

Newchurch Community Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway

22nd October 2021

Dear parent/carer,

How time has flown! We must have had lots of fun this half term because it only seems like yesterday when we were welcoming our newest Newchurch robins into our family. You only have to look at our Twitter feed @NewchurchCP to see the 'chocolate box curriculum' we offer here at Newchurch. It has been wonderful to see the children thoroughly enjoying their learning and working so hard. Being able to welcome parents and grandparents into school for some events has been amazing!

Academy photographs

On the first day back (1st November), Academy Photography will be coming into school to take photographs of the children. You have the option of family photographs with younger children not of school age being part of the photograph being included, siblings as well as individual photographs. If you decide to have a photograph taken with siblings not of school age then school will be open from 8:30am for you to bring your little ones along. In order for us to risk assess the numbers in the school hall, please could be ask that you complete the following form by no later than Friday 29th October. We will organise the photographing of siblings of school age within the school day.

Year Four teaching assistant

Following our announcement last week that Miss Ingham is flying the Newchurch nest, we are pleased to announce that we have secured Mrs Kerri Shepherd as her replacement. Mrs Shepherd trained as a teaching assistant at Newchurch and has experience of working with Mrs Conreen so there should be a very smooth transition for the children in Year Four when Miss Ingham leaves on 21st November.

Household Support Fund – for benefits related FSM children

The Household Support Fund is the next tranche of government funding to support vulnerable families with food costs and utility bills between October and March (previously known as the Local Support Grant, and prior to that the Winter Grant Fund). Everyone who was in receipt of the previous grant funding will automatically be notified about the new household support fund and if still on benefits will be paid £30 per child to cover the October half term for meals and towards their general household bills. If you are a family who has been in receipt of the Winter Grant you do not need to apply again.

For any new benefits related FSM children, families can make their first claim via the following application form: [Household Support Fund | warrington.gov.uk](https://www.warrington.gov.uk/parents-and-carers/primary-schools/primary-school-meals). We will be contacting our families in receipt of benefits-related free school meals to ensure they are able to access this fund. As previously done, families will receive a payment for each child either direct into their bank account or they can request post office vouchers.



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There will be further payments made over the coming months, which the local authority will confirm in more detail as soon as they are able to and we will keep you updated. For those families not on benefits related free school meals who hit financial crisis over the winter months, you can apply for the existing Welfare Assistance Fund using the following link: <https://www.warrington.gov.uk/localsupportscheme> .

Funded holiday club places for vulnerable and FSM children and other support for families in October half term

The local authority has managed to secure limited funded holiday club places for families in half term at Let's Be Kids and Livewire. A maximum of 80 places are available. Please see below for the contact details.

- **Let's Be Kids out of school club**

Cinnamon Brow Primary School* and Chapelford Village Primary School*

Tel: 07515024703 / 07395834694

Email: chapelford@letsbekids.co.uk

cinnamonbrow@letsbekids.co.uk

*Children from all schools welcome.

- **Livewire at Fairfield Old School**

Tel: 01925 442424 / 07817118287 – Kelly Farrell

Email: HAF@warrington.gov.uk

- **Food banks & community kitchens**

<https://www.warringtonva.org.uk/food-support-map>

- **Family half term events at Warrington Children's Centres**

<https://www.facebook.com/EarlyhelpSEND/>

Holidays in term time

It is with regret that we must once again remind all parents that taking your child out of school during term time for holidays is not recommended as it is your duty as parents to ensure your child attends school unless they are ill.

Many thanks to those parents who have been honest and completed the holiday request form. As a school we pride ourselves on our transparency and honesty with our parents and so we have been extremely disappointed to discover that a number of parents are saying their children have medical appointments and they need to be collected early only to discover that they are going away for the weekend or have a social engagement. In addition, some parents are turning up at school unannounced to take their children out of school and, when challenged, we find that they are going on holiday.

Please can we ask that those parents who are doing this do not ask your children to lie to us. This goes against everything we work for with the children in terms of displaying the Newchurch core values and our mission statement of preparing children to make positive contributions in society. Furthermore, your children struggle to keep secrets and often tell us the truth. They feel uncomfortable when they are asked why they are being collected and this is not fair on the children.

Moving forwards, we hope that you understand the importance of this message regarding attendance particularly following periods of remote learning and children needing to catch up. Every minute of every day counts and the staff are working tirelessly to support each and every child. Your support in this by ensuring your child is in school every day will ensure they have better life chances for the future. In order for us to monitor this,



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the school may ask for evidence of medical appointments and patterns of absence will be looked at for children who are being collected without reason or a request being submitted. Many thanks in anticipation of your understanding and support in this.

Passport to India

You may have remembered our Spanish themed lunchtime menu to celebrate European Languages Day earlier in the half term. This was a great success with many children trying out new foods for the very first time.

We are pleased to announce that the children are now being offered the chance to visit the cuisine of India on Wednesday 3rd November which coincides with the Hindu festival of Diwali. Please see below for the menu:

Newchurch Community Primary School
Invites All Pupils to an Indian Themed Lunch on
Wednesday 3rd November 2021

Chicken Tikka Massala served with
Pilau Rice and/or Chips, Naan Bread/
Poppadoms and Onion Chutney/Mango Chutney
Or
Chicken or Vegetable Korma served with Pilau
Rice and/or Chips, Naan Bread/Poppadoms and
Onion Chutney/Mango Chutney
Or
Baked Jacket potato with cheese and/or beans
served with fresh salad

Vanilla Ice Cream
Or
Fresh fruit
Unlimited salad available
Fresh milk and water

Please pay £2.40 via Parent Pay
if you normally pay for your lunch.
Reception, Years 1 & 2 do not need to make a payment. Thank You

If your child would like to have a little taste of India, then please order their lunch via ParentPay in the usual way.

Contact with members of staff

Should you wish to make contact with a member of staff, please could we remind parents to use the school email address Newchurch_primary@sch.warrington.gov.uk rather the staff school emails as they are only for communication between the staff. If your email is of a sensitive nature, please use my email address Newchurch_primary_head@sch.warrington.gov.uk Both of these emails inboxes are monitored regularly over the school holidays and weekends.

Tom Palmer (author)

Tom Palmer is a well-known children's author who will be taking part in a FREE drop in event at the Imperial War Museum North with veterans and eyewitnesses that our Newchurch robins might find of interest.

It is the "We Were There" event, Friday 29 October and Saturday 30 October 2021 10am-3pm. <https://www.iwm.org.uk/events/we-were-there-iwm-north>

Tom will be taking his scrapbooks of photographs and research documents and artefacts to show and answer questions about both his First World War books – "Armistice Runner", "Flyboy" and "Over the Line" – and his



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Second World War books “D-Day Dog”, “Spitfire”, “Arctic Star” and “After the War -from Auschwitz to Ambleside”. I have read the later book and loved it!

Finally, we would like to extend our gratitude to you all for ensuring the safety of our children, families and staff whilst we are still working under the pressures of the pandemic being at large in society. We are very secure in the knowledge that every parent is being vigilant and airing on the side of caution when their child displays any symptoms (or wider symptoms) of COVID-19.

We look forward to starting our next half term on 1st November when we will have the run up to our Christmas festivities. Ho, ho, ho!

Take care and keep safe.

Mrs Jayne Narraway

Headteacher



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Warrington Inclusion Hub
Committed to Inclusion
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