



**NEWDIGATE CofE INFANT SCHOOL**  
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23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Newsletter 10

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the summer term and what a joy it is to see the sun shining (mostly!) even though the temperatures can still be pretty cold. Thank you to those who have already offered to help us with our cricket session this half-term, we still have 1 volunteer space left for both Year 1 and year 2. If you are able to help just let us know.

We will shortly be sending out a letter about help for swimming, so look out for that if you feel you are able to help us get that going again this year. We really do feel that by doing as many 'normal' things as we can we will help our children get back on track and really enjoy their lives again.



For the first time ever the Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza, is conducting a Nationwide survey called 'The Big Ask' to find out what young children think and what they need to live happier lives. The survey is available on-line, and we have spoken to all of our children about how exciting it is to have their voice heard and make a contribution to future decisions that affect children. The surveys are age and stage matched, but our children will still need some help to complete it. The link to participate is:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/>

More information can be found on the website given below. Please can we encourage you to take the short time it will take to take part in this initiative.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/faqs/>



Inspired by one of our Year 2 leaders, Jessie-May, we have put our name to the **Great British Spring Clean 2021** and pledged to keep our school (a place that we love) as clean and tidy as possible. Not only will this make us a tidier school and help us to learn how important it is to look after any environment and be responsible for our own litter, but it will also keep it safe for wildlife! Our litter picking equipment has been purchased and is on its way to us now, so we will start our picking as soon as Jessie-May has trained us all up. If you want to join in from home in your local environment the details can be found below:

<https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean/pledge-to-pick>



**Hello and welcome**

Hi, my name is Rachel de Souza and I'm the Children's Commissioner for England. My job is to speak up for children in England, stand up for their rights, and make sure that the people in power listen to what children need and want.

It's time to give something big back to young people like you after COVID — and **we need your help** to do it. This is the largest ever survey of children and young people in England. We'll use what you tell us to show the government what you think, and what children need to live happier lives. This survey will only take you **5-10 minutes**.

**Other Covid-19 related issues**

We are currently still asking parents to wear face masks when they are on the school site but will continue to review this and let you know if we make any changes. Thank you for supporting this. 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.

1 INSET day left for this academic year 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021

### School INSET Days for 2021/22:

1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

21<sup>st</sup> February 2022

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022

Stay well and safe.

Paula Bliss

### Family Learning – New summer term parenting support



As the spring term comes to a close, we're already planning for the summer term and our new programme of free courses and workshops is [open now](#).

**Family Learning**, part of Surrey Adult Learning, offers free support to parents and carers, including grandparents, who lack confidence to support their children. It's been a stressful year for all, but as we follow the government roadmap out of lockdown many parents/carers will be looking for ways to support their children's development, learning and wellbeing.

These parenting courses provide vital support in helping parents understand their children's behaviour, how to manage their child's anxieties and their own stress. The wellness courses are supplemented by a range of practical educational support courses to help parents/carers understand the school system and curriculum. From 'How to be a Times Table Rock Star' to 'Reading with your child'.

**Family Learning supported over 400 families this year.**

### Parents share what Family Learning courses mean for them.

We survey parents at the end of their course and here's what some of them said to us from this term:

- **I learned how to promote my child's self-confidence and deal with situations calmly.**
- **We talk more! We started a nightly routine by telling each other our 'good and bad' for the day.**
- **I've been given a lot of tools for dealing with my children's behaviour when it's challenging.**
- **Amazing tutor, making it fun and understandable. Now I know how to assist my son in Y2 maths and my younger one, starting reception next year. Thank you.**

- **I have learnt a lot about the education system in the UK and how I can help my child.**

### Encourage parents/carers to enrol for parenting courses.

**All Family Learning courses are free to attend. Currently being held online via Zoom due to COVID-19.**

These maths, English, parenting, and wellbeing courses offer families support to be able to help their children with school, homework, and behaviour issues. There are also courses for EAL parents/carers.



Please signpost families to course enrolment details

Online - [surreycc-familylearning](#)

Email - [family.learning@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:family.learning@surreycc.gov.uk)

Call – 0300 200 1044

Love & Peace

Trust & Thankfulness

Forgiveness & Hope