

**27th January 2017**  
**Newsletter 7**

Dear Parents,

A belated but heartfelt happy new year to all of our Newdigate school families.



You will have seen from the termly curriculum letters that were sent out at the start of the term that we are now well and truly immersed in our creative topic **'The Big Freeze.'**

Not only have we had the 'stunning start' to introduce this topic (with classrooms decked out as polar expedition camps) but also the snow and our fair share of frosty winter weather! Look out for the Big Freeze expedition later in the term! We have no doubt that the children will continue to be captivated and enthusiastic about their learning, as you can see below.



**Tesco Grant.**

We were thrilled to receive the news just before Christmas that we have been awarded the maximum amount of £12,000 towards the development of our outdoor area. This was very exciting and unexpected news for such a small school, but we do have big ideas! Thank you to all who voted or encouraged others to vote and to the creative Mrs Moon also for making this happen and finding the right words to persuade others that we were such a worthy cause. We are now working with the school council to finalise exactly where and what we will do.

With this in mind it is time again for a wellie plea for years 1 and 2; we want to be able to make the most of outdoor learning in all its forms, so please donate spare wellies if they are lying around at home.

As you know development of outdoor education is a school priority and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to be able to take this further forward despite the current climate of austerity and reduced school budgets.

**Fitness Club.**

You may be aware that every school in the country receives a **PE and Sport Premium Grant** that is based on the number of pupils in the school. The funding is specifically allocated to *'make additional and sustainable improvements to the quality of PE and sport they offer.'* Information about how Newdigate

School uses this funding is available on our website, but we wanted to let you know that we have recently started a **Wednesday lunch-time fitness club** led by Melissa from Premier Sports, who are working closely with us on other projects to make the best use of this funding. This will take place on the playground or field, depending on the weather, and all children will be welcome to take part in a wide range of fitness activities as part of their lunch break.

**Dorking Foodbank.**

We have received a thank you from the Dorking Area for sending a magnificent **74.48 Kg** of food following our Harvest appeal. Many thanks to everyone who made a contribution to this appeal.

**FONS.**

We wanted to say a huge thank you to FONS for their generosity in the last few months and give you an idea of how your contributions are being used to improve what we provide for our children beyond the swimming pool.

So far this year we have acquired a set of 'words on screen' songs and hymns to support the singing in our school, had a visiting theatre group, bought over £1,000 worth of high quality modern reading scheme books, bought resources to jazz up our topic learning....and much more. Thank you.

**Purple Mash.**



Purple Mash is an award-winning website for nursery and primary school children. It enables children to explore and enhance their knowledge in a fun and creative way.

<https://www.2simple.com/purple-mash>

We are pleased to say that we have purchased this amazing resource and are currently setting up access for the children. Information will follow shortly via letter.

**Parent Drop-In – 'Sleep Soundly'**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February @ 9.00 a.m. -9.45 a.m.



We are offering an opportunity to attend a workshop for parents which also includes an opportunity to meet and chat with **Suzie Reed**, our Home School Link Worker. We will be showing you some mindfulness strategies that you can use at home to create a calm and peaceful bedtime routine that will help your children sleep. Please come and join us to find out more or to meet Suzie to discuss this or many other topics.

Have a lovely weekend, I believe temperatures are to soar to 10 degrees!

**Paula Bliss, Headteacher**

**Our school value for this half term is Trust.**