

26th May 2017
Newsletter 11

Dear Parents,

It is at this time of year, when the weather is fine, that we really appreciate our beautiful setting and the outdoor spaces we have. Once again we would like to thank **Mrs Martin** and her team of **'Out & Abouters'** who worked so hard last weekend to keep the school looking good and develop our outdoor spaces to support children's learning. More details are on our website in the news and events section.

We are moving forward with our **outdoor provision** and Mrs Martin will shortly be distributing an information leaflet about our **MOLE (Making Outdoor Learning Exciting) sessions** to each child at Newdigate, together with a consent form for your child that also gathers some additional medical information.

As temperatures again soar into the high 20's we, as always, have the safety and well-being of your children as our priority and would ask that you remember to provide them daily with everything they need to manage the day. Whilst we aim to guide them to be sensible and avoid the direct sun, they will be encouraged to be outside for playtime and learning time.

Named water bottle filled with water
Named sun hat (ideally with flaps or brim to cover ears)
High factor sun cream applied to exposed areas

Drop-In Session

Following our **'Sleep Soundly'** parent drop-in session we had a number of parents request more information about the **yoga and meditation sessions** we use with the children. So that you can see this in action we would like to invite you to a further drop-in session with your children in the school hall on **Wednesday 21st June 2017** after school for ½ an hour.

PAT – Pets As Therapy and Read 2 Dogs



We are extremely excited to be able to tell you about a new initiative at the school that we plan to start after the half-term break, Pets as Therapy. We are extremely fortunate to have found willing and enthusiastic volunteers within our own community who are going to support us with this. Mrs Moon and her lovely dog Lucy have been assessed and approved by the PAT group and are officially ready to start work. Lucy is a 10 year old golden retriever who loves children and Mrs Moon is already well known to us all!

Lucy will hopefully become our adopted 'school dog' and visit all the children to say hello when we return from our holiday. She will then visit us weekly and spend some time with groups of children who would benefit from some time with her or the

opportunity to read with her. Some details about the PAT organisation and the 'Read 2 Dogs' scheme is included below.

If you feel your child would not be comfortable to meet Lucy or be around her when she visits please can you let the office staff know and we will make separate arrangements for them.

To find out more please feel free to visit the website.



<http://petsastherapy.org/what-we-do/>

'We are a humanitarian charity with people at our heart. Since our founding in 1983, Pets As Therapy has been at the forefront of community based Animal Assisted Therapy across the length and breadth of the UK. Today, Pets As Therapy is the largest organisation of its kind in Europe enhancing thousands of lives every single day. What we do is beautiful in its simplicity; our inspiring and dedicated volunteers share their time and their wonderful pets with people in need.'

**PETS AS
THERAPY**
read2dogs

'Many children seem naturally comfortable in the presence of dogs. Parents and teachers can use this special relationship to enhance literacy skills and encourage reading in a relaxed environment, with dog and child sitting together. This contact between dog and

child encourages physical interaction which helps to put the child at ease. The dog acts as a non-judgemental listener and offers comfort to the child who may find reading difficult or stressful. On average over 6000 children per week, across the country, benefit from this unique experience and the results are outstanding.'

Swimming Pool

We have arranged a **grand opening** to celebrate the full opening of our swimming pool and thank those people and groups from our community who have contributed.

Save the date for Sunday 2nd July 12-4 p.m.

The swimming pool will be open and our field will be available for family picnics.

More detailed information to follow shortly.

A reminder that we will need the swimming forms and payment for your child returned to us before we start swimming after half term. We currently only have half of them returned. Thanks to those of you who have offered to help with the lessons. As always we rely on volunteers to make this work smoothly so we could not do it without you.

And finally, another plea for considerate parking outside the school. We have to make sure we are doing all we can to keep children safe.

Have a lovely break.

Paula Bliss, Headteacher

Our school value for next half-term is hope.