



NEWDIGATE CofE INFANT SCHOOL
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8th September 2022

Newsletter 1

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a brand-new school year. Foxes and Owls are already comfortable in their new spaces and have risen to the challenge of moving up; it is amazing how they immediately look so much older and wiser when they join their new classrooms! Our new Hedgehogs children have

**Our value this half-term
is love & compassion.**



**We show love and
compassion for
each other.**

John 15:12

*Love each other as I have
loved you.*

had a great first day and settled very quickly, they already feel like part of our family.

Our year always begins with things most important to our school ethos. This term we will be revisiting all of our bee rules, including our new rule 'be safe' and our value is **love and compassion**.

This first newsletter is jam-packed, apologies for the length, but we wanted to provide you all with any information you might need.

Curriculum

Tomorrow you will also receive your curriculum letters for the relevant year group that will give you more information about our curriculum. We are making sure that we are also putting curriculum information on our website, if you take a look you will see that we have made pages for each subject under the curriculum tab. Here you will be able to get a better feel for our approach to each of them.

We continue to value outdoor learning and will be making sure the children have opportunities to experience sessions as part of their MOLE (Making Outdoor Learning Exciting) sessions. We have moved from our 'Welly Wednesday' sessions to a '**Feel Good Friday**' session that will include a range of appropriate activities that support well-being.

We will also be holding a '**Meet the Teacher-Information about learning and the curriculum**' on Wednesday 28th September from 6-7. We know that this can be difficult for parents to make arrangements to attend meetings after

school, but we would urge you to put this in your diary as we will be sharing lots of information that will support your child's learning. Getting the very best outcomes for your child depends upon us working together to overcome any learning gaps or problems they have. We will be holding separate year group sessions, but we will make sure parents with more than 1 child get the information they need.

Assemblies/Worships

We are continuing to hold daily assemblies for our children including our class worships (Monday), singing assembly (Tuesday), values assembly (Wednesday), 'Busy Bee' assembly (Thursday), and of course Birthday assembly (Friday).

For those who haven't experienced Birthday Assembly before, parents will be invited to join us in the hall at allocated slots near their child's birthday. Mrs Priestley will lead the birthday celebration focussing on the children's unique qualities; it is always a delight to have parents joining us for this special time.

We are also thrilled that we will be visiting St. Peter's Church every fortnight (we walk through the graveyard) to take part in an assembly led by Reverend Andrew Coe or one of his team. We will, of course, also be gathering there for our **Harvest celebration** this year.

Covid Information

Whilst we no longer need a risk assessment for Covid, we are aware that we may still experience cases, so I have copied the latest guidance for you below. Generally, we have moved away from using LFD tests and responding to Covid like any other respiratory infection.

- *adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a **high temperature or feel unwell**, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature*
- *children and young people who are **unwell and have a high temperature** should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. **They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.***
- *adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other*

people for **5 days**, which is when they are most infectious. **For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days.**

Start of Day

We have now moved to a single start time of **8.50 a.m.** for all classes. As always, we would ask that children arrive in plenty of time so they start their day feeling calm and ready for learning. We often start our day with the very important phonics learning, and do not want children to miss out on this. Registers will close at 9.05 a.m. and any children arriving after that will be registered as late unless there is a pre-arranged plan for exceptional circumstances.

Usually teachers are focussed on making sure the day starts well for the children, so they will only be able to have very quick conversations. If you need to have any longer conversations we would ask that you book a slot after school with them. If you need to make us aware of anything important please send a message to the office.

ELSA

The children know that we have an **ELSA (Emotional Literacy Assistant)**, Mrs Holt-Miller, in our school who can help them if they are finding it hard to manage strong feelings and emotions which are becoming a barrier to learning. Please let us know if you feel it would be beneficial for your child to be referred to work with her. We are finding that the demands for this role have grown greatly in the last year so please be aware that we may need to allocate limited sessions or place your child on a waiting list as we prioritise those in need.

Marvellous Me

Please can we ask all of new parents to sign up to our Marvellous Me app as soon as possible, this will help us provide you with information about your children's achievements and marvellous moments as well as information about any bumped heads and some aspects of learning.

Diary Dates Autumn 2022

01.09.22	INSET DAY
02.09.22	INSET DAY
05.09.22	Back to School (Yr 1 and Yr 2)
22.09.22	8.50 a.m. Reading café – whole school
28.09.22	6.00 p.m. Curriculum Evening (Whole School) (possible FONS AGM, tbc)
30.9.22	MacMillan Coffee Afternoon 3.10 p.m. School Hall
18.10.22	Fantastic Fred Experience a.m. Whole School travelling NHS funded show about mental health

We are recruiting for **part-time teaching assistant roles** within the school for October. If you are interested in applying please ask for more information from the school office.

Our breakfast and after school clubs will continue to run as usual this term. They are now often full so we would urge you to book early to avoid disappointment. You can book these through your Parentmail App – see <https://vimeo.com/380507523> for how to do this.

This autumn we will once again be running football and gardening club after-school clubs. Mrs Moon has sent out information about this today. We are keen to find out your views about other clubs you might be interested in, so will be sending out a parent questionnaire next week.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Paula Bliss
(Headteacher)

20.10.22	2.00 p.m. Harvest Festival Service in St. Peter's Church (tbc)
21.10.22	INSET DAY
24.10.22	Half Term Week
31.10.22	Back to school
09.11.22	Meet the Teacher: Parent Consultations (3.30 p.m.- 6.00 p.m.)
16.11.22	Meet the Teacher: Parent Consultations (5.30 p.m. – 8.00 p.m)
25.11.22	Hoops to go home
02.12.22	Hoops up in Hall
03.12.22	School Xmas Fayre (tbc)
05.12.22	Dress rehearsal for Christmas Performance
06.12.22	10.00 a.m. Christmas performance in school hall
07.12.22	10.00 a.m. Christmas performance in school hall
09.12.22	Nasal Flu immunisation
09.12.22	Christmas Jumper Day
15.12.22	6.00 p.m School Christingle Family Service at St. Peter's Church, everybody welcome (tbc)
16.12.22	Last day of school, break up for Christmas, 2.00 p.m. finish

