



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

## 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018

### Newsletter 1

Dear Parents,

Welcome back. We have had an amazing start to the year with children who are already very settled and focussed. As always we will be working in partnership with you to make sure they achieve their very best.

#### Curriculum

You will receive the curriculum overview for your child's year group next week. Our whole school topic this term is '**Time Travel**' which focuses on historical skills but will also allow us to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WWI during our time of remembrance.

We would like to hold a '**Grandparents Day**' on *Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September*. Our aim is to ask them to come into school and share photographs, artefacts, newspaper articles or just memories of their childhood years with the children to start our topic. If you think you can persuade a grandparent to come along we would be very grateful, please let your class teacher know so that we can make a rough plan.

For further information about our overall curriculum visit the website:

<http://www.newdigate.surrey.sch.uk/the-curriculum/>

I make no apologies for starting the year by once again reminding ourselves of our school rules and values that form the bedrock of our ethos and guide our choices.

**As a Church school with a strong Christian ethos we are committed to doing the best for all of the children in our care, making everyone feel included and valued. Our 6 values guide us and help us to do this, and we will be exploring them through the year in our daily worships and in a wider context through our interactions with each other.**

Our values are:

Love & Peace  
Trust & Thanks  
Forgiveness & Hope



**Our value for this half-term is Love.**

Of course we will also be using our '**Bee Rules**' to remind us how we can make the right choices in our daily lives and each week we will be choosing 2 children

from each class who have shown us they are following the rules in our weekly '**Busy Bee**' assembly (now on a Thursday). Look out for the sticker that will show you your child has been a '**Busy Bee**' that week and feel free to pop-in and find their 'Bee' on the board that will explain why they were chosen. If you want to know more about the values or see the 'Bee Rules' please visit our website.

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



Huge congratulations go to Mrs Priestley (and her husband) who have recently completed their Coast to Coast Pennine cycling challenge over the summer to raise money for Alzheimer's Research UK and the purchase of a pod to store bikes and scooters at the school.

#### 'Love On the Rocks'



We have received many beautiful contributions to our summer 'home learning' '*Love on the Rocks*' project, but there is still time to bring more in before we display them. **We would love each child to have a rock/pebble that they can look at and show others.** All you need to do is 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.



#### Swimming Pool

The pool has done really well this summer and seen many visitors from far and wide which a real achievement is. Thanks go to all the volunteer lifesavers and first-aiders that have supported the sessions and allowed them to run smoothly and safely and as usual Mrs Chaplin for her commitment.

#### Breakfast Club

This has been a great success and continues to run from 8.15am each morning. We are building upon this success by starting our **Rainbows after school club** next week (starting 17<sup>th</sup> September) from Monday-Thursday (3.10 pm until 4.30 pm) in the Rainbow Room. A letter was sent home to all children yesterday with more detailed information. We are looking forward to seeing this grow and flourish just as breakfast club has done.

## **Attendance**

Attendance is a major contributing factor for children's happiness and success at school and one of the measures used by Ofsted to assess the standard of education. Generally we have had good attendance figures for a number of years, but last year saw a significant dip and we are keen to address this quickly. Much of this was caused by illness.

We appreciate that it can be tricky to make the decision about sending children into school and we are always willing to have a chat by phone at the start of the day if it is helpful. Obviously we do not want children to be attending if they cannot cope with the demands of the day, but very often children who feel a little under the weather can be settled and distracted in school and have an enjoyable and successful day. If children do not feel well and seem to be struggling with their health we will always give you a call and explain the situation.

All schools follow government guidance that outlines when children should and should not be in school, a link is provided here for you to access and help you make the right decision. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>. We will continue to follow the same guidance of allowing 48 hours following a period of vomiting or diarrhoea before a child can return to school. Please telephone the school at the start of the day to let us know about any absence.

## **Leave of absence.**

Parents and carers should avoid taking their children out of school during term time. Leave will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances, this is usually under unique circumstances or those out of your control, all other requests for leave will be marked as unauthorised absence. As a school we aim to work closely with you and always have the wellbeing of children at the heart of anything we do. Please take the time to talk to us if you have any questions. **Please also note that no leave will be authorised for Year 2 pupils in the statutory assessment month of May.**

Have a fabulous weekend.

**The leadership team**

## **Dates**

MacMillan Coffee morning – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018 - This will be held straight **after school in the School Hall**, if you are able to donate a cake or help it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Mrs Priestley or Mrs McGinnis with any offers.

## **Parent workshop - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

General feedback session open to all.

## **Swimming Pool**

*The swimming pool will be open for one more week and will close on Friday 21st September. On Monday after school the pool is open at 3.15pm specifically for the reception children and their siblings only but normal sessions at 3.15pm will resume on Tuesday. Do come along and make the most of the last of the summer. The water is still beautifully warm and inviting even on a day when there is no sun!*

*Carole Chaplin (pool organiser)*