

19th July 2018

Newsletter 10

Dear Parents and carers,



What an amazing year we have had! We may be a **small school** but we have so much to celebrate and continue to provide that 'special place for precious years.'

In April **Ofsted** once again judged us to be a good school and highlighted strengths in the quality of leadership, setting high expectations across all areas, showing strong progress across all core areas of the curriculum and instilling a respect for our values. Inspectors also saw that pupils were 'well-mannered and considerate of others.' They also noted that they had good attitudes to learning and 'worked in an atmosphere of productivity and engagement.' Children were also excited to talk about their creative topic learning and this engagement was directly reflected in the quality of work seen in books. Leaders, staff and governors were praised for their passion and commitment and their work to promote school improvement.

In June this year a **Local Authority moderator** visited the school to confirm our assessment judgements made at the end of Key Stage One (Year 2) with Mrs Cleather. We were commended for the integrity of the assessment processes and the team approaches that had been used. (*Teaching assistants are integral to the learning journey. Evidence base is strong. Judgements are accurate. Processes are rigorous and robust.*) This came as no surprise as we pride ourselves on the quality of our assessment practices and procedures. It is however a well-earned validation of excellence. Mrs Cleather has been asked to lead a workshop at a 'Pathways to Progress' Surrey-wide conference in the autumn term to highlight her exemplary approaches in building a 'robust evidence base generated by a rich curriculum.'

Whilst we continue to focus on the positives, we feel it only right that we keep you informed of the bigger picture. I have previously raised the thorny issue of school funding and the effect that austerity measures have had on educational establishments all over the country; we are far from alone in dealing with this challenge. Very recently a group of Chairs of Governors from the majority of the **Dorking School Partnership schools** collectively signed a letter to the Mole Valley M.P Sir Paul Beresford raising their concerns around

school funding for their schools. In responding to these challenges schools and communities are tasked with thinking differently and embracing change so that they maintain their school identity, valuable traditions and areas of strength but at the same time plan for the future and create schools that will be fit for purpose and are committed to collaboration and school improvement. Newdigate is in a very fortunate position, not only do we have a group of extremely capable and dedicated staff but we also have a committed governing body and a strong and supportive Church and village community who all go above and beyond to make the school a success. We have already made the very positive and forward thinking move to closely collaborate with St. Michael's Mickleham and will continue to grow that link in the next year. This has not only been recognised by Ofsted in their recent inspection but also by the local community and Guildford diocese.

After school club.

Having received feedback via Survey Monkey from you we have decided that we will be starting an after school 'Rainbow Club' next term (from 17th September) until 4.30 p.m. Monday to Thursday. This will be run by Mrs McGinnis in the Rainbow Room and children will be given a healthy snack and drink and be able to choose from a range of activities. More details will be sent to you by Parentmail at the start of the term.

'Love On The Rocks'



Please remember to take part in our summer 'home learning' 'Love on the Rocks' project by helping your children to collect a beautiful pebble (or a **small rock!**) from a place they have visited and loved, or from a place where their loved ones live, and decorate it as they like. We will be making a permanent feature in our sensory garden once we have collected them all in.



Whilst on the subject of beautiful artwork, we would also like to thank Mrs Bruford for her support with the '**Around the World**' immersion day last week. I am sure you were blown away by the quality of the pieces produced by the children following her expert input, many of the standard you would hard pushed to see in junior years. We couldn't have done it without her.

Dementia Awareness Tea Party

A huge thank you to everybody who supported our first dementia awareness event. As always Mrs Priestley's endless generosity and determination to do all she could for this worthwhile cause culminated in this successful event. Thanks also go to Mrs McGinnis for her help, Sarah Hiscocks (who brought Paro along with her) and her colleagues as well as Dementia information, Denise Foy and Becky Choy and her guests, and of course all the cake bakers! We raised £145.



Many of you also had the opportunity to meet 'Paro' the robotic seal who is being used as a therapeutic aid with dementia patients across the world. I certainly will not forget the moving sight of watching the joy he brought to one of our guests. Visit this site for more information:



<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/jul/08/paro-robot-seal-dementia-patients-nhs-japan>

It was also a great opportunity to learn more about the condition and see just how at ease the many professionals were when socialising with our guests who are learning to live with Dementia.

<https://www.dementiauk.org/>

Mrs Priestley continues to put others before herself and will be taking on a Pennine cycling challenge over the summer to raise money for the school and Alzheimer's Research UK. Please support her if you can. Good luck from us all!

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/eleanor-gayle-priestley>

Smart Appeal

Please don't forget about our 'Smart Appeal' and pass on the word (and the letters) to the wider community. Any donation or offer of help would be a step towards a smarter school for all the children.

Staffing

We are pleased to welcome back Mrs Martin in the autumn term following her career break and would like to thank Ms. Barnes for her contribution to the Early Years team during this time. Sadly we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Davies who will be taking another role in the other school she currently works at. Thank you for all you have done for the school; we wish you every success in your new role. Our class teams will be:

Owls Class: Mrs Cleather, Ms Barnes, Mrs Rennles, Mrs Llewellyn, Mrs Holt-Miller.

***Foxes Class:** Mrs Tinmouth, Mrs Denyssen, Mrs Finn, Mrs Rogers, Mrs McGinnis.

***Hedgehogs Class:** Mrs Priestley, Mrs Martin, Miss Stanford, Mrs Bowhill.

(*Both Foxes and Hedgehogs are relocating and moving up a class to leave the old Hedgehogs Classroom free)

I am sure most of you are aware that Mrs Tinmouth is expecting a baby later in the year. She will be returning to school at the start of the autumn term and then be handing over to Mrs Moore in October. Mrs Moore is currently one of the Year 1 teachers at St. Michael's Infant school so she has lots of experience of working in this year group and in a small village infant school. We are excited to be able to build upon our partnership with the school in this way.

So it is now time to say goodbye to our Year 2 pupils and families. You were truly amazing in your leavers' service. Keep being the best you can be in your new schools and remember, you never really leave Newdigate! You will always be welcome to pop-in and we would love to keep in touch with you all.

We are thrilled with our re-vamped **H.M.S Newdigate**. It looks very smart. Thank you so much to all those parents who worked hard to make the transformation. We love it!

Finally, we would like to finish the year by thanking every parent and community member who has given to our school. There are so many of you and we would not be the school we are without you!

Take care and have an amazing summer holiday.

The Newdigate Team

Dates

A list of dates for the whole academic year 2018/19 will be in your child's bookbag today.

04.09.18 Inset Day – school closed to pupils

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06.09.18 Back to school for Yr1 and Yr2

18.10.18 Break up at 3.10pm for half term

19.10.18 Inset Day – school closed to pupils

29.10.18 Back to School

19.12.18 Break up at 2.00pm for Christmas Holidays

03.01.19 Back to School

For more dates visit the website:

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