



**NEWDIGATE CofE INFANT SCHOOL**  
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Headteacher: Mrs Paula Bliss



<http://www.newdigate.surrey.sch.uk>

**1<sup>st</sup> February 2024**

## **Newsletter 8**

Dear Parents,

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**Whole School attendance to date this year is  
94.6 %**

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I wonder if January has dragged on or gone in a flash for you? It has certainly been a busy month here and our children have really knuckled down and worked hard. This newsletter will be mainly focussed on 2 important issues.

**Our value this  
half-term is trust.**



*Proverbs 3: 5-6*

*Trust in the Lord with  
all your heart*

### **Newdigate Swimming Pool**

Here at Newdigate School we have, for many years, worked hard to keep the pool open and accessible to our families and community members providing

opportunities to learn to swim and have fun, but we feel it is time to take stock before we make any future plans. We do not receive any funding for the pool and rely on revenue from the rental to keep it going.

Last year the pool just about broke even and we have relied upon the commitment and hard work of Carole Chaplin and a small group of FONS members to maintain the pool. Carole will be stepping away from the pool this year and we will need a new plan! (She has been a passionate advocate for the pool for such a long time and we want to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to her for her hard work and determination.)

We also have to consider a number of other issues related to increasing energy costs, reduced usage, difficulty finding volunteers and issues of overall wear and tear that will need addressing.

We are reaching out to you to find out how important the pool is to you! **Now is your chance to tell us what you think and what you can offer.**

**Below are the links to a short on-line questionnaire for anybody connected to the school or pool to complete. Please help us by taking the time to fill it in.**

<https://forms.office.com/e/ECwEY5RAWi>



### **Safeguarding!**

It is obvious that such an important subject is right at the top of any school agenda, often described as the 'golden thread' of school evaluation. Of course, there are many elements to safeguarding so we cannot cover them all in one newsletter. We will be keeping a small section of each newsletter dedicated to safeguarding issues with key information at your fingertips. You will also find more information on our website:

<https://www.newdigateschool.org.uk/safeguarding/>

### **Our school safeguarding leads are:**

Designated safeguarding Lead – Mrs Paula Bliss  
Deputy DSL – Mrs Rachel Moon  
On-line Safety Lead – Mrs Gayle Priestley

They can be contacted on our school phone number or through the [dsl@newdigate.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:dsl@newdigate.surrey.sch.uk) e-mail.

If you are concerned about the safeguarding of a child at any time, please contact Surrey children's single point of access C-SPA on:

**0300 470 9100**

### **On-line safety Week**

Next week is our on-line safety week. We will kick off with A whole school assembly led by Miss Langthorne. For the rest of the week children will be learning about age and stage appropriate safety. We will be adding a little more about safe gaming as we have noticed increasing numbers of our young children are involved in this.

NSPCC have produced a great resource that guides parents on this subject:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-games/>

**We felt this was a particularly important section:**

#### ***Deciding if a game is appropriate***

*There are four main things that you can consider to help you decide if a game's appropriate for your child to play:*

*Check the content of the game and any chat function:*

*Content within games is regulated and rated into age groups based on elements within the game such as sex, violence, gambling, drugs, in-app purchases etc. There are lots of different age ratings around the world, such as PEGI used in the UK.*

*Always check the age rating to help you decide to allow your child to download or play a game - this is normally visible next to the game title within gaming and app stores.*

#### ***Consider who your child could have contact with whilst using the game:***

*Consider any communication channels and if there are settings to turn off or limit chat functions. There can be different types of communications, e.g. group chat or private chat.*

*Communication in a game can increase the risk of bullying (sometimes referred to as being 'griefed' within gaming), being contacted by people they don't know and potentially groomed or exploited. Many games have a means of communication which includes private messaging and private chat. Look out for:*

*words like 'whisper' or 'private' next to messages if your child is playing in multiplayer games (especially if they are playing with people they don't know offline)  
and any suggestion of taking the conversation to other messaging platforms.*

#### ***Does the game affect your child's behaviour?***

*The behaviour of your child could be affected by some games, it can include bullying or 'griefing' others, trolling or other inappropriate behaviour. Very intensive games can result in*

*short-term bad behaviour such as poor temper or 'ragequitting', which is getting so upset they stop playing immediately. Ensuring a game's suitability can help, as can limiting playing time.*

#### ***Does the game have in-app purchasing?***

*In-app purchases normally enhance the game or gameplay, for example skins (design of the character or weapon) or loot boxes (treasure chests, but you don't always know what is in them). There can often be considerable pressure on children to be unique within their games (new skins) or to be better than others (purchasing power-ups). You should consider settings to turn off in-app purchases, or set a spending limit on the device or app.*

*Children need to be aware of scams involving free in-game currency (e.g. V-Bucks in Fortnite, or Robux in Roblox). Scam text messages, forum posts and videos may have content advertising free in-game currency. But they're often scams, designed to coax the player into revealing their gamer tag (username) and password in return for currency. This is known as a 'phishing' scam.*

**Our aim is to prepare not scare; we all know that handled well with the right boundaries the on-line world can be one of our greatest assets!**

**Stay safe and have a great weekend.**

**Mrs Paula Bliss  
(Headteacher)**

### **Free On-line parent/carers workshops**

We have been sent information regarding parent workshops from the YMCA that we think will be very useful, you will find more details on the website:

[Parent/Carer Workshops - YMCA East Surrey](#)

#### **Talking to your child and supporting them to cope with worries**

Wednesday 14 February 2024 | 18:30-19:30

Wednesday 17 April 2024 | 18:30-19:30

Wednesday 12 June 2024 | 18:30-19:30

Wednesday 18 September 2024 | 18:30-19:30

Wednesday 13 November 2024 | 18:30-19:30

Book your free place for Talking to your child and supporting them to cope with worries

#### **Understanding, expressing and managing emotions**

Wednesday 17 January 2024 | 18:30-19:30

Wednesday 13 March 2024 | 18:30-19:30

Wednesday 15 May 2024 | 18:30-19:30

Wednesday 17 July 2024 | 18:30-19:30

Wednesday 16 October 2024 | 18:30-19:30

Book your free place for Understanding, expressing and managing emotions.

If you have any questions about these events, please email us at [communitywellbeingteam@ymcaeast Surrey.org.uk](mailto:communitywellbeingteam@ymcaeast Surrey.org.uk)

### **Term dates Academic Year 2023/24**

#### **Autumn Term:**

4<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023 – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023

(Half term 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct – 27<sup>th</sup> Oct) - INSET 30<sup>th</sup> October

#### **Spring Term:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2024 – 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

INSET 9<sup>th</sup> February

(Half Term 12<sup>th</sup> Feb – 16<sup>th</sup> Feb)

#### **Summer Term:**

15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024 INSET 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> July

(Half Term 27<sup>th</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> May)

### **INSET DAYS 2023/24**

1<sup>st</sup> September

30<sup>th</sup> October

9<sup>th</sup> February

22<sup>nd</sup> July

23<sup>rd</sup> July

## **Diary Dates for Autumn Term**

01.09.23	Start of Term
01.09.23	<b>INSET DAY (1 of 5)</b>
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	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	<b>INSET DAY ( 2 of 5)</b>
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
07.12.23	Christmas Meal / 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 - rearranged 18 <sup>th</sup> january
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 1.15 pm

## **DATES – SPRING TERM 2024**

Term dates – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Half term dates – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February

## **Diary Dates for Spring Term**

02.01.24	<b>Back to School</b>
09.01.24	<b>9 a.m. Phonics Workshop Year 1 (Miss Langthorne)</b>
08.02.24	Break up for half term 3pm
09.02.24	<b>INSET DAY (3 of 5)</b>
22.02.24	<del>SATS talk – Yr 2 classroom (@ 5pm) (TBC)</del>
29.02.24	World Book Day – Dress up as a character from a book that makes you learn and grow and Reading Café (at drop off)
06.03.24	Late Parents' Evening (5.30-7.40pm)
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 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024

Half term dates – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May

<b>15.04.24</b>	<b>Back to School</b>
17.04.24	Yr 1 & Yr 2 School trip to Arundel Castle
06.05.24	Bank Holiday Monday
17.05.24	Mufti day – for a donation to the May Queen Bottle Tombola Stand.
23.05.24	Yr R – Bring your bike to school day
24.05.24	Break up for half term 3pm
25.05.24	May Queen (TBC)
03.06.24	Back to school
10.06.24	Yr 1 Phonics Screening
12.06.24	Welcome Meeting – New parents
17.06.24	Science week
03.07.24	Year R school trip
04.07.24	Sports Day
11.07.24	Sports Day back-up
18.07.24	Year 2 Leavers' Service in school hall followed by..... Year 2 Leavers' party
19.07.24	Last day of term - Break up at 2pm
22.07.24	<b>INSET DAY (4 of 5)</b>
23.07.24	<b>INSET DAY (5 of 5)</b>

