

**24<sup>th</sup> November 2017****Newsletter 3**

Dear Parents,

It seems like a lifetime ago now, but I wanted to start by saying how proud we were of the children at our Harvest Festival celebration. They approached the service with such a mature and respectful manner and were not even thrown when proceedings were halted by an articulated lorry! Thanks also go to Mrs Rennles for her creative input that helped to deepen the meaning of the subject through the colour theme. Also thanks to those parents who donated items of food, as promised they were delivered to the Dorking food bank to help those in need.

**Open Days**

We were thrilled to see so many families come to view the school and meet the staff and children on our recent open days. It was a great opportunity to remind ourselves of all the things we currently provide and the many things that are still to come. One thing that has really made a difference in promoting our school is our new marketing campaign (used on our banners and promotional packs) that clearly highlights what we can offer, 'A special place for precious years.' Huge thanks must go to Matt and Becky Hopkins for their help and support with this; we are truly appreciative for all that you have done.

Of course word of mouth is the best marketing strategy! We would be really grateful if you as parents could promote our school with any friends or family that may be looking for a new school next year or in the future, either face to face or on any social media platform. Although our open days are finished, we are more than happy to organise tours and meet with prospective families at any time that suits them.


**School Chickens!**

The final part of Mrs Martin's 'Out & About' plan is to have animals on-site here at Newdigate School. We are heading towards our next topic of '**Walk on the**

**Wild Side (Out of the Egg)**' and will be incubating and hatching our very own chicks for all the school to see! We are aiming to use that as an opportunity to keep some chickens here and give the children an opportunity to look after them and collect the eggs. We are looking to put together a CRACKING team (sorry!) to oversee this project and help us assess the feasibility of this and ideally help organise it and get it running.

If you have any experience or are willing to go and visit other schools and playgroups to learn more about how we might approach this we would love to have you on our team. It seems there is a specific Dorking breed of chicken so we were hoping to look at these. Mr Frost has kindly offered to help us so a visit to his farm will be our first step into this project.

**We must have lots of farming folk in our rural school, so please let us know if you are up for the challenge.** Just imagine the joy it will bring to the school day.

**Welly Wednesdays**

I spoke a little while ago about further developing our outdoor education and am pleased to say that we are just finalising the details. After Christmas we are organising an introduction to orienteering for all the children and will follow this with a block of whole school outdoor learning that will include more MOLES/Forest Schools learning, orienteering, RE, music art and science. This will happen every Wednesday during the block and we would ask that children come to school in outdoor clothes but with a school jumper. Ideally they would be wearing wellies or other suitable

shoes as we will be going onto the field. We do have a collection of wellies here at school and would like that to grow so if you have any old spare wellies please bring them in. We also thought that this would give us an opportunity to revive the use of slippers in school which we tried a little while ago. Children could then leave their outdoor shoes outside and change into their slippers for indoor learning.



### Little Governors

The school council has now been replaced with the 'Little Governors.' This year our little Governors are Joey Hopkins (Y2), Oscar Hirsch (Y2), Roma Bowers (Y2), Lucy Franklin (Y1), Henry Wilson, (Y1) and Millie Guthrie (Y1)

The Little Governors will be an active voice, representing all the pupils in our school, offering opinions and ideas to help us improve our school and also to help others in the wider community.

The Little Governors put forward suggested charities that we could support. We held a school democratic vote to choose the charity. The charity that won the most votes is the RSPCA. We will be collecting donations for the RSPCA at the School Nativity performances.

Gayle Priestley

### Trip to Lapland

After half term the pupils of Newdigate school flew off to Lapland! The children created their own passports and boarding passes, which were stringently checked by our Year 2 cabin crew. The children learnt all about the day in the life of a pilot and what is in a pilot's bag.

Look out for our next topic adventure!

Nicky Cleather



Have a fabulous week.

Many thanks,

**Paula Bliss, Headteacher**

**Don't forget the Christmas Fayre this Saturday!**



### NEWTS – Newdigate Theatrical Society

Will be kindly donating the proceeds of their matinee performance on Saturday to the school. Your support would be fantastic and what a great start to the festive season.

