



**NEWDIGATE CofE INFANT SCHOOL**  
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15<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## Newsletter 2

Dear Parents,

Is it really nearly half-term? At times it has felt like the longest half-term ever and yet it has also gone like a flash! I know that the amount of energy and effort that we have had to put into even the simplest parts of our day have taken extra-ordinary levels of resilience from the children

**Our value this half-term  
is love & compassion.**



**We show love and  
compassion for  
each other.**

*John 15:12*

*Love each other as I have  
loved you.*

and teachers; you are all genuinely super-heroes in my eyes.

Thank you to our families for helping us negotiate this new path and for understanding our new ways so quickly. Although I am eager to count our blessings and find the positive, I feel it would lack integrity to not mention the challenges our new world presents and the hardships that many of us are feeling

because of the restrictions and expectations we now have to manage. Each and every one of us has our own story to tell and so many of the pressures are not always obvious. It is in our darkest moments that we need the light of **love** and, if those around us can show us care and compassion, our load will undoubtedly seem much more bearable. Please let us know if you or your family are in need of support and we will do all we can to help.

We have been talking to the children about the value of showing love and compassion for each other, but also explaining that right now we may not be able to see those that we love as often as we would like and that can make us feel sad and lonely, but that we should find joy in knowing that our love is still there (we have used the book 'The Invisible String' to help them understand this).

**Harvest assembly** will be sent out to you next week, we hope you enjoy watching it as much as we have enjoyed making it. We have sent a permission slip to you to get consent to share this on our YouTube channel (unlisted) so please remember to send this back so there is no delay in sending it out.

## Covid Information

We are going to continue to aim to keep doors and windows open to increase ventilation in the school and make it a safer place. As the temperature drops we would ask that you send your children into school with additional layers so that they can stay warm and comfortable even with this measure. We will not be expecting children to wear their coats inside the classroom, so extra t-shirts under their uniform or a school fleece as well as a cardigan or jumper would be the best solution. Coats will always be needed as we are going out whenever we can.

A huge thank you to Daniel Pople and Martin Harden for helping to clear Foxes class' outside area last weekend. The children and staff really appreciate all your help in developing our outdoor space! We would also like to thank Mr Evenden-Bird for helping us streamline our toileting facilities for Early Years; it has given us a whole new perspective and helped many of our little ones feel more confident to be independent!

We have put a few dates in our diary this year (see the school calendar on our website) including times when we are aiming to send you short '**Curriculum Overviews**' that will add to the information sent through our topic overviews. This week for Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) our focus will be **reading**. Next week it will be **writing**, and **maths** will follow after the half-term. Early Years will be a little different; they will be sending three sessions to you that cover a range of curriculum areas. Mrs Priestley is also sending an on-line safety information video. This is a vital part of our safeguarding curriculum for all ages so please take the time to watch it. We are hoping this will be a more useful way to engage with you about our curriculum as you will be able to access it whenever you need to.

Please remember that the school will be closing for half-term on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October as we have an INSET day on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020.

**Stay well and safe.**

**Paula Bliss**

Love & Peace

Trust & Thankfulness

Forgiveness & Hope

Love & Peace

Trust & Thankfulness

Forgiveness & Hope