

**21<sup>th</sup> April 2016****Newsletter 8**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to our summer term. I hope you had a restful and enjoyable Easter holidays. We have returned as usual to sunnier weather and are already making good use of our outdoor space by using the field at play and lunchtimes. We do have grander plans to develop our outdoor learning provision and are in the process of putting together a group of like-minded people to help drive this initiative forward. If you can offer your skills, enthusiasm or just your time over the next term and possibly even longer please can you contact either me or Mrs Martin to let us know? We will be holding a drop-in session for anybody who wants to know more or can offer their services on **Wednesday 11th May at 3.30 p.m.** in the Annexe when we will also share our plans and ideas with you. Please come along and support this fantastic development.

**May Queen and Attendants**

It is with great pleasure that we are able to announce that **Annie Whitehead** and **Charlie Stimpson** have been voted by their peers and teachers as our May Queen and her escort for 2016 with **Jessica Wells** and **Reece Pople** as their attendants. As always the voice of the children shines through. I know they have given this important decision a great deal of thought and consideration before choosing the people they feel have been able to best live-out our values this year.

**Creative Curriculum**

Here at Newdigate we are working hard to improve our curriculum by making it more creative and increasing learning through our planned topics. Our topic this term is **'Turrets & Tiaras.'** As well as getting off to a **'Stunning Start'** by getting together in our tri-angel groups (soon to be named after famous castles) and designing a group coat of arms, we will be holding a **'Fabulous Finale'** immersion day for the whole school. This day will immerse the children in the life of a mediaeval castle, with children in role as peasants or craftsmen choosing from a range of workshops such as preparing cures, making ink, being 'pie-makers' and much more. To finish we will all take part in our very own Norman banquet! More details will follow, but get ready for more exciting creative days and events in the future.



Continuing on our royal theme today we also celebrated the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. The children have had a little tea party and started and finished our day by singing 'God Save the Queen' which the children have been practising, along with many other well-known patriotic songs. We have also reflected on her Christmas message of 2002 below and how it reminds us of our school Bee rules to be the best that we can be and also talks about one of values!

*'I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try and do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings and put my trust in God.'*

*Queen Elizabeth II - 2002*

**Reports to parents**

I have explained before that 2016 has been a significant year for all schools; so many things have changed in education, including a complete overhaul of assessment systems that now focus on *end of year expectations*. We have been encouraged to look closely at the way we track children's progress and this includes how we report to parents. After looking around at other schools and discussing this as a staff we feel that the best way to inform you of your child's progress would be through an end of year report for ALL children. This is usual for children in Early Years but a little different for children in years 1 and 2. It will mean that children in year 1 will have a year between their reports, rather than 6 months, and children in year 2 will have completed a full year of assessments including their end of key stage SATs. In line with good practice our reports for all children will be based upon ongoing teacher assessments. Please see dates list for more information.

## Dates

A full list of dates for the term is attached.

### Display afternoon

Once again we would like to invite you to join us for our display afternoon on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July** (3.15 p.m.- 4.30 p.m.) to have the opportunity to look at learning around the school and talk to class teachers.

### Annexe Hire

We wanted to remind everybody that the Annexe is still available for hire even without the pool for £12 / hour and at a reduced rate if the school field is also hired. Please contact Mrs Moon for further details or for booking.

### Inclusion Drop-In

We would also love to see you at our 'Drop-In' for those parents who would like any help and advice on Monday April 25<sup>th</sup> at 2.30 p.m. in the Annexe. This time we will focus on supporting children by '**Dealing with Anxiety.**' Please do come along and join myself, Mrs Gill Holt-Miller (ELSA), Mrs Karen Edwards (Home School Link Worker) and Mrs Marilyn McGinnis (Special Needs Teaching Assistant). We will have some resources to look at but will also be ready to answer questions or just talk things through in private if that would be helpful.

### Sport Relief 2016



We are pleased to announce that a grand total of £183 (£98 of wristbands and £85 of mufti donations) was raised this year for Sport Relief. Thank you to everybody for supporting this worthy cause and to FONS volunteers for organising the collections and wristbands.

We look forward to a wonderful summer term ahead of us.

God Save the Queen!

**Paula Bliss, Headteacher**



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



*In God's Hands We Learn and Grow*