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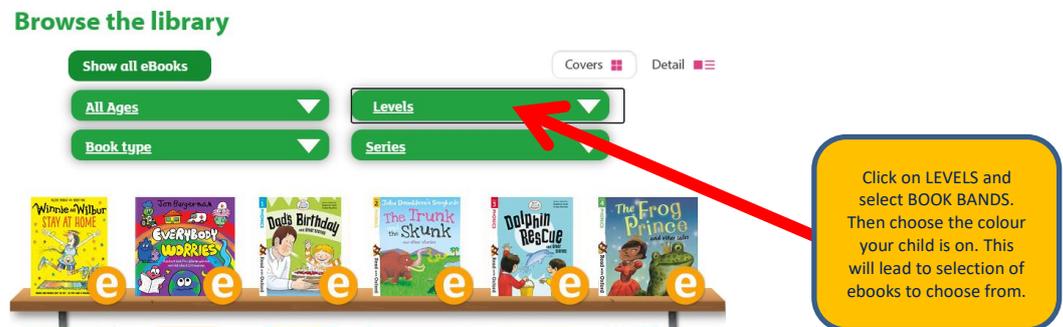
7th January 2021

Dear parent/carer,

Thank you again for the unwavering support you have given to us over the last few days. We have received some lovely comments, which have often left us quite emotional. Hearing you are pleased with the provision we have put together so far is music to our ears. As you can probably see, it is very different to the last lockdown and is focused on keeping the children learning. Over the next few weeks, the delivery of our blended learning will evolve as staff, children and parents (and in some cases grandparents) become more confident in this new way of working. We are purposely taking it one step at a time. In the coming weeks we will be asking for feedback from you so we can make any necessary adjustments.

Reading

A few parents have contacted us regarding the children's reading books. We did send Key Stage One children some reading materials home but they will not sustain them throughout the next six weeks. Therefore, we would like the children to access the following website: <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>



We are also exploring a new site which has been recommended to us by a parent.

Obviously, you may feel like your child can read the books easily by decoding the words but it is important that they comprehend what they have read. They need to develop skills of prediction, retrieval and inference, as well as understanding the meaning of new vocabulary and the authors' choice of words and phrases. Next week, we will send some ways in which you can support your child at home, but they will also have guided reading with an adult online so that will help too. Children in KS2 all have Reading Plus accounts and this is an ideal opportunity for them to spend time working on their reading speed and comprehension skills. Children can also snuggle up and read for pleasure a book of their choice too.



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Parental conferences

As we have already started the ball rolling with the booking in of parental conferences, we intend to go ahead with them. A personal calendar invite will be sent to you by Monday by your child's teacher. The class teacher will be covered by either Mrs Storey or Mrs Dixon. If you haven't already done so, please book your time slot on ParentPay. Here is a reminder of the dates:

Reception	Tuesday 26 th January
Year 1	Tuesday 19 th January
Year 2	Friday 15 th January
Year 3	Wednesday 20 th January
Year 4	Monday 18 th January
Year 5	Friday 22 nd January
Year 6	Thursday 21 st January

Marking and feedback

We have had a few queries regarding the marking symbols that are being used by staff when they are responding to the children's work. Below is a copy of the symbols that we use and their meaning.

Newchurch Marking Key

LC ✓	Learning Challenge achieved
LC ½	Learning Challenge partially achieved
.	Correction needed
	Spelling correction (KS1 and start of Y3)
Sp	In the margin for spelling correction (KS2)
VF	Verbal feedback given
? _____ ?	Look at this again
	Punctuation error
	Red Robin Response to complete
P+	Excellent presentation
P	Good presentation
P-	Improve presentation
E+	Excellent effort
E	Good effort
E-	More effort needed

We are so very thankful for the dedication parents are showing to supporting their child's learning. Can we reassure you that children will get things wrong and sometimes find the work challenging. Equally, they may find it easy. It is absolutely fine for you to support your child and help them but if they are struggling or found it too easy, please let the teacher know as this will impact on planning for the next day. When the children are in school, they will make mistakes or fly through their work and we have to adapt to that. Please do not stress about it and definitely do not feel you have to labour through tasks the children are finding too difficult.



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Printing and PDF documents

It is likely that next week we will be able to roll out Kami, a digital classroom app which synchronises with Google Classroom to transform existing documents (PDFs) into interactive documents. This will mean that you will be able to add text boxes to documents to type into, use drawing tools to create images and draw lines as well as import images and audio record themselves. We discovered this following feedback from our Year 1 and Year 2 parents who highlighted the difficulties presented in using PDF documents which could not be edited. Year 5 have been trialling it for us. We will be uploading a loom video prior to the launch so that you will know how to use it to its full potential.

Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs)

We were informed yesterday that the Year Six SATs have been cancelled for this year; just like the Year Two ones and that teacher assessment will be used instead. This is as much as we know at this point until further details are presented to us from the government. Last year, my Year 6 and Year 11 daughters were not able to sit their SATs and GCSEs respectively after working so hard towards them, so I recognise how stressful being a parent of a child who is in a SATs year is, and how you will have mixed feelings about this news.

We believe that school leaders are meeting with Ofqual to look at how teacher assessments are going to be made and what evidence base is going to be used. For Year Six parents, one thing we can confirm is that this will bear no difference on the commitment we have to making sure your children leave Newchurch ready for their future learning – they will be prepared to fly!

Usually, a public announcement is followed by detailed information from the Department for Education and therefore, once we know more details, we will communicate it to you.

As always, we will keep you well informed and aim to respond to the needs of our families whilst we are working this way.

Take care and keep safe.

Mrs Jayne Narraway

Head Teacher



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Warrington Inclusion Hub
Committed to Inclusion
2018-19

