



NEWDIGATE CofE INFANT SCHOOL
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21st September 2023

Newsletter 2

Dear Parents,

Autumn has well and truly arrived with a gust and we are now all set for the new season. Please make sure children are ready for the wet and windy weather each day – we will be venturing out as often as possible.

**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.*

This week we have been thinking about our value of **love**. I have invited the children to bring into school a photo of the people they love and are connected to so that we can think of them and celebrate the importance of love in our lives (please make sure they are named and ideally send in a copy so that we don't have any tears if they are accidentally damaged!)

The children have also been describing how much they love their friends and family after we read, 'Guess How Much I Love You' together.

Attendance Matters!

We will once again be sending out our school attendance policy as a reminder of our approach to attendance and how important it is for your child to be at school if we want to give them very best opportunities for learning and life. As always, we will only authorise absence if there are very exceptional circumstances.

Curriculum / Reading Café

This year we will be combining our '**Meet the Teacher-Information about learning and the curriculum**' and our **Reading Café** on Thursday 28th September from 8.50 – 9.30 a.m. We know that parents have really enjoyed our previous reading cafes and they have been very well attended, so we thought it would be a good idea to do the both together - we do hope you will be able to join us.

Families with children in more than one class, please speak to the class teachers to discuss the best approach to this session.



One of the things we want to share with you at the session is information about the **science of learning (cognitive science)**. One of the most important questions educational research can ask is how children learn. If we know how they process and retain information, we can adapt our approach to teaching

accordingly and, in turn, increase effectiveness. Developing our understanding of memory and how to balance learning load, and then applying this understanding in the classroom, has the potential to improve outcomes for all children.

With this in mind we have also reflected on how we can support children's learning through planned **home learning tasks** in order to make sure we are getting it right for all.

Our home learning has been adapted to focus far more on revisiting, retrieving and embedding information from previously taught knowledge so that it gets 'stuck' in children's long-term memory (we call this sticky knowledge). We will explain more at the session, but essentially, we have devised a set of home learning tasks for each year group that supports reading (daily reading will remain a priority), mental maths and other chosen foundation subjects and takes into account the science of learning. Early Years children will communicate home learning through a home learning book, Year 1 and Year 2 children will be sent home learning through our Marvellous Me app and parents will be able to 'Hi 5' to show that the task has been completed. Teachers will monitor the engagement of each child and may contact parents if they have concerns.



Macmillan Coffee Morning Friday 29th September 2022

We have supported this charity for many years and hope to do the same again this year. We are looking for a team of parents to help us run an outside event after school next Friday as well as volunteers to bake cakes and bring them into school on the day. Please can you let the school office or Mrs Priestley know if you are able to support us.

Every little helps! All cake donations will be welcomed.
More hands will make light work and help us raise more money for this important charity.



Parent Questionnaire July 2023

The school received 25 responses to our annual questionnaire. I have summarised the main questions below. Once again, the responses were overwhelmingly positive, so thank you for your feedback. As always, there are areas for improvement. This year we will continue to work on better communication and will be further embedding our extended services offer.

100% of parents would recommend the school to another parent.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My child enjoys school.	56%	44%		-	-
My child feels safe at school.	64%	32%	4%	-	-
The school community reflects the Christian faith in its day to day life.	48%	48%	12%	-	-
The school meets the academic needs of my child.	44%	48%	8%	0%	-
The school is proactive in providing extended services for my child.	32%	32%	24%	--	-
The school encourages a healthy life-style.	52%	40%	8%	3%	-
The school encourages children to be part of wider local, national and global communities.	42%	46%	13%	--	--
The school supports my child's wider personal development.	44%	40%	8%	8%	

When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly	52%	24%	20%	4%	--
My child does well.	52%	40%	8%	-	-
The school provides a good foundation for the future.	56%	40%	4%	-	-
The school staff are welcoming and approachable.	52%	24%	20%	4%	-
The school lets me know how my child is doing.	36%	48%	12%	4%	--
The school meets the academic needs of my child	38%	52%	10%		
There are a good range of subjects available to my child at the school.	48%	40%	8%	4%	--
The school make sure its pupils are well behaved.	36%	64%	16%	4%	-
My child has been bullied and the school dealt with it quickly and effectively.	4%	12%	24%	--	4%
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	52%	40%	4%	4%	--
Communication is good.	28%	44%	16%	12%	--
The school has high expectations for my child	52%	24%	16%	8%	-

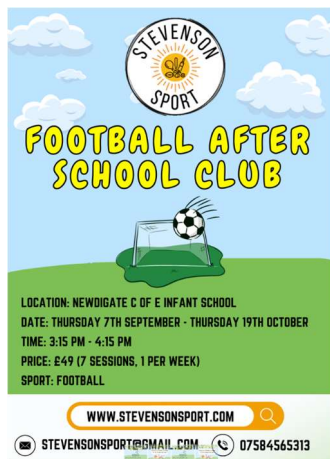
60% not bullied

You also gave us 3 words to describe our school and we have made a wordle to capture those words:



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

Diary Dates for Autumn Term

01.09.23	Start of Term
01.09.23	INSET DAY (1 of 5)
06.09.23	Perform Drama workshop
28.09.23	Reading Café & Curriculum meeting – 8.50am
28.09.23	FONS AGM 7.00pm in School Hall - TBC
29.09.23	Macmillan Coffee Afternoon 3.10pm School Hall – everyone welcome
09.10.23	Individual School Photos
19.10.23	TBC - Harvest Festival Service in St Peter's Church at 2pm. All parents welcome.
20.10.23	Nasal Flu Immunisation
20.10.23	Break up for half term 3pm.
30.10.23	INSET DAY (2 of 5)
31.10.23	Back to school
01.11.23	Open Morning for prospective new parents from 9.30am
08.11.23	Meet the teachers – Parents' Evening 3.30-6.00pm
15.11.23	Meet the teachers – Parents' Evening 5.30 –8.00pm
24.11.23	Hoops for Decorating to go home
01.12.23	Hoops up in the Hall
02.12.23	Christmas Fayre TBC
08.12.23	Christmas Jumper Day – Donation to Save the Children
11.12.23	Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Performance
12.12.23	Christmas Performance at 10am in the School Hall
14.12.23	Christmas Performance at 10am in the School Hall
13.12.23	Pied Piper Theatre Company perform 'for the children
14.12.23	TBC - School Christingle Family Service, St Peter's Church 6pm – everyone welcome
15.12.23	Last day of term - Break up at 2pm

DATES – SPRING TERM 2024

Term dates – Tuesday 2nd January 2024 – Thursday 28th March 2024

Half term dates – Monday 12th – Friday 16th February

Diary Dates for Spring Term

02.01.24	Back to School
08.02.24	Break up for half term 3pm
09.02.24	INSET DAY (3 of 5)
22.02.24	SATS talk – Yr 2 classroom (@ 5pm) (TBC)
06.03.24	Late Parents' Evening (5.30-7.40pm)
07.03.24	World Book Day – Dress up as a character from a book that makes you learn and grow
08.03.24	Mothers' Day Tea Party for Yr R 9am in School Hall
13.03.24	Early Parents' Evening (3.30-6.00pm)
27.03.24	Easter Bonnet Parade directly after morning bell, parents to Hall. Wear your hats!
28.03.24	Easter Service – 1.10pm, all parents welcome
28.03.24	Last Day of Term – Break up at 2pm



DATES – SUMMER TERM 2024

Term dates – Monday 15th April 2024 – Tuesday 23rd July 2024

Half term dates – Monday 27th – Friday 31st May

15.04.24	Back to School
27.05.24	Break up for half term 3pm
19.07.24	Last day of term - Break up at 2pm
22.07.24	INSET DAY (4 of 5)
23.07.24	INSET DAY (5 of 5)

