



NEWDIGATE CofE INFANT SCHOOL
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16th December 2021

Newsletter 7

Dear Parents,

We all feel incredibly grateful and blessed to work in such a supportive community. Our **staff** have been wonderful

Our value this half-term is peace.



We will make a peaceful school and world.

Psalm 34:1

Seek peace and pursue it.

and offered their support at all times, coming in extra early when we had absences, working across classrooms, giving up their lunch breaks to look after children when we were in bubbles, and always with a smile on their faces. We have also very much appreciated our **parents**, your kind words and help, from bringing up the milk cartons to the office door in the morning, or videoing our school nativity play, organising

and adapting our Xmas Fayre and of course contributing to fund raising. And also, our **governors** have been working hard behind the scenes to make sure we keep learning and growing as a small infant school.

We are in our final few days before our Christmas break and I would like to start by wishing you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas, wherever you are. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those who are unable to be with their families this year. Although the pandemic continues to present us with more challenges and disappointments, we are determined to count our blessings and find happiness wherever we can!

Around the World Fantastic Finale.



Last Friday we finished our topic by participating in 'Around the World' Christmas celebrations; sampling traditional Christmas food,

learning how to say 'Happy Christmas' in different languages and finding out about the relevant traditions.

Reception – Germany and South Africa
Year 1 – The Dominican Republic, Finland and India
Year 2 - Australia and Portugal

Our Lollipop Lady is famous!

Mrs Moon has been telling BBC Radio about how much she loves her Lollipop Lady job because of the opportunity to meet and greet and keep everybody safe here at Newdigate School. If you want to hear all about it (she was brilliant!) then follow the link below and tune it at 9 ½ minutes in. I am sure the children will love hearing from her.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0b4hcmp>

Christmas Carol Service.

What a joy it was to see so many of you for our outdoor Christmas Carol service. We hope you all enjoyed the chance to come together and join us for some familiar hymns as well as a few songs from our nativity.

ST. PETER'S, NEWDIGATE



ADVENT CAFÉ CHURCH

SUNDAY 19th DECEMBER from 10.00 a.m.
 Coffee, Conversation and Craft Activities
 (including Christingle)
 for Children and Adults alike

17 confirmed Omicron cases, but this is clearly likely to increase dramatically.

Advice received at the start of the week re the new national approach is shown below:

Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19

From Tuesday 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 is being introduced (including until the end of this term). All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep pupils in face-to-face education.

Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff, pupils and students should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [Online Reporting System](#) and to their setting. If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. Outside of the education setting, they should continue to follow the advice set out in the [Sunday 12 December press release](#). This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January.

If they test positive, they should self-isolate and [order a PCR test](#) to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.

For students with SEND who struggle to or are unable to self-swab daily for 7 days, settings should work with students and their families to agree an appropriate testing route, such as assisted swabbing. Information on further support measures will be provided.

We no longer need to be informed of confirmed cases after the end of term as we no longer need to carry out contact tracing. However, we do need to plan for our return to would ask that you inform us on the day of the INSET (Tuesday 4th January 2022) if in the last 48 hours:

- **your child has had one of the 3 main Covid symptoms (and therefore needs a confirmatory PCR)**
- **you have received a positive PCR test for your child**
- **you have seen a positive LFT test for your child and are therefore booking a confirmatory PCR test and isolating until you receive the result**
- **your child is unwell with other symptoms**



A huge thank you to FONS for once again funding our Christmas theatre visit today from the Pied Piper Theatre Company. As usual it was absolutely magical and the children had an amazing time!

Christmas Cards

We want to make sure we are putting others first at Christmas so the children have spent time making cards for Crawley Open House and local care homes in Surrey.

Admissions Application Reminder

We have been asked to share a message from the local authority that reminds all of our year 2 parents about the closing date for their junior applications. It is also a reminder for any of our prospective parents that hope to join us next year to make their applications too.

The national closing date for Reception and Junior applications for September 2022 entry is 15th January.

Guy Fawkes Competition

Well done to Hedgehogs Class, who won an Amazon voucher and a prize of a Christmas tree voucher for their fantastic 'Guy'. The tree voucher was offered to one of our Newdigate families through a random selection process and will hopefully bring them a little festive joy.

Covid-19 Update

We are very pleased to report that we currently have no confirmed cases in our school at the moment, but we are obviously watching the media coverage closely and thinking about any additional measures we will need to put in place for January. As of 9th December, Surrey had

Provisional spring term dates 2022 are now included in our dates list below, these will obviously be subject to change based on our pandemic response.

Stay well and safe.

Paula Bliss (Headteacher)

Gayle Priestley (Head of School)

DATES – AUTUMN TERM 2021

Term dates – Wednesday 1st September – Friday, 17th December

Half term dates – Monday, 25 October – Friday, 29th October

INSET days – Wednesday 1st Sept, 22nd October, 4th January 2022, 21st February 2021, Friday 22nd July.

Thursday 21st July is our additional holiday in lieu of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Diary Dates for Autumn Term

01.09.21	INSET Day
02.09.21	Back to school
24.09.21	Macmillan Coffee afternoon – cake sale (after school)
04.10.21 – 08.10.21	Feeling Good Week
05.10.21	#Hello Yellow Day – Supporting Young Minds
06.10.21	Meet the Teachers – information about learning and the curriculum – 6-7pm
11.10.21	FONS AGM 7.30pm – school hall
16.10.21	Out and About Morning – 10am – 12noon.
19.10.21	School Photos - Individuals
21.10.21	Harvest Festival @ 2pm – School
22.10.21	Open Mornings 10-12 (INSET DAY)
23.10.21	Open Mornings 10-12
10.11.21	Meet the Teacher – 3.30 -6pm
17.11.21	Meet the Teacher – 5.30 – 8pm
26.11.21	Hoops Up
<i>TBC</i>	<i>Christmas Fair</i>
07.12.21	Christmas Performance – 10am
08.12.21	Christmas Performance – 10am
10.12.21	Christmas Jumper Day – School date.
15.12.21	Pied Piper Theatre company
16.12.21	Christmas Carole Service @ 6pm – School field (wrap up warm!)
17.12.21	Last day of term – Break up at 2pm

DATES – SPRING TERM 2022

Term dates – Tuesday, 4th January 2022– Friday, 1st April 2022

Half term dates – Monday 14th – Friday 18th February

INSET Day 4th January 2022

INSET Day – 21st February 2022

Diary Dates for Spring Term

04.01.22	INSET Day
05.01.22	Back to School
February	TBC SATS Talk – Yr 2
02.02.22	Multi -skills Sports event at the Ashcombe school – Year 1
03.02.22	Phonics Forum for parents - “Phonics Screening Check – What you need to know to be successful!” 9am (Yr 1)
11.02.22	Break up for half term
21.02.22	INSET Day
22.02.22	Back to School
03.03.22	World Book Day – Children dress as their favourite book character
09.03.22	Late Parents’ Evening (5.30-8.00pm)
16.03.22	Early Parents’ Evening (3.30-6.00pm)
25.03.22	Mothers’ Day Tea Party for Yr R 9am in School Hall
31.03.22	Easter Service - 2pm, all parents welcome
01.04.22	Easter Bonnet Parade directly after bell, parents to Hall. Wear your hats!
01.04.22	Last Day of Term – Break up at 2pm
19.04.22	Back to School – Summer Term

