



NEWDIGATE CofE INFANT SCHOOL
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6th September 2023

Newsletter 1

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to this new school year. Foxes and Owls are already settling into their new classes and have quickly risen to the challenge of moving up; it always amazes us how they immediately look so much older and wiser after the summer break! Our new Hedgehogs children will be

**Our value this half-term
is love & compassion.**



**We show love and
compassion for
each other.**

John 15:12

*Love each other as I have
loved you.*

joining us soon - we are very excited to meet them!

Our year always begins with things most important to our school ethos. This term we will be revisiting all of our bee rules, including our new rule 'be safe' and our value is **love**.

Curriculum

You will receive your curriculum letters for the relevant year group by the end of the week. These will give you more information about learning in your child's year group for each subject. We are making sure that we are also putting curriculum information on our website, if you take a look you will see that we have made pages for each subject under the curriculum tab. Here you will also be able to get a better feel for our approach to each subject.

We continue to value outdoor learning and will be making sure the children have opportunities to experience sessions as part of their **Forest School** or MOLE (Making Outdoor Learning Exciting) sessions. Mrs Stewart is a Level 3 Forest School leader and she will continue to deliver sessions weekly for Year 2 and fortnightly for Year R and Year 1.

Assemblies/Worships

We are continuing to hold daily assemblies for our children including our class worships (Monday), singing assembly (Tuesday), values assembly (Wednesday), 'Busy Bee' assembly (Thursday), and of course Birthday assembly (Friday).

For those who haven't experienced Birthday Assembly before, parents will be invited to join us in the hall at allocated slots near their child's birthday. Mrs Priestley will lead the birthday celebration focussing on the children's unique qualities; it is always a delight to have parents joining us for this special time. We will soon be sending out invitations for the upcoming assemblies.

We are also thrilled that we will be visiting St. Peter's Church on a regular basis (we walk through the graveyard) to take part in an assembly led by Rev. Andrew Coe or one of his team. We will, of course, also be gathering there for our **Harvest celebration** against this year.

Start of Day

We have a single start time of **8.50 a.m.** for all classes. As always, we would ask that children arrive in plenty of time so they start their day feeling calm and ready for learning. We often start our day with the very important phonics learning, and do not want children to miss out on this. Registers will close at 9.05 a.m. and any children arriving after that will be registered as late unless there is a pre-arranged plan for exceptional circumstances.

Teachers are focussed on making sure the day starts well for the children, so they will only be able to have very quick conversations. If you need to have any longer conversations we would ask that you book a slot after school with them. If you need to make us aware of anything important please send a message to the office.

ELSA

The children know that we have an **ELSA (Emotional Literacy Assistant)**, Mrs Holt-Miller, in our school who can help them if they are finding it hard to manage strong feelings and emotions which are becoming a barrier to learning. Please let us know if you feel it would be beneficial for your child to be referred to work with her. We are finding that the demands for this role have grown greatly in the last year so please be aware that we may need to allocate limited sessions or place your child on a waiting list as we prioritise those in need.

New faces!

We are very pleased to be welcoming back **Dan Stevenson** (otherwise known as Coach Dan or Coach Stevenson) to the school. Dan has a history of inspiring children (and adults) to be involved in anything sporty. During his time at Newdigate he was a fabulous role model and a passionate advocate for promoting well-being through PE. We are thrilled to welcome him back to our community and thankful that our sports premium funding has allowed us to do this. Dan will be working across the school every Thursday and Friday afternoon and will the run after-school sports clubs on those days.

Anna Fox



We are welcoming Anna Fox to our team this year. Miss Fox is a very experienced and capable member of our partner school, St. Michael's Infant School. She has taught for many years in all year groups and recently took on the SENCo role after completing her SEN National Award training. She will be extending her SEN work here at Newdigate and working alongside me to support our children with special needs. She will also be spending a little time in Hedgehogs and Foxes, teaching each week, so that she gets to know the children well.

Diary dates will follow very shortly.

You will have already received information about the two sports clubs being provided by Coach Stevenson. I believe there may still be places, so contact him if you are interested.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Paula Bliss
(Headteacher)

Term dates Academic Year 2023/24

Autumn Term:

4th Sept 2023 – 15th December 2023

(Half term 23rd Oct – 27th Oct) - INSET 30th October

Spring Term:

2nd Jan 2024 – 28th March 2024

INSET 9th February

(Half Term 12th Feb – 16th Feb)

Summer Term:

15th April 2024 – 19th July 2024 INSET 22nd & 23rd July

(Half Term 27th May – 31st May)

INSET DAYS 2023/24

1st September

30th October

9th February

22nd July

23rd July

