

Newchurch Community Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway

11th October 2021

Dear parent/carer,

We cannot believe how quickly this half term is passing and so many wonderful things have happened in such a short space of time. We are so lucky to be back in full time face to face teaching and loving every minute of it!

Black History Month

This month, the children will be learning about key figures in black history. We have looked at a way in which we can ensure that the children learn about a different person each year and as such have agreed on the following:

EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
						
Rosa Parks	Mary Seacole	Marcus Rashford	Jesse Owens	Martin Luther King	Katherine Johnson	George Floyd

We have purposely chosen these people as a means to enabling the children to enter into thoughtful discussion and enable them to celebrate our rich and diverse society. We have collaborated with a number of other schools to link together History, Art and English as a means of communicating the children's learning.

We would very much like to take the opportunity to invite parents (or grandparents) in to work with the children in **Key Stage Two** on Wednesday 20th October to engage in the art work the children will be doing. Year Four and Year Six will be in the morning and Year Three and Five in the afternoon. If you wish to attend, and so we can ensure adequate accommodation, please complete the following form: <https://forms.gle/zPYQG94wsQS2FycY9> We will be invite Key Stage One parents in another time.



LOTTERY FUNDED



The art work the children will be working on will be inspired by Matt Small and involve tie-dye. Please could we ask that the children bring in a plain white t-shirt for this activity. It does not have to be brand new.

Year Six Arête Residential

On Friday, we welcomed back our Year Six children following their week-long residential at the Arête Outdoor Education Centre. The feedback from both the children and the staff has been outstanding and the decision to move to a more adventurous residential for our Year Six children was definitely a great idea. If you have not had chance to see the photographs of their experience, please follow us on Twitter @Newchurchcp

Many thanks to our dedicated staff who willingly gave up time with their families and to those who held the fort back at 'home' to enable the children to have such an amazing experience. The Newchurch Team is exceptional and truly have all the children at the heart of everything they do.

Year Five parents and children will be receiving their details by the end of the week for next year's residential to Arête and Mr Duckett will be organising Year Five's enterprise to subsidise the cost.

Holiday Fun

As the half term is fast approaching, we are receiving some details of workshops and events that are being organised in the local area. In order to communicate these to you, we have created a tab 'Holiday Fun' on the school website and anything we receive will be posted on there for you to refer to should you wish to book your child on them.

Home School Agreement



Home School Agreement

We value the contribution you make to your child's education and want to strengthen this partnership through our Home School Agreement. We know that children do well at school when their parents and teachers work together, sharing responsibility for the education of your children.

<p>The Ethos of the School All children are entitled to high quality educational experiences which will enhance self-esteem, skills, knowledge and personal satisfaction, enabling them to develop a positive attitude to their own individual achievements and those of others through the experiences of continued challenges and new successes.</p>	<p>Information Exchange It is essential that we communicate with each other and exchange information about your child particularly when it might affect their work or behaviour. We have both formal and informal systems of open access and communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Teacher Conferences • Open Evenings • Open Afternoon • Termly forecasts of work • Reading records and the school website • Full reports for all children at year end • Letters from school advising of events, arrangements and policies • Parent Teacher Events • Governors' Annual General Meeting • Curriculum evenings including Back to School meetings • New Parents' Evening • Personalised Plans meetings 	<p>Attendance Regular attendance is very important and children must attend school on time unless there is a good reason, such as illness. It is your responsibility to tell the school if your child cannot attend. The Government has made it very clear that parents do not have the legal right to take children on holiday during term time. The Governors must be asked to authorise such absences beforehand.</p>
<p>Homework Homework is an integral part of the school curriculum planned. It is aimed to improve and develop important skills, particularly those of independent learning. All children are encouraged to read or share a book with you on a daily basis. In addition, homework time is extended as appropriate to the child's age.</p>	<p>Discipline and Behaviour We recognise that you, as parents have a vital role in encouraging your child to behave well and in supporting the school in maintaining good behaviour and discipline. For our part we have a positive discipline policy which includes an anti-bullying policy designed to provide a safe and secure place for all children. We would also ask that you refrain from discussing school matters on any social media network site.</p>	<p>General Complaints Procedure We have procedures for dealing with any complaints. These generally involve a discussion of any issues with the class teacher, the Headteacher and in the case of an unresolved situation with the Chair of Governors.</p>

Thank you for your co-operation.
We look forward to working together during the coming year.

Signed on behalf of Newchurch Primary School:
Jayne Narraway

To sign the home school agreement, please use this link: <https://forms.gle/xeUz7ivR3Cy6dDvFA>

We have a revised Home School Agreement and this is available on the school website: https://newchurch-primary.eschools.co.uk/website/school_policies/297015. A home-school agreement is a statement explaining:

- the school's aims and values;
- the school's responsibilities towards its pupils who are of compulsory school age;
- the responsibility of each pupil's parents; and
- what the school expects of its pupils.



Once you have read the Home School Agreement, please use this google form (<https://forms.gle/xeUz7itV3Cy6dDVFA>) to confirm your agreement to work in partnership for the benefit of your Newchurch robin. We have also updated our privacy notices and these can be found using the following link to the school website: https://newchurch-primary.eschools.co.uk/website/data_protection/352680

Attendance

Despite the pandemic, we have continued to work extremely hard on improving the children’s attendance and punctuality. Many of our children continue to have excellent attendance and punctuality and we are delighted with this. However, we are unfortunately seeing an increase in the number of holiday requests during term time. Unless they are exceptional circumstances, no holidays in term time will be authorised. The decision to authorise any request is down to the headteacher and each request will be looked at in isolation, looking at the circumstances for that family.

As a school we work very closely with the local authority attendance officer, Debbie Parlane. When attendance becomes a cause for concern, the following system will be followed:

STAGE 1 95% - 90%	Attendance is beginning to fall below the attendance target. Your class teacher will now closely monitor and work with you and your child to improve attendance.
STAGE 2 90% - 85%	Attendance has shown a continued decline Pastoral letter 1 of general concern will be issued and a copy of your child’s attendance record, with the opportunity to meet with the Attendance Coordinator to discuss if the school can assist in anyway.
STAGE 3 85% - 80%	Attendance now falls into the category of persistent absence Pastoral letter 2. Meeting with the Attendance Coordinator to discuss how school can offer support. Attendance targets and consequences. Attendance Officer and Family Support Worker notified.
STAGE 4 Below 80%	The Local Authority Education Welfare Officer will be advised and will closely monitor attendance formal intervention and referral can be actioned and prosecution considered if required.

A copy of our attendance policy can be found on our school website: https://newchurch-primary.eschools.co.uk/website/school_policies/297015 If your child is absent as a result of COVID, then this is considered authorised and considered when we monitor the attendance of all the children each month.

Many thanks in anticipation of your continued and valued support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Jayne Narraway

Headteacher

