

22nd March 2019**Newsletter 7**

Dear Parents,

Our value for this half term 2019 is **Thanks**.

Our school value this term is **'Thanks'** and we would therefore like to start this newsletter by expressing our sincere and heartfelt thanks to the many people that give their time, energy and support as part of our special community; they make a world of difference to the smooth running and success of our school.

We have a long list!



Thank you to all of our generous **helpers**.
 Thank you to all of our dedicated **staff**.
 Thank you to our amazing **children**.
 Thank you to our supportive **parents**.
 Thank you to our forward thinking **governors**.

Thank you to our pre-school **neighbours**.Thank you to **St. Peter's church** community and extended groups who work alongside us in many ways.Thank you to our **shed-putter-uppers** (Mr Bashford, Mrs Moon and her son Adam)Thank you to our **gutter-clearer-outers** (Phil Crutcher, Charlie Frost and James Penfold)Thank you to our **out-and-abouters** (another date is on its way!) for helping us improve our school grounds.Thank you to our **club leaders** that bring a new dimension to our school day.

Thank you to the **'Clear-Up Crew,'** a group of ex-pupils who volunteered to tidy us up. Hopefully that covers everybody, it is a very long list!

We have once again been thinking about Lent in a different way and rather than giving something up, we have been **'doing Lent generously'** by looking at the 40 Acts resources. These encourage us to choose a generous act within the categories of gratitude, doing the right thing, school community, giving, making a new friend, care for the environment. Details of the approach can be seen on the website as well as the challenge card that we are using with the children. Feel free to join in with them at home or sign up as an individual and receive daily posts and messages of inspiration.



<https://40acts.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/40acts-Schools-Challenge-card-2019.pdf>



Welly Wednesdays continue to make our learning more varied and exciting and build on our outdoor curriculum. We are now holding **outdoor worships** where we can appreciate the world

around us as we learn more about our school values. The children have told us that it feels really nice to be outside and hear the birds singing and be at one with nature for this worship!

You don't have to look too far to see that leadership in education is fast changing and many schools are looking at new and exciting arrangements that support collaboration and school improvement. Here at Newdigate **Mrs Priestley and Mrs Cleather** are continuing to act as **Co-Heads of School** alongside Mrs Bliss, who also supports other small schools. As always please do not hesitate to speak to any of us if you need to discuss any issue; we are glad to help.

Well done to Mrs Cleather who is now an official Key Stage One moderator for the local authority. As well as making sure we have sound and accurate judgements here at Newdigate, she will be working with other

schools that have been selected by Surrey to moderate their judgements. We are very proud that she has been selected.

You may have noticed that we are looking to make changes to our school by switching around the school reception and office to the front of the school. The Diocese of Guildford are helping us to fund this, but if planning permission is granted we will be reaching out to you to help us fund this exciting development as our school governing body are required to make a 10% contribution to any building costs. Watch this space!

Castle Day was a wonderful day of fun and learning. The children had a lovely time learning how to do lots of activities from candle-making to jousting! There was also a banquet with jugglers, jesters and dancers led by our visitor from 'History off the Page'. It gave us all a taste of life in a mediaeval castle.



World Book Day was a great success as always. The children arrived with fabulous costumes and a real appreciation of the value of books. **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE make sure you read regularly with your children, we know that children's reading fluency is increased dramatically if they read regularly and fluency in reading is an important part of reading progress. We want to make sure your children are ready for their junior years and this is one way we can help them now. Thank you!**

Newdigate Leadership Team



Dates to remember:

Friday 29th March: Mothers' Day Tea Party 9.00am
(Hedgehogs Class)

Thursday 4th April: Easter Service in School Hall 2.00pm

Friday 5th April: Easter Bonnet Parade 9.00am
Break up for Spring Holiday 2.00pm

Tuesday 23rd April: INSET Day

Wednesday 24th April: Children back in school