



NEWDIGATE CofE INFANT SCHOOL
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19th January 2022

Newsletter 8

Dear Parents,

Happy new year! I hope you had the opportunity to spend some precious time with your loved ones over the Christmas period. 2022 is starting to look much more positive and we can only hope and pray that this will continue and we will get to finish our school year in the usual way. The children (and adults) have all returned to school with renewed energy levels and we are already enjoying our new spring topic, 'Turrets and Tiaras.' The classrooms are already coming alive and look like castles. Year 2's castle ball was a joy to see and more is to come, look out for our fabulous finale!

Our value this half-term is trust.



Proverbs 3: 5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart

Newdigate C of E Infant School
 CURRICULUM TOPIC OVERVIEW

	Cycle A: 2020 – 2021		Cycle B: 2021-2022
Autumn	Back to nature <i>Are we taking good care?</i>	Christmas <i>Past & Present</i>	Around the World <i>How would you travel and what would you find? The world on Christmas</i>
Spring	Fire and Ice <i>Good or bad?</i>		Turrets and Tiaras <i>Grand designs Who rules the land?</i>
Summer	Dig it up <i>What do we find if we dig deeper?</i>	Dig it up <i>Where does our food come from?</i>	Rainforests <i>Get me out of here?</i>

Phonics for Year 1

You will see from the dates that on 3rd February Mrs Denysen will be holding a Phonics Forum for parents called, **“Phonics Screening Check – What you need to know to be successful!”** A firm foundation in phonics is the key to the acquisition of reading and writing which then supports all learning, so this is understandably a major focus for all children. In June, all year 1 children will be assessed using the phonics screen and we want every child to have the skills to reach the required threshold so that they can continue to embed these skills and further develop their reading and writing before they move to their junior school. As parents you are a vital support for the children as you can help them at home on a 1:1 basis. **We would like all of our year 1 parents to attend the phonics forum so that you can learn exactly how to support their child before the phonics screen.** Please let us know if you are not able to attend and we will do our best to share the information with you.

We hold our phonics teaching session across the school at 9 a.m. each day so it is vital that children arrive on time and are ready to access this. We wanted to make you aware that there are a number of road closures in the area and families may therefore need to allow for extra time to get to school.



Love & Peace

Trust & Thankfulness

Forgiveness & Hope

School Uniform

A new year is always a good time to take stock and re-set, so we would like to do that with our school uniform. Please can we remind parents that our school uniform is an important part of our ethos and allows us to make sure that all children look smart and stay comfortable as well as avoiding any fashion shows or discomfort. We have noticed that a number of children are coming to school wearing fashionable large hair bows or hairbands. As well as standing out, they can also become a fidget toy, so please can you make sure hair is tied back and only small clips or bows are used to secure. We also have children wearing fashionable shoes or boots with additional decoration or complicated fastenings. Please can you make sure that shoes are smart and appropriate for school and that children are able to take them off and put them on independently. And finally, a number of children have come to school wearing watches that allow them to play games, take images and record sound. We would ask that, if at all, only simple watches are worn by children who are able to use them sensibly and are not distracted by having them - this would generally only be for our older children. If class teachers feel they are distracting they will speak to parents to let them know. In exceptional circumstances parents can speak to teachers about any other arrangements they would like for the wearing of watches for alarms.

Covid-19 Update

Although we ended the year with our minds firmly focussed on the rise of the Omicron variant, I am pleased to start the first Newsletter of 2022 with a much more positive picture. We have today received the news that we are moving out of Plan B and there are changes to the requirement to wear face masks in schools and public areas. As from Thursday 27th January staff will no longer be required to wear face masks in school and we will not require parents to wear them when dropping off or picking up. Although we currently have no confirmed cases in the school, we wanted to make you aware that there have recently been changes to the required isolation period for positive cases. **Adults and children are permitted to return to school on day 6 following 2 consecutive negative LFD tests on the morning of day 5 and 6.**

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)

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

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
03.02.22	Phonics Forum for parents - “Phonics Screening Check – What you need to know to be successful!” 9am (Yr 1)
07.02.22	Multi -skills Sports event at the Ashcombe school – Year 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



In God’s Hands We Learn and Grow