

NEWDIGATE CofE INFANT SCHOOL

Village Street, Newdigate, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 5DJ

Telephone 01306 631353 Fax 01306 631821

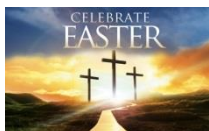
e-mail: info@newdigate.surrey.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Paula Bliss

**25th March 2016****Newsletter 7**

Dear Parents,

Is it really nearly a year since I joined this wonderful school? It has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside children, staff, governors and the wider church and local communities. This may have been a shorter term but it has certainly not been any quieter! Our value is thanks, so it seems entirely appropriate that we say big thank you to everybody who has made a contribution to our community. Many are mentioned below, but there are so many more that quietly work with little recognition.



The children were absolutely fabulous in our **Easter Service** and we all felt very proud of their respectful behaviour, their beautiful singing and their overall engagement with the drama, prayers and poems. Well done everybody. Today's Easter Bonnet Parade was also a great success and there is now a cheerful celebratory mood as we get ready for our Easter break. Thank you to all the families that came to watch and escorted us around the village, and also a huge thank you to Becky McTigue (Imogen's Mum) and Nicola Moore (Sidney's Mum) for their chocolate contribution for all the children at school and pre-school.

The Steer and Booth Foundation

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of one aspect of Newdigate School's heritage and history that relates to our 'endowed' status. The Steer and Booth Foundation dates from 1610, when these two local landowners left assets in their Wills to be invested. The income to be used for the education of children living in the Parish of Newdigate. The annual income can provide special benefits for Newdigate Infant School, maintain the school premises and promote the education of young people under 25 years who are in need of assistance. Anybody who has need of funding can contact Rev Andrew Coe confidentially. This year the school have used the donation from the trust to develop outdoor learning opportunities and purchase high quality visual resources to support the teaching of numbers.

Inclusion Drop-In.

We are holding a second drop-In for those parents who would like any help and advice on Monday April 25th at 2.30 in the Annexe. This time we will focus on supporting children by 'Dealing with Anxiety.' Please do come along and join myself, Mrs Gill Holt-Miller (ELSA), Mrs Karen Edwards (Home School Link Worker) and Mrs Marilyn McGinnis (Special Needs Teaching Assistant).

Swimming Pool/Splash fund

You will have received your letter from the swimming pool strategy team explaining that we are, unfortunately, not able to open the pool for swimming lessons this year and giving you more information about the project. The school community remain fully committed to getting us back on track with the pool as soon as possible and the momentum for fund raising is growing! Thank you to all those who attended the open meeting where we were able to talk through a number of important issues and many attendees put forward ideas and suggestions for fund-raising and reducing the building costs for the project that are currently being followed up. Suzanne Atfield is in the process of gaining quotes from local builders and offers of donations for materials that might be used, with the aim of reducing the costs as much as possible. Thank you to her and all the other committee members for their hard work. The group will meet again after Easter and we will keep you updated of any developments. Please pass on the **just giving** page details to anybody you think may be able to contribute:

<https://www.justgiving.com/newdigate-infants/>

A huge thank you to Donna Read for her hard work with the Dorking Rotary Club Swimathon event on 12th March this was not only a successful fund-raiser but was also a great opportunity for our children (and some adults!) to work as a team towards a common goal. A pleasure to watch! Monies were raised by sponsorship from within the school and from the Dorking Swimming Club, so a huge thank you to them for their generosity.

...../2

Out of the Egg!

Should learning really be this much fun? Well the obvious answer is yes! Here at Newdigate we have been thrilled to see new life emerge with our very own eyes in the form of our 'Living Eggs'. One by One the ten beautiful chicks hatched out of their eggs and took their first steps in full view of us all. Great egg-citement!



Start and end of Day.

In my last newsletter I highlighted the importance of children arriving promptly, explaining that children who arrive at school on time are settled and will learn more and have a more successful and positive day. Although we have seen some improvements there are still a significant group arriving after 9.00 a.m. which means they arrive late for their daily phonics session. Phonics is the foundation for learning to read and write and it is vital that children participate fully in their phonics learning. If you arrive promptly we can make sure this happens. Generally the playground is open until 9.00 a.m. so most children can go into school through this route.

So we can organise the start of day line-up, we will be closing the front reception window from 8.45-9.00 a.m. If you do have any queries, please can you go to the reception desk after 9.00 a.m.

A note from Newdigate Pre-School-

Newdigate Pre-School is a committee run Pre-school set in the heart of the village and within the grounds of Newdigate Infant School.

We currently have some sessions available and on Mondays run a wonderful Forest School. Places are also available for September 2016.

We work closely with the Infant School ensuring our children have a smooth transition to Reception Year.

Please come and have a look round and have a chat with us. Contact Margaret Wickington (Manager) or Dionne Harris (Deputy) on 01306 632882. Email : newdigatepreschool@hotmail.co.uk. OFSTED rating Outstanding.

Inspire Dance Club

For those children who have joined this after school dance club (starting on Thursday, 14 April), please meet in Mrs Read's room (Maple class) after school with their gym kit to get changed. Please remember to bring a water bottle. Children should be collected from the front office entrance at 4.30pm.

Have a wonderful Easter break.

Paula Bliss, Headteacher

Our value for next half-term is **Forgiveness**

Dates

11.04.16	Back to School
22.04.16	Splash Fund Fiesta at Gildings Barn
25.04.16	Book Fair (25.04-28.04)
27.04.16	Year 2 trip to RHS Wisley
27.05.16	Break up for half term
06.06.16	Return for 2 nd half summer term
17.06.16	Mufti Day
18.06.16	May Queen (11.15am)
01.07.16	FONS Childrens' disco after school
08.07.16	INSET day
22.07.16	Break up for summer holidays (2.00pm)

A full list of dates will follow at the start of next term.



In God's Hands We Learn and Grow