



NEWDIGATE CofE INFANT SCHOOL
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17th March 2022

Newsletter 11

Dear Parents,

What a joy it is to see the signs of spring and feel the warmth of the sun on our faces. Spring is a joyous time and reminds us that there are so many things for us to be thankful about. At school, the children have been making a list - our homes, our family, our friends, our food, our clothes, our beds, nature, our school and teachers.....and much more. We have linked this thankfulness to an

Our value this half-term is Thanks.
Chronicles 29:13 Now, our God, we give you thanks and praise your glorious name.



We are thankful for what we have and will look after our world.

attitude of gratitude and have a 'thankful thoughts' activity in our Place of Peace (prayer space). We are of course in the season of Lent, so it appropriate that we are being thankful for everything we have and remembering when Jesus was in the wilderness for 40 days and nights without many of these things, taking the time to appreciate them and get closer to God.



Although it is more usual to give something up for Lent (as I know many of you have after our worship discussions) we are once again approaching

Lent positively through the 40 Acts of Kindness. The children are aware of some of these acts and have tried to do these at school, but they know there is a family planner and I have promised to send it home for you to look at with them. It seems that our world continues to need these moments of positivity, probably more than ever, and we would really appreciate you looking at them with the children at home. One of the suggestions is to tidy your bedroom, so there are most definitely hidden benefits!

[40 Family Wallchart 2020 \(40acts.org.uk\)](http://40acts.org.uk)

More information can be found at:

[40acts - The 40-day Lent Generosity Challenge from Stewardship](#)

World Events

Although we have not explicitly taught children about the Ukraine crisis, we have made reference to people who don't have the things on our thankful list because their lives have changed overnight, and we have encouraged children to think about those people. A small group of our Year 2 leaders have decided to, 'Stand Up and Stand Out' and take action by raising money to support Ukrainian refugee charities. A letter will be sent to you separately explaining what they are doing and how you can help. Mrs Priestley is also working with our Little Governors to organise a collection of food and consumables, more details to follow.

Village Spring Show

We have received an invitation for our children to take part in the Newdigate Village Spring Show on Saturday 2nd April in the Newdigate Village Hall (11-12.30)

There are 3 entry classes:

- 26. Make 3 edible nests (with mini eggs placed inside)**
- 27. Hand-made Easter card**
- 28. Small posy of spring garden flowers**

Winners will receive a treat and a certificate. It would wonderful if we can support this village event. Entry forms are available at the school reception or in Bob's shop.



Young Carers.

16th March 2022 was **Young Carers Action Day**. As a school that has received an award for the work we have done in this area, we were keen to maintain our momentum this year. On Monday we had a worship where the children learnt what a young carer is and the extra responsibilities they might have.

On Wednesday we had 2 visitors, Raph and Alice (both very inspiring), who came to talk to us about what it is like for them to be a young carer.

Alice told us how her autistic brother wanted to run the 800m in a school race but was told he wasn't capable of it. Alice took her brother down to Meadowbank every day after school to help him practice. With his perseverance and Alice's support he did run the 800m. He came last but he did it and the cheers he got were incredible. We felt privileged to be able to watch the race on video and share this joyous achievement!

Raph is an ex-Newdigate pupil and we were thrilled to have him join us. Raph talked to the children about his mum and brother and how proud he was of them. He was very honest and explained to the children that, when he was younger, he didn't always have patience with his brother (who has autism) but now he understands what he can do to support and help him. Raph is rightly proud of his young carer role, and it has obviously taught him a lot about kindness and thoughtfulness; as always his caring nature shone through during his visit. If you feel your child may fall into the category of young carer, please talk to Mrs Priestley who will be able to provide you with more details.

As part of the children's home work this week the children have all been asked to take on extra responsibilities to help out at home, just like a young carer would need to do all of the time. We want them to think about the importance of helping others and how that can make us feel good. Please can you or your child fill in the leaf template explaining how they have been a helper so that we can share how our Newdigate children have been helping out and being thoughtful.

Connect Group

We know that all families are different and come in many shapes and sizes, but have become increasingly aware of a growing number of families that are now living apart. As well as parents having to manage their own loss and grief they are also supporting their children through a significant change. Many parents have asked us for advice about how to do this, so we have decided to look at starting a small group for children managing family changes at all stages called the 'Connect Group.' This group will be led by Mrs Holt-Miller and she has put together a short 4-week programme covering:

- ✓ Change
- ✓ Who can I talk to?
- ✓ Family resilience
- ✓ Positive thinking
- ✓ Living in 2 homes
- ✓ Happy times ahead

If you feel your child would benefit from this support please contact us and we can plan our next steps. We may also be approaching some families if we feel the sessions

would be appropriate for their child. We aim to start this in the summer term.

COVID

As a reminder, our current Covid guidance states:

*From today, Monday 21 February, the Government is **removing the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing.***

*From Thursday 24 February, the Government will **remove the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.***
In addition, the Government will:

No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days, and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.

The Local Authority has since summarised the new guidance as follows:

***Pupils/Students and staff should attend if they are well
Pupils/Students and staff should stay at home if they are unwell –
Schools/settings should refuse entry to those that are symptomatic or unwell
Adults or children should have a PCR test if you have COVID-19 symptoms and stay at home and avoid contact with other people if you test positive for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance (tests will remain available until the end of March 2022)***

We will continue to use our standard protective measures to minimise transmission in the school.

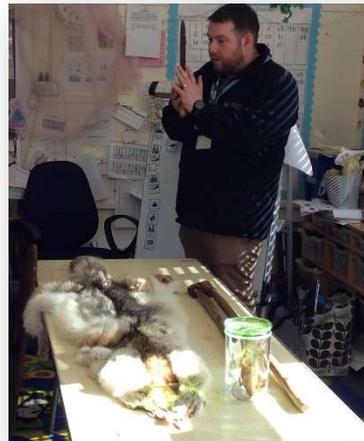
So, it seems that we are going back to a system where **we only respond to the 3 main Covid-19 symptoms**, confirm with a PCR, then check with LFD tests when we are safe to return to school. **We no longer think about asymptomatic testing with LFD tests and only use LFD test results to confirm a positive case is over.**

At the moment we are still responding to the 3 main Covid symptoms and would ask that you do not send your child to school if they have any of them (high temperature, new, continuous cough or loss of taste or smell) or are unwell. We will also be asking you to confirm that your child is safe to come back to school using LFD tests and would need 2 negatives after the morning of day 5.

Clear as mud?! We are aware that this is another shift in our behaviours but feel it should minimise future disruption to school attendance for our children, which can only be a good thing. Please check in with us at the office if you need any clarification.

School visitor!

We have had another day of excitement here at Newdigate with a visit from The **Weald and Downland Museum** helping us to learn more about our history topic, 'Turrets and Tiaras'. The children had a fabulous time learning about how to defend a castle and having a try with some toys children used to play with. We also got to meet Lister, the mummified rat! When leaving, our visitor commented how wonderful our children were, how involved and supportive the teachers had been and what a great time he had had! A great success by all accounts.



Love & Peace

Trust & Thankfulness

Forgiveness & Hope

Dates for your diary.

Please see our added dates for summer 2022 as well as INSET days for the next academic year.

Take care and enjoy the sunshine!

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
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
24.02.22	SATS Talk – Yr 2 (5pm via Zoom)
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

DATES – SUMMER TERM 2022

Term dates – Tuesday 19th April – Friday, 22 July
May Bank Holiday – Monday 2 May
Half term dates – Monday, 30 May – Friday 3 June
INSET days –Thursday 21 July (Platinum Jubilee) & Friday 22 July
MONTH OF MAY – KS1 Tests – NO HOLIDAY FOR YEAR 2 WILL BE AUTHORISED



In God’s Hands We Learn and Grow

Diary Dates for Summer Term

19.04.22	Back to School
26.04.22	Class Photos
May 2022	KS1 tests for Yr2 commence (see above note re: holidays)
02.05.22	Bank Holiday
20.05.22	'Share a pencil' day
25.05.22	Year 1 & 2 – Trip to Guildford Cathedral
27.05.22	Break up for half term (Queens Platinum Jubilee)
06.06.22	Back to School - Art Jubilee celebration activity
w/c 06.06.22	Phonics testing
17.06.22	Parent Workshop – Reading
20 – 24.06.22	Science Week – 'Growth'
22.06.22	Whole School Trip – Look Out Centre
23.06.22	Welcome Meeting for Parents of September intake 6.00pm
28 / 29.06.22	TBC Transition Day
01.07.22	FONS - Disco
04.07.22	Story session for new intake 2.30-3.00pm
06.07.22	Sports Day 1.30pm
07.07.22	Teddy Bears Picnic (Yr R and Pre-school)
08.07.22	Year R – bring your bike to school
09.07.22	Summer Celebration (May Queen) tbc
11.07.22	Story session for new intake 2.30-3.00pm
11 – 15.07.22	Reports to go out (all years)
13.07.22	Parent Drop-in – "Book Looks" 3.15-4.15pm
13.07.22	Rescheduled Sports Day (in case of bad weather) pm
20.07.22	Yr2 Leavers' Service in the School Hall 2pm followed by Yr2 Leavers' Party
20.07.22	Break Up for Summer Holidays (2.00pm)
21.07.22	Platinum Jubilee Day – Bank Holiday
22.07.22	INSET Day

AUTUMN 2022

01.09.22	INSET DAY
02.09.22	INSET DAY
05.09.22	Back to School
21.10.22	INSET DAY
17.04.23	INSET DAY
21.07.23	INSET DAY

