for us all so we would remind all parents to make sure they park safely, not on the brow of the hill, and hold on tight to their children. Mrs Moon is there to make sure everyone can cross safely but is not able to check that children stay on the pavement.

**Stay well and safe and enjoy the break.**

**Paula Bliss**

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