



NEWDIGATE CofE INFANT SCHOOL
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<http://www.newdigate.surrey.sch.uk>

25th March 2021

Newsletter 9

Dear Parents,

It has been 2 weeks since we joyously welcomed back all of our children to school and we are delighted to be complete again. We recognise that our children have had very different experiences and are now adjusting to our full return in different ways and we are always mindful that this adjustment may take some time. As you know, our main over-arching focus will continue to be pupil well-being, but we are also in the process of assessing core learning gaps for all children. We will be particularly working hard to make sure we have a good understanding of children who were learning remotely. It is clear that all schools will need to approach their assessments and interventions in a different way this year, so we wanted to let you know that your child may have been identified as needing extra support and be working out of their classroom on occasions as part of our catch-up programme. We have been given a small budget to provide this by the government and we will be summarising our use of this Catch-Up premium and the impact it has had on our website shortly. At Newdigate we will only be using known staff to deliver extra support as we feel children need to feel safe and secure to get the best from this. Generally, we will not be sharing the details of every intervention with parents as the scale is much higher than usual. Teachers will of course be talking to you about your individual children in more detail at our upcoming Zoom parent consultations.

World Book Day

How lovely to do something 'normal' again! We loved it; it was such a treat for the staff to get dressed up for something as well! Thank you for entering into the spirit with us and helping us remember how important books are in our lives. Mrs Jones raised an amazing £136.07 with her raffle and will be purchasing musical instruments with the money.

Lunch

We have been holding just one sitting in our lunch hall with children sitting in their classes, spaced apart. Initially we then split the children for the play part of lunch but have now made the decision that children will play together as

finding it very intense when only able to socialise with their own year group, and this was at

times affecting their enjoyment and happiness and limiting their social skill development. We have adjusted our risk assessment to account for this, and as we are one bubble and we will continue to have in place the usual hand and respiratory hygiene protective measures, we feel this remains a safe approach. We will of course continue to re-assess based on our observations and local and National data.

Breakfast and after school clubs

We still have a few places left. These will continue to be offered to all families as usual. Places will need to be booked and we ask that families pay in advance if they can.

Summer opportunities.

Although we do not yet know exactly what the guidance will look like, we are keen to plan for the possibility of a couple of summer activities, cricket and swimming, that we feel will benefit the children's physical and mental health. Both of these rely on parental help and we are mindful that we do not have any parents that are DBS checked as it has been a year since they have been on site in any volunteer capacity. We have tentatively started to make arrangements as outlined below and would really appreciate support from those who are able to provide it. This would mean giving us your time and also being willing to undertake a DBS check that may incur a small charge. More information will be sent out next week and this will include a return slip that you can fill in if you are able to help.



CHANCE TO SHINE
 Spreading the power of cricket

John Calcutt has once again kindly offered to coach our key stage one children in cricket in the summer term through the chance to shine initiative. This usually takes place on The Brocus.

Year 1's will aim to have 4 sessions throughout May on Wednesday afternoons in 2 groups, we will need 2-3 helpers for each group (1-3 p.m.).

Year 2's will aim to have 4 sessions throughout May on Thursday afternoons in 1 group, we will need 1-2 helpers for each group (1-2.15 p.m.)

Mrs Chaplin has kindly agreed to teach swimming in the second part of our summer term. We usually teach 4-6 sessions for each year group and spread them out over the half-term, but we could also arrange intensive weekly courses for a year group. It will all really depend on parent help. If you are able to offer help and are willing to be DBS checked, please can you reply on our questionnaire that will also be sent next week. Further information regarding costs to parents will be sent out as soon as we have the information about if and how the sessions will run.

Other good news is that you will soon receive information from FONS about the general opening of the pool from 3rd April for families to book. This is earlier than we usually open the pool so please support this, and have a great time as well, by booking a slot (this time we are able to accommodate 2 socially distanced families together).

School day timings are shown below:

Years 1 (Foxes) & Year 2 (Owls)	8.45 – 8.50 a.m.
Early Years (Hedgehogs)	8.50 – 9.00 a.m.

We will be starting our phonics teaching sessions promptly so please can we ask that all children are punctual. Picking up times will remain as normal (the old normal!) of:

Years 1 (Foxes) & Year 2 (Owls)	3.10 p.m.
Early Years (Hedgehogs)	3.00 p.m.

As I explained in my last newsletter, we have been guided to resume our usual approach to attendance and lateness, so please can I remind all parents to help us and their children by arriving promptly and maximising attendance when it is possible.

Red Nose Day.

I am sure you all saw the heroic efforts of 'Billy Whizz' last week. Mrs Moon was able to dig out an old Newdigate School photo of him that she shared with classes, so we have all been super inspired by him. It is not too late to donate. Details can be found here as well as a link to Billy Monger's Just Giving page.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vG9X1uXpqsM>

<https://www.comicrelief.com/rednoseday/challenges/billy/>

Other Covid-19 related issues

Please can I remind everybody that only 1 adult should be on the school site for drop-off and pick up and that social distancing should be adhered to at all times.



We were recently reminded by one of our parents about the power of subtitles and thought it would be useful to share information with you.

*'Turning on the subtitles while children are watching television can **double the chances of a child becoming good at reading**. It's so brilliantly simple and can help children's literacy so much that we want to shout it from the rooftops!*

There's extensive global research that shows just how effective this is and with the help of our wonderful partners – including charities, companies and famous ambassadors – it's our mission to share the results in this simple message.'

Stephen Fry is leading this campaign called "Turn on the Subtitles"- the link is attached below as well as the website address:

[\(317\) Stephen Fry talks about turning on the subtitles - YouTube](#)

[Home - Turn On The Subtitles](#)

1 INSET day left for this academic year 21st July 2021

School INSET Days for 2021/22:

1st September 2021

22nd October 2021

4th January 2022

21st February 2022

22nd July 2022

Stay well and safe.

Paula Bliss

Love & Peace

Trust & Thankfulness

Forgiveness & Hope