



NEWDIGATE CofE INFANT SCHOOL
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20th October 2022

Newsletter 3

Dear Parents,

As we end our first half-term of the year we have a lot to celebrate. Today we visited the church for our Harvest celebration. This year our theme was **'Sowing the Seeds of Generosity'**. Watching the economic crisis unfold before us, we felt compelled to use this as an opportunity to think

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.

about how lucky and thankful we are for the food we have and be ready to show our generosity by sharing what we have with those in need. You have already shown great generosity by donating food that has been taken to Crawley Open House by Ian Wilkins. We were thrilled to have him join us for our service today and learn more about the work they do.

Talking of generosity, we collected a lot of bottles yesterday and had a very comfy PJ day! Thank you. They will be stored safely, ready for our Christmas fayre.

In the last few weeks we have been focussing in on activities that will support children's **personal development and well-being**, helping them to better understand how to keep themselves safe and healthy.



Last Monday, we raised awareness of looking after our physical and mental well-being by participating in Young Minds **'Hello Yellow Day'**. We looked at the five ways to improve our well-being. The day started with an assembly where we were all active together and participated in a morning workout. We then took notice of our surrounding with Mrs Denyssen and did some meditation. In our classrooms we

connected and made paper chains of the people we connect to when we are feeling low. We also thought about what we could give to other people to improve their well-being. Finally, we all tried something new in the afternoon ranging from baking to pampering ourselves making bath bombs, painting to music and getting muddy in the woods! A great day was had by all and we most definitely felt brighter when we ended the day!

Last Wednesday we held our NSPCC **'Stay Safe, Speak Out'** assembly. The whole school watched the on-line presentation that outlined the many ways children could stay safe and look after themselves if they were experiencing problems. Children also learnt how to talk to trusted adults and were introduced to Childline. This briefly introduced the 'privates stay private' rule. You will have received a letter explaining what we did in more detail and giving you examples of what you might do to continue this good work at home. Please can you take the time to look at the Pantosaurus song with your child: [\(16\) The Pantosaurus Song Talk PANTS with NSPCC Pants song #TalkPants 720p HD - YouTube](#)

There is also a book available to read at home: [Pantosaurus and the Power of PANTS! paperback children's book | NSPCC Shop](#)

On Tuesday we were lucky enough to have a visiting NHS funded 'Fantastic FRED' show.

'The Fantastic FRED Experience is a FREE live performance-led mental health resource for primary aged children delivered by a team of trained actors.'

Children are able to take part in a live, interactive and engaging performance delivered inside an immersive mobile classroom, your school hall or a large classroom.

Specifically designed to inform, equip and build resilience, it delivers simple, memorable and practical ways that young children can look after their mental health and explains the link between our physical and mental health.

The letters in FRED's name represent the areas of educational focus:

- Food**
- Rest**
- Exercise**
- Devices**

More information can be found at: [Home \(thefantasticfredexperience.com\)](http://thefantasticfredexperience.com)



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Well done to all involved. We raised a fabulous **£153.25** that is going to this worthy cause. Thank you for your support.

Movie Night.

Thank you to FONS/FOPS for organising our autumn movie night last week. It was very well attended and the children had a great time. We are thrilled that we now have a full committee and look forward to the many events that they have planned for the rest of the year. As always, more hands make light work, so if you can get involved let them know.

Science Day

A few weeks ago, Miss Langthorne sent off a small group of passionate key stage 1 scientists to Penthorpe School for a 'Space Chase' day. They had a fantastic time and came back filled with knowledge and enthusiasm.

Open Morning

We are holding our **Open Morning** here at Newdigate on **Wednesday 2nd November (9.30 – 11.30)**. You are our best advocates. Please can we ask that you spread the word by talking to other families and if possible by sharing our attached flyer on any social media group or platform you belong to or know of. The more the merrier!

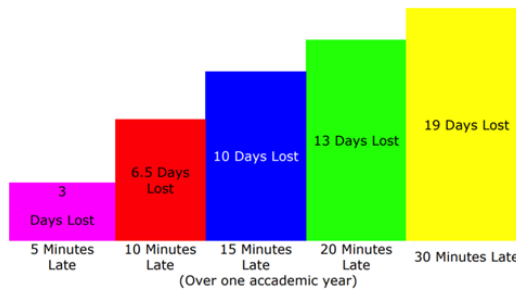
Attendance.

Children need to attend school regularly if they are to make progress and succeed in their learning. Research shows a clear link between poor attendance, poor academic achievement and poor life chances later. Our aim is that children are organised enough to be on time, resilient enough to manage any tricky days and committed enough to want to always do their best. We will be adding the whole school attendance rate to each newsletter so that you can see how we are doing as the year progresses. We can start with a very positive message that our current attendance is significantly above national rates; our target is to keep this going through the year or even improve on it! Thank you for your support, it really is appreciated.

Please can we also remind parents that school starts at 8.50 a.m. for all children.

Every Minute Counts

If you arrive late to school everyday your learning begins to suffer. Below is a graph showing how being late to school everyday over a school year adds up to lost learning time.



School lunches

We have noticed a growing number of children arrive at school with packed lunches. Whilst we appreciate that for some children this is necessary, we are keen to make use of the universal infant free school meal offer and avoid any waste. Please can you make sure that you talk to the office staff before sending your child in with a packed lunch to check if we can make any adjustments that would help them access the school hot lunch.

Volunteers

Finally, we are asking for our help with a couple of important things.

We are very keen to expand our parent helper team and are looking for volunteers who can spare us some time on a regular basis to **hear readers** in school. Please speak to Mrs Priestley or Mrs Moon if you are able to volunteer.

Sadly, our playground boat, HMS Newdigate has been damaged over the years and now needs to be taken down. We are looking for a small team to get stuck in and help us demolish and clear the wood. Please let the school office know and we can plan a weekend date to get the job done.

Have a wonderful half-term break with your families.

See you back at school on **31st October.**

Mrs Paula Bliss

Whole school attendance to date this year 96.79%

Baby Belles are looking for new members. Please see the flyer below for more information.



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
05.10.22	Individual school photos.
18.10.22	Fantastic Fred Experience a.m. Whole School - travelling NHS funded show about mental health
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



In God's Hands We Learn and Grow

