

**18<sup>th</sup> May 2018****Newsletter 8**

Dear Parents,



As we approach our final half term of the academic year the children (and adults) are beginning to think ahead about their next steps in their new

classes and schools. This can be a very exciting but also anxious time and we aim to help and support as much as we can. We deliberately avoid starting this process too early as that can add to stress levels when families are waiting to hear about their next placements. We also find that this can stop children from focussing on the present and enjoying the time they have left here at Newdigate. It is a very delicate balance!

After the half-term we will begin to talk to children about their next steps and we are already working with our feeder primary schools to make arrangements that will support a smooth transition for our top children. Year 2 parents will hear from their new schools soon about their induction days that are planned for Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, this will also be a **'Moving Up'** day here at Newdigate.

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June @ 9.00 a.m. myself and Mrs Cleather will be holding a workshop focussing on transition and how best to approach it at home. All are welcome but it will be particularly helpful to Year 2 parents. We would love to see you there. Your approach to transition can make the world of difference to your children, they are great feeders of emotions and will be looking to you to tell them everything will be OK!

**Timings**

Please can we ask that you arrive and collect your children promptly? This will not only help with the efficient running of our school day, but will avoid children arriving unsettled for the start of their day (and possibly missing our essential early morning phonics sessions) or becoming anxious if they are picked up late after their peers. We are of course aware that there are times that this is inevitable because of things out of your control and are more than happy to accommodate these occasions.

**Chickenpox**

We have a number of our children who have recently contracted Chickenpox, this is a very common illness and usually very mild, but it is important that we are aware of the specifics and we wanted to clarify how we can work together to prevent the spread of this virus.

If your child has chickenpox, it is recommended that you inform their school or nursery, and keep them at home until the last blister has burst and crusted over. This usually happens five or six days after the rash begins.

It is a good idea for anyone who has chickenpox to avoid contact with:

- pregnant women
- newborn babies
- anyone who has a weak immune system, such as people who are having chemotherapy (a treatment for cancer) or taking steroid tablets

If you or your child have recently been exposed to the chickenpox virus, you may not be able to visit friends or relatives in hospital. Telephone the ward to check first.

More information can be found on the NHS website:

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/chickenpox#introduction>

**SATs**

We are nearly there! Your children have been amazing but we are fully aware that completing these 'fun quizzes' can take a lot of energy and emotion; we have done all we could to make keep them calm and settled and have made sure they have had the positive feedback they need to feel good about their efforts. Rest assured the hard work has been balanced with some fun treats and activities!

**Phonics Screen**

The phonics screen will take place in the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> June for year 1 and some Year 2 children. Please continue to support your children at home using the resources you have been given by their class teachers.

**Have a fabulous weekend.****Newdigate Leadership Team****Just a few things to note:**

Half term – 28<sup>th</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June

Break up for Summer hols – Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> July

May Queen – Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> June

Whole School Trip – Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> June

**For more dates visit the website:**

<http://www.newdigate.surrey.sch.uk/calendar/>