



NEWDIGATE CofE INFANT SCHOOL
Village Street, Newdigate, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 5DJ
Telephone 01306 631353 Fax 01306 631821
e-mail: info@newdigate.surrey.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Paula Bliss



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

17th September 2019

Newsletter 1



Dear Parents,

Welcome back. We have had another amazing start to the year with children who are already very settled and focussed; walking around the school today I was overjoyed to see such a calm purposeful environment where children can feel safe and happy and that is when the best learning happens! As always we will be working in partnership with you to make sure they achieve their very best. This newsletter is a little longer as we are making sure our new families know all they need to know, but it never hurts to remind ourselves of routines and systems.

Curriculum

This week you will receive the curriculum overview for your child's year group. Our whole school topic this term is '**Incredible Me**' which focuses on helping children to appreciate themselves and their unique qualities and think about being their very best, to learn to understand their emotions and feelings and behaviours and their own bodies and how they have changed. There will be much more detail in the letters but as always come and ask us if you need more information. We will of course balance the focus with an emphasis on thinking and helping others rather than just ourselves.

For further information about our overall curriculum visit the website:

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

As always we begin the year by once again reminding ourselves of our school rules and values that form the foundation 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. 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. We will soon be sending home details of why they have been awarded their bee on our 'Marvellous Me' app so look out for that exciting addition to our celebration. If you want to know more about the values or see the 'Bee Rules' please visit our website.

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

Breakfast Club & Rainbows after school club

This has been a great success and we have made the decision to extend the hours for both clubs for a trial period due to parental requests. Breakfast club now starts at 8.00 a.m. and Rainbows club finishes at 5.00 p.m.

Prices have been adjusted to account for the new times. We do hope this makes life smoother for the families that use it.

Attendance

At the start of the last academic year we highlighted attendance as an area for improvement as it 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. We explained that generally we have had good attendance figures but had seen a significant dip in the previous year that we were keen to address. We acknowledged that some of our absence was caused by illness but tried to provide guidance (see below) on how we can work together to minimise this- **and it worked!** Our attendance figures

Love & Peace

Trust & Thankfulness

Forgiveness & Hope

are now just above National averages. **Thank you so much for supporting us.** We continue to target our attendance and aim to improve it even more; anything that is best for the children is best for us.

"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) but 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.**

We wanted to say a huge thanks to the community members that supported our school in running the **Newdigate Village Day** in the summer term last year. We received a cheque from the proceeds this week and have stored it safely away and are making plans to use it wisely.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Please note we will once again be supporting Macmillan but are planning to have our cake sale **a day earlier** so that we can also run gardening club. We didn't want you to miss out so are letting you know earlier rather than later.

This will be held straight **after school in the School Hall on Thursday 26th September** and 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.

5th October 2019, 10-12.

Once again, led by the wonderful Mrs Martin and her crew of 'Out & About' leaders. Hopefully you will all be well rested and have bags of energy to come and support this worthwhile session. Although we had a well-established group of 'Out and Abouters' that come along to help us maintain and improve our outside spaces, many have left us and we are keen to recruit more. Come dressed for muddy work and if you are able to bring gardening tools (name them!) and gloves with you that would be a great help. Children of all ages are always welcome. We will be stopping for a well-earned cuppa and a slice of cake midway through the morning.



The Captain's Table.



Each week, a group of 6 children (2 from each year group) will be selected for their impeccable behaviour at lunchtime. This includes good table manners, a willingness to help others and to eat healthily and try new foods. They will be invited to have their lunch at a special table, 'hosted' by a member of staff. This will happen every week, although the 'Captain' will change. If your child comes home with an invitation you now know why you need to be very proud!

Next Steps!

It is that time of year when parents are planning the next steps for their children. We are holding open sessions for prospective parents to visit on:

Open Afternoon – Friday 15th November 1.30pm

Open Morning – Monday 18th November 9.30am

We are hoping to get as many people here to see our fabulous school and without doubt the best marketing tool we have is you! Please can you support us by spreading the good word about Newdigate through any social media sites or face to face.



Have a fabulous weekend.

The leadership team