



4th September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome Squirrel Class Parents

I hope you have all had a lovely summer holiday. We have welcomed some new children to New Close this week and I am pleased to see how well they have settled into their new school environment. We have had a really positive start in Squirrel Class. Already we are seeing children who love to be at school and learn. The children have enjoyed seeing all their friends again and making new friends.

Below is some important information about the routines and class practices we have:

Staff in Squirrel Class

I (Miss Smith) am the teacher in Squirrel Class. Mrs Cubbin is the class teaching assistant and will support learning in the mornings. Mrs Matson is also a teaching assistant in Squirrel Class and she will be in and out of the classroom supporting children and hearing them read. On a Monday afternoon, the children will be taught by Miss Dixon, she is our cover supervisor.

No Nut School

A reminder that we are a no nut school. We have several children in school this year who are severely allergic to nuts. Please ensure that all food items coming into school have no nuts or nut products in them. We appreciate your support in this matter.

Snacks

Please provide your child with a healthy snack for their morning break (e.g. a piece of fruit or vegetable). In KS1 children are provided with free fruit in school and we are due to receive a delivery next week but in the meantime, we kindly ask that you provide this snack.

PE kits

For now, we are asking children to wear their full PE kits to school on the days when they have PE. Children must wear a red t-shirt, black trousers/shorts, trainers/pumps and their school jumper or cardigan. PE will be on a Friday. Children are encouraged to wear trousers as they will be in this kit all day.

Swimming

We are still waiting on guidance regarding swimming sessions. We will inform all parents of the outcome.

Homework

Homework is: reading, spelling and a curriculum based task. Homework is designed to support your child's learning and help them revisit key skills taught in class.

Only year 2 children will have their first curriculum based homework set on Friday 18th September. Year 1 children will not receive a curriculum based task until term 3. They will however be expected to read at home and practise their spellings.

In addition, there will be a long term (optional) topic project set, which will be due at the end of term. All homework can be found on the school website (Squirrel Class page).

New Close Primary School

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Telephone 01985 212304

Email office@newclose.wilts.sch.uk

Reading Expectations

All children will have a book from our Oxford Tree Reading Scheme. We will be allocating your child a level and book by the end of next week. Children should be heard read at least 5 times a week and a comment should be left in their home/school diaries. We will check these each week. We encourage that you share stories with your children as this is very beneficial for their reading progress and will help them learn to read for pleasure.

Reading Races

At New Close we encourage our children to take part in the school reading races. Your child will bring home their first reading race when they get their new book. Every time your child reads at home they can colour and date a spot, and complete activities at key points. Completed reading races should be returned to school and children will receive a reward.

Spellings

Your child will receive their weekly spellings from Friday 11th September. They will then be tested every Wednesday. Your child is expected to learn these daily and hand in their spelling sheet each Wednesday.

Times tables

Later on in the school year, your child may be asked to practise set times tables to support their fluency in maths.

Curriculum based homework (Year 2 only until term 3)

Curriculum based homework is either a literacy or maths task (on alternate weeks). This will be set each Friday and should be returned the following Wednesday. If you are unable to access the homework via the school website, please inform us as soon as possible. Children will be given a homework book to record their work in.

Reward systems

Your child will have been given a house in which they belong to: Longleat, Stourhead or Wilton. Each time your child shows the school expectations, completes their homework well or is generally working hard, they will be rewarded with a house point. The children each have a house point card in which they will be working towards getting a certificate upon completion. We also have stars of the week, each week I will pick my stars of the week and they will receive head teacher recognition, a certificate and a prize.

Welcome meeting

Unfortunately it is not possible to hold our welcome meeting in person this year. Instead we will be filming a welcome presentation and will post this on our class page on Wednesday 9th September, for you to view in your own time. Should you have any questions about anything please contact me via email and I will respond as soon as possible.

Communication

We appreciate that due to COVID-19 restrictions, face to face meetings are not possible. Email is an effective way to communicate with us and we can set up telephone conversations if needed. For urgent messages, please call the school office.

bs@newclose.wilts.sch.uk – Miss Smith

Yours sincerely

Miss Smith
Squirrel class teacher