

**NEWDIGATE CofE INFANT SCHOOL**

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**10<sup>th</sup> September 2015****Newsletter 1**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back all to a new year at Newdigate School, and a particularly warm welcome to the families and children who have joined us. A week in and we are already deep into our learning both indoors and outdoors. The new Early Years children are settling down beautifully and slowly getting used to school life.

**Parent Questionnaire**

It would seem appropriate to start with a summary of the parent questionnaire that we offered to you in July. Thank you to those who found the time to give us your feedback. Not surprisingly the questionnaire was overwhelmingly positive and supportive of what we do as a school, with 100% of parents saying they agreed or agree strongly with all of the statements. I am a great fan of using colours and pictures to tell a story, so have converted your responses into pie charts and attached them here.

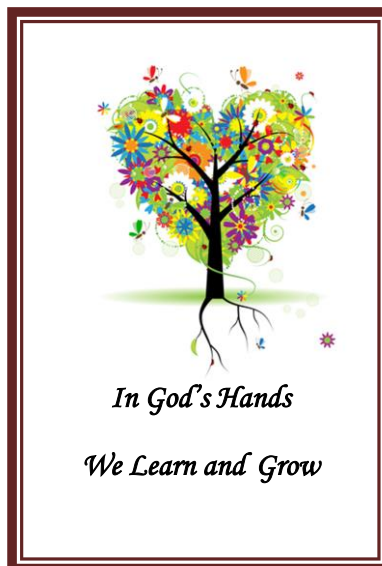
The additional comments have also been summarised and shared with members of the community. The only area that was raised several times was communication and this will be at the forefront of our minds as we get ready for the year ahead. Attached is a calendar for the autumn term and we are currently setting up an on-line calendar for our new website, which will hopefully be ready for October. I will continue to send out regular newsletters and staff are preparing a curriculum overview leaflet as we speak and will also be giving further information at the Curriculum meetings and parents consultation later this term.

**Worship at St. Peters Church**

Having been lucky enough to have Rev. Noelle Coe come to our school once a week to lead a collective worship for some time, we felt that we could further enhance this experience by holding this at the Church and had our first worship there this week. It was a very affirming and enjoyable time and we are very grateful to Noelle who has offered to continue using the church every week for this worship. The younger children will join us a little later in the term.

**Our School Values**

As a Church school with a strong Christian ethos we are committed to doing the best for all of the children in our care, making everyone feel included and valued. We have worked with members of our community to choose 6 Christian based values that will help guide us to be the best we can be in our everyday lives.



These values will form the foundation of our choices as adults and we will take the time to learn

more about what they mean and question what they might look like in our community and beyond, making sure this is understood by and relevant to the lives of the children.

We have used a 'values tree' to help children relate to the idea and have the most beautiful display in the centre of the school that the talented Mrs Bowhill has created with help from the children. Please come in and admire it if you can.

**Our value for this half-term is Love**

Right next door you will see the 'Bee Rules' which the children have helped us update and remind us what it might look like if we use our values in our school day. We will be praising 2 children from each class who have shown us they are following the rules in our weekly 'Busy Bee' assembly. Look out for the sticker that will show you your child has been a 'Busy Bee' that week and feel free to pop-in and find their 'Bee' on the board that will explain why they were chosen. We are attaching a copy of our 'Bee Rules' to this newsletter for your information and it would be great if you could talk about them at home.

**Swimming Pool**

It was with great disappointment to us all that we had to close the swimming pool early this year, our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused. Unfortunately this was unavoidable; a surveyor has advised us that the walls are not safe and we have therefore taken the precaution of fencing off the

surrounding area until we have a long-term plan in place. The pool is a great asset to the community, so we will quickly work to get it back up and running. (I think I sense a major fund-raising initiative!)

### **Top of the School**

One of the benefits of being an infant school is that the older children (Year 2) at Newdigate have always been given opportunities to lead and help the younger children at an early age, and we are continuing to give this high priority. We are working to give them opportunities to serve the community by taking on roles such as 'Play Leaders', 'Office Angels' and 'Buddies' to a child who has just joined us, not just at lunch but at other times in the day when they can 'teach' their Buddy such as 'Library Time' and PE. They will of course rise to the occasion so we will keep you informed.

Finally, there are often times in our afternoon learning when having a set play gets in the way of children's learning and we wanted to make sure that if children were fully immersed in their learning they could keep the momentum going! We are therefore trying a 'flexible' timing for the afternoon only, so far staff and children love it!

Your children will be ready for the weekend, have a lovely one!

**Paula Bliss, Headteacher**