



Newchurch Primary School

News from Newchurch Primary School and across the Federation

[Executive Head teacher Miss K Howarth](#) [Head of School Mrs L Parkin](#) [Office Administrator Mrs P Knight](#)

28th February 2025

VALUE: HOPE

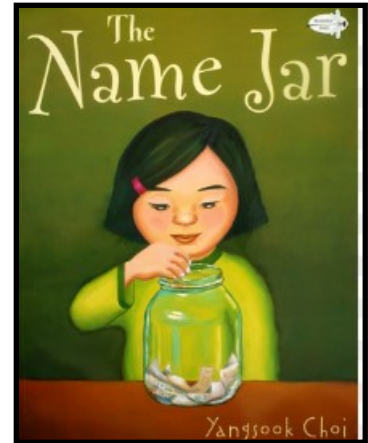


WE CAN LIVE RESPECTFULLY—ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK

Our value is 'hope' for the next two weeks. On entry to assembly the children listened to a lovely classical piece of music called 'Hope' by the Turkish musician Mark Ilayahu. Mrs Parkin then spoke about National Mother Language day which was on Friday last week.

In order to illustrate the point, she read 'The Name Jar' by Xansook Choi which is the story of Unhei who has recently moved from Korea to America. At first, her new classmates tease her about her name in a way that they think is funny but this makes Unhei incredibly self-conscious.

The book explores the idea of your name being tied to your identity and that it takes little effort to learn somebody's name and the correct pronunciation and how this can make somebody from a different place feel more welcome and accepted. The story is one of hope: The children realise their mistake, and in the end, Unhei feels welcomed and proud of her name.



CAN WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Comic Relief will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of Red Nose Day on 21st March, only 4 weeks time!

The charity would like us to **'go big, give big and feel good together'** and to embrace this campaign we will be hosting our own 'Big Bake Week' starting on **Monday 17th March**.

We would like to invite all of our families to take part and bake cakes to sell in school with funds raised being split between the national charity and our own fundraising efforts to enhance our playtimes. As shared in the newsletter before half term we have some super exciting plans to make playtimes more exciting but will need some significant start up funds to make this happen!

We welcome any donations of cakes but would love to see some made either to support the red nose/funny theme or our theme of play to embrace children's games and pastimes. So please get creative!

The more cakes we have to sell over the week the more of a difference we can make to our children at playtime but also to national good causes!



WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE—READING UPDATE

As many of you who have older children that came to Newchurch in the past, know, we have changed the way that we listen to children read and subsequently, how we move them up through the reading levels.



Research has shown conclusively that children need to have books that are at the correct level to read and re-read for fluency, at home in order to make progress and enjoy learning reading in the long term. In the past, the right level was thought of as being books that were a challenge, however, we know now that books should only contain phonemes (pure sounds) that children have learnt in class at the early stages of reading and therefore, children will progress through the reading levels more slowly than they would have done in the past. This is to consolidate their learning and to focus on reading fluently and with expression rather than struggling through a text.



As part of our phonics scheme (Little Wandle) we deliver group reading with the children up to three times per week. This means that teachers no longer have time to hear every child read individually on a weekly basis (as we would have tried to do in the past). Instead, your child is heard read as part of a small group, by an adult up to three times per week. This will not be recorded in reading records. Reading records are used instead to record the book that the child is on and then parents should record in this, every time they hear their child read so that we can keep track of this. Children who need extra support, will of course be heard individually at school in addition to group reading and this will be recorded in the reading record.

We do have a number of volunteers who hear readers too and this will also be recorded in reading records. For our younger readers, staff will change reading books once a week and we encourage parents to ensure that they are repeating these same books with their children, daily, as repetition builds fluency and strong word recognition.

As children progress into Year 2 and 3 and they are less reliant on phonics, they will become a 'free reader'. This means that they will choose books from the free reader shelves and will be able to choose them freely and as often as they'd like.

In KS2, where children need to be able to read in order to learn, staff monitor children's reading closely through daily activities in all lessons (they are reading questions in maths, texts in every lesson and instructions related to completing tasks etc every day).

Of course, again, staff will ensure that children in KS2 who find reading more challenging are heard on an individual basis in the week and we encourage parents to hear their older children read regularly still too.

Children who learn to read well at an early age have significantly better outcomes throughout Primary and Secondary school and later life and this must be a team effort from both school and home.

We thank those parents that make the commitment to listen to their children read daily at home - it really does make a difference!



MAKE THE HEALTHY CHOICE FOR A FREE SCHOOL MEAL!

School meals are **FREE** for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2!

Looking at our numbers over 30 families are not benefitting from this scheme at present and we would like to remind parents that the menu is published each week in the newsletter and ordering your child's meal is super easy on School Money. Why not make the healthy choice to try a **FREE** meal next week?



THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE— MENTORING

Thank you to all who attended our mentoring sessions this week. We hope you found the sessions insightful and valuable in understanding your child's progress and the areas that staff are focusing on to support their development.

For those who were unable to attend, your child's mentoring sheet will be sent home, and should you require a follow up conversation please contact the school office who will do their very best to facilitate an appointment. Please be aware that class teachers will be resuming their additional commitments once mentoring week finishes today and it may not be very easy to arrange a mutually convenient time. Thank you for your support.



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE - ONLINE

The UK Safer Internet Centre has recently published an important report highlighting children and young people's exposure to online scams. The report is based on a survey of 2,013 children aged 8 to 17 years old and their parents. Key findings include:

79% of children encounter scams online at least once a month.

27% of parents and carers report that their child has fallen victim to an online scam.

26% of children who were scammed said they blamed themselves.

The report underscores the emotional impact on children and a troubling culture of victim-blaming surrounding online scams.

It's crucial that we stay informed and vigilant to protect our children in the digital world.

We attempted to host an online safety session for parents last term but were saddened to have a zero response to the invite. We will continue to provide regular safety updates in the newsletter and continue to encourage you to discuss online safety with your children.

Please do reach out to the school if you need any further support or resources and we will do our best to help.

CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE NEWCHURCH NINE?

We are still on the lookout for raffle prizes for our Newchurch Nine event. Thank you to everyone who has already donated! If you are a business owner or know someone who is and would like to support our event by donating a prize, please contact the school.

If you are unable to donate a prize but would like to support in some way, entries are still open for runners! For information go to <https://www.eventrac.co.uk/e/the-newchurch-nine-2025-12826> or just search Newchurch Nine on [Eventrac.co.uk](https://www.eventrac.co.uk)

We are also very grateful for anyone who would like to volunteer on the day (no running involved!), if this is you, please let Miss Bartlett know. **This year's event will take place on 18th May.**



PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS WILL RESUME NEXT WEEK



KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE—SMART WATCHES

We encourage the children to wear a watch to school to help them learn how to tell the time and to foster independence. We are aware that watches have many, many more functions these days and it seems timely (excuse the pun) to remind parents that smart watches with internet connectivity and messaging capabilities should not be worn to school.

Also, please be aware that the children wear watches at their own risk and the school cannot be held responsible for loss or damage to expensive items worn on site.



MAKING HEALTHY CHOICES - COMMON CHILDHOOD CONDITIONS

We have been alerted by Public Health this week that there a lot of nasty common childhood conditions doing the rounds on the Island at present. Therefore we thought it sensible to share some of the key advice more widely with our community—just in case! Please always alert the school if your child shows symptoms of the following...

Norovirus is the most common cause of gastroenteritis in England, often called the 'winter vomiting bug'. It causes symptoms like nausea, diarrhoea, and vomiting. It spreads through hand-to-mouth contact, from contaminated surfaces (equipment, hands, toys, dirty nappies) and less commonly, through the air by sneezing and coughing.

What you need to do:

Remain at home until 48 hours if have both and 24 hours for one, after symptoms have stopped and your child is well enough to return.

Encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene practices.

Clean kitchen and toilet areas regularly.

Scarlet fever is a bacterial illness that mostly affects young children. It causes a red rash, high fever, and a "strawberry" tongue. It spreads by close contact with an infected person, through respiratory droplets from coughing, sneezing, singing, or talking and by contaminated hands, utensils, toys, or other items.

What you need to do:

Seek medical advice from a GP if your child shows symptoms.

Stay at home and away from school until 24 hours after starting antibiotics. Siblings without symptoms can attend school but should seek treatment if symptoms develop.

Encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene.

Clean and disinfect daily using standard cleaning products.

Vacuum carpets and soft furnishings daily.

Clean frequently touched surfaces regularly.

Cover all cuts and wounds to prevent infection.

Chickenpox is a common childhood illness, especially in children under 10. Most adults are immune because they had chickenpox as children. It usually occurs in winter and spring.

Symptoms are sudden and include fever, runny nose, cough, and a spotty rash. The rash starts as fluid-filled blisters that scab over and fall off within 1-2 weeks.

Chickenpox is infectious from 2 days before the rash appears until all blisters have crusted over (usually 5-6 days).

What you need to do:

Stay at home until all blisters have crusted over.

Seek medical advice for high-risk individuals if exposed or symptomatic.





MAKE IT HAPPEN BY JOINING NEWCHURCH!

Do you or a family you know have a child due to start school in September 2025?

We have been alerted, that due to a fall in the birth rate on the Isle of Wight, our Reception Class is unlikely to be full and we will have spaces for the new academic year.

We would love to welcome more families to our school and so please spread the word!

We are happy to show any prospective parents around our school—please encourage families to book a school tour with the school office if they are keen to see how we 'make it happen!'



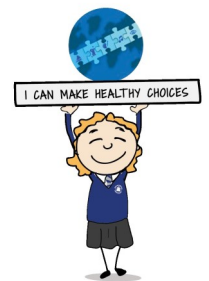
MAKING IT HAPPEN AT THE CROSS COUNTRY!

On Tuesday, a group of KS2 children travelled to Victoria Recreational ground for a cross country competition. The Year 5 and 6 races were qualifiers for the Hampshire finals, which meant the event was super busy with 24 schools and over 300 children in attendance!

The races were split into year 3/4 girls, year 3/4 boys, year 5/6 girls and year 5/6 boys. The year 3 and 4 races were 1.2km long and the year 5 and 6 races were 1.8km long. The ground was very wet and muddy which made the distance feel even tougher than usual.

All of the children showed fantastic resilience throughout their races, we even had some top 25 finishers out of almost 100 runners in each race, super impressive!

Well done everyone.



Yr 3 YEAR 3 'MAKE IT HAPPEN' WITH HARRIET MUNCASTER



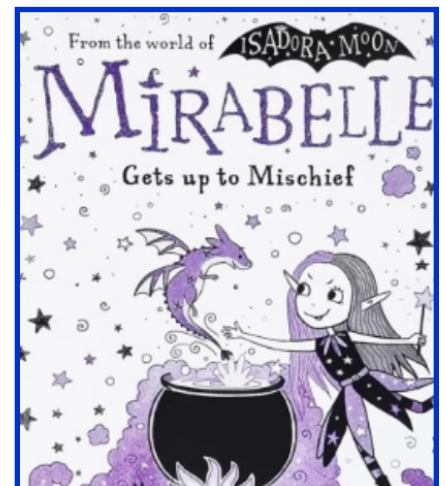
Earlier this week, Wharton Class watched an exciting webinar with author Harriet Muncaster, who writes the very popular *Isadora Moon*, *Mirabelle*, *Victoria Stitch*, and *Emerald* books.

Harriet showed the children how to draw, make 3D models of characters' rooms using paper and card, and shared photos of her dolls in different places.

She also gave top tips for becoming an author including:

- *Never stop playing.
- *Always follow your passion.

The children were truly inspired and excited to try these tips themselves and some have already started to write their own books claiming that they would also like to be an author when they are older!



POETRY CORNER

Next week it is National Careers Week. We will be celebrating this in school and across the rest of March. The poem *When I Grow Up* by William Wise seems very relevant to start our celebrations and get us thinking about how we can make our career dreams happen!



When I Grow Up

By William Wise

When I grow up
I think I'll be
A detective
With a skeleton key.

I could be a soldier
And a sailor too
I'd like to be a keeper
At the public zoo.

I'll own a trumpet
And I'll play a tune
I'll keep a space ship
And fly to the moon.

I'll be a cowboy
And live in a saddle
I'll be a guide
With a canoe and a paddle.

I'd like to be the driver
On a diesel train
And it might be fun
To run a building crane.

I'll live in a lighthouse
And guard the shore
And I know I'll want to be
A dozen things more!

CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

We are excited to announce a special mission and we need your help! We are creating a display to showcase the amazing journeys of our former pupils. If you or someone you know attended Newchurch Primary School, we would love to hear from you!

Please get in touch and share your story of how you 'made it happen.' Let us know where in the world you are working and what job you now do. If you are willing to share a photograph that would be amazing!

Your experiences will inspire our current pupils and show them the incredible possibilities that lie ahead.



To contribute, please take a look at our school Facebook page and respond to our plea or email the school office directly.

Thank you for being a part of our Newchurch family!

LOOKING FOR...ALUMNI

🌟🌟 Careers Week: Make Your Future Happen! 🌟🌟

We need YOUR help to inspire the next generation!

💡 As part of our preparation for careers week, we want to show children how they can make it happen with their futures. 💡

🌍 Ex-students, we'd love to hear from you! 🌍

- ◆ Where are you now?
- ◆ What are you doing?
- ◆ How are you making a difference in your career?

👉 Comment below and share your journey! 👉

Your story could inspire a child to chase their dreams and take the first step toward a bright future! Let's show them how diverse and amazing career paths can be having started at Newchurch.

🌟 Together, we can shape the future! 🌟

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



The Local Authority are forming a new Parent Carer Forum for the Isle of Wight to ensure the voices of parents and carers are heard in shaping services for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Your input is crucial!

Please read the letter sent with the newsletter for more details and join the team at one of their upcoming listening events to share your experiences and help officers build a strong, effective forum.

U9 GIRLS MAKE IT HAPPEN—FOOTBALL FRIENDLY: NEWCHURCH VS. GREENMOUNT

On Thursday, Newchurch travelled to Ryde to take on Greenmount in an exciting U9 Girls friendly match. Despite the muddy pitch, Newchurch started strong with a brilliant passing sequence from Marlee, Martha, and Margot, leading to Annie scoring the opener.

Greenmount soon equalized with a lovely strike into the bottom corner, making it 1-1. Just three minutes later, Annie made an amazing run and set up Margot, who scored to make it 2-1 for Newchurch. Greenmount tried to fight back, but superb defending by Amelie and Maisie kept them at bay. Newchurch then broke away on the counter-attack, and Martha struck a stunning goal from outside the box, making it 3-1 at halftime.



The second half saw end-to-end action, with both teams creating chances but the defence standing strong. Annie and Marlee had shots on goal, but they narrowly missed. Greenmount continued to press, but Amelie, Remy, Ophelia, and Maisie held firm. With just 5 minutes left, a brilliant pass from Margot allowed Annie to score her second goal, sealing the match at 4-1 for Newchurch. In the dying minutes, Ophelia made an unbelievable save to secure the victory.

Full time: 4-1 to Newchurch.

Well done, girls! Your determination and resilience throughout the whole game were amazing!

Yr 5 YEAR 5 MAKE IT HAPPEN WITH A GLOBAL CULINARY ADVENTURE



This week, Edward from Chartwells took Year 5 on a culinary journey around the world. He prepared and served an array of dishes, showcasing the diverse spices and ingredients used in various cuisines. The class had the opportunity to taste Italian, Mexican, Indian, and Chinese dishes, discovering new flavours and expanding their palates. Hopefully they told you at home all about it!



This experience will greatly benefit the children in their food and technology lessons this term, where they will be designing, making, and evaluating vegetarian dishes.



WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN— KEY EVENTS NEXT WEEK!

MONDAY 3rd

TUESDAY 4th

WEDNESDAY 5TH

THURSDAY 6TH

FRIDAY 7th

CLUBS START

KS1 Celebrations

U9 Boys Football

U11 Girls Football

U11 Girls Football

Farm

Year 5 Showcase



SO WHAT HAVE WE BEEN LEARNING THIS WEEK?



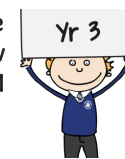
Donaldson Class have had a very musical week! We have really enjoyed performing our favourite songs to our friends. Some of the most popular were from the Wicked soundtrack, HOTTOGO by Chappell Roan, APT by Rose and Bruno Mars. It's incredible how many of the lyrics we can recall and our dance moves are very impressive too. To enhance our interest in singing and performing, we made our own microphones at the junk modelling table. Next week we would like to make some musical instruments and would be very grateful for any junk modelling donations such as cereal boxes, tubes, yoghurt pots and bottles (no egg boxes please). In drawing club, we have been drawing our own giant characters, castles and we have been coming up with plans to help the giant catch Jack. In maths we have been practicing our counting skills and have been looking at one more and one less on our fingers and on a number track.

Rosen class has had a busy first week back. The children were so excited to see Miss Barnett again, who has come to join us for some of her teacher training. In Maths we have been starting to look at numbers to 50. The children are working hard at making sure they think carefully about how many tens and ones the numbers have before writing them down. We have started by looking at ordering numbers and finding one more and one less. In Literacy we have been working hard on our sentence of the week and ensuring that this has capital letters and full stops. On Thursday the children had an RE day in which they were looking at changes. They started by talking about changes that have happened to them, comparing themselves to pictures of when they were babies. Before moving on to looking at changes Jesus made to other people's lives.



The children have been very excited about being back at school after the half term. We have had a very busy week, especially with all our new topics for this term. We have been reading our new topic book 'Toby and the Fire of London', sequencing our new story, writing short descriptive sentences about the pictures in the book and beginning to order past and present tense words. The children cannot wait to write a recount/diary entry as our big task in the end few weeks. During Phonics, we have been focusing on the letters 'or' but the sound being 'er', for example, word, work, world, worth. The children have enjoyed making actions to help with remembering this. In Science, our new topic is 'Making new plants' - we have been focusing on the basic needs of a plant and how to plant them. The children know that we will be planting our own sunflowers and checking on them weekly to measure any growth. In Maths is 'Multiplication and Division' and we have begun with grouping objects. For example, having 6 groups of 5 donuts in each and working out how many donuts that is altogether. Although this is a new topic, the children have really impressed me with their work and their excitement and engagement with their maths.

This week in Wharton Class we have started our new book, *The Night Box* by Louise Greig and Ashling Lindsay. We have been looking at the language of the book. We will use the book as a stimulus to write poetry over the next few weeks, painting a picture with our words. In Maths we have been looking at divisibility dividing 2 digit numbers by 1 digit, with no remainders and with remainders. In Science we have started our topic of States of Matter. after a review of the topics so far in Science this year. We have looked at how the different particles behave in solids, liquids and gases. And sorted some materials into solids, liquids and gases. In PSHE we have looked at helping each other to stay safe and identifying people who can help us to keep safe, for example lollipop people.



Angelou Class have had a great first week back! We started our new English learning journey and used the 'Howler' scene in Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets as a hook. We focused on the Howler and looked at ways of text marking to help us 'perform' the howler to get maximum impact. In maths, we have been looking at the relationship between mixed numbers and improper fractions and how to convert between the two. We looked at the life of Boudicca in our humanities lesson and used different sources to get a better idea of who she was. In science, we investigated different types of switches and how they work and designed and made our own switches to use in our DT project.

This week Duffy Class has been busy, ready to learn and excited to be back! We started off the week flexing our maths skills and completing an arithmetic task, demonstrating how we can efficiently complete maths questions. We have also been looking at fractions of numbers, calculating unit and non-unit fractions by using bar models and dividing the whole number by the denominator. In English we started our new rich text 'The Dam' by David Almond. The book is mainly made up of short sentences and dialogue, written in a poem-like structure. We used the illustrations in the book to help us write interesting descriptions, varying the position of clauses, to help the reader imagine the village. In science we have been looking at substances and how they change state. We have been looking at reversible and irreversible liquids, planning investigations to prove that substances can be reversed when they change state. We had RE day this week, looking at Humanism. We looked at the rules of Humanism and realised that our whole school ethos is very similar to these rules. The class were very proud explaining concepts and understanding what it is like to be a good citizen. We also started our Food Technology project this week, we had Edward from Chartwells come in to take us on a culinary journey around the world. We tried foods from Mexico, Italy, India and China. A brilliant first week back.



Year 6 have had a busy and exciting week! In maths, they have been learning how to find percentages of amounts and solving tricky problems. In English, they used their imagination to bring the mysterious 'Blucher' from *The Boy in the Tower* to life—first by drawing their own interpretations, then creating descriptive vocabulary, and finally writing character descriptions. A highlight of the week was a visit from Ed at Chartwells, who taught them about the hidden sugars in foods and even treated them to some chocolate hummus! In PE, they joined Year 5 for an orienteering challenge, developing their teamwork and navigation skills. Meanwhile, in science, they investigated how sound changes with distance, exploring why volume decreases as an object moves further away.

Great work, Year 6!

CONVERSATION STARTERS!

Want to know what your children have been learning this week? Here are some conversation starters that may help you talk to them about what they have been up to in class!

YEAR R

Talk to me about ... giants, castles, beans and beanstalks

Words to use ... ginormous, clambering, slinking, twisting, chopping, booming, mysterious

Top tips ... Ooh those tricky words are super tricky! Can you help us practice them at home? You could play a game of tricky word bingo.

We have been reading ... Jack and the Beanstalk

YEAR 2

Talk to me about... The Great Fire of London

Words to use... water, light, sun, soil, seed, growth

Tips for the week... Check your child's bag for the homework spelling sheet.

We have been reading... Toby and the Great Fire of London, by Margaret Nash

YEAR 4

Talk to me about... Boudicca

Words to use... Iceni, rebellion, warrior, Londinium

Tip of the week... look for examples of the prefix 'inter' and see how it changes the meaning of the root word

We are reading... Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets by JK Rowling

YEAR 6

Talk to me about... being sugar savvy.

Words to use... natural and added sugar, ingredients, alternatives, food groups, sugar crash.

Tips for the week... check how high up 'sugar' is on the ingredients list of your favourite snacks.

We have been reading... 'Boy in the Tower' by Polly Yo-Hen

YEAR 1

We have been learning ... Numbers to 50 & changes Jesus made

Words to use ... Smaller, bigger, more, less, changes, before, after

Tips for the week ... Can you practise counting forwards and back to 50.

We have been reading ... Alan's Big Scary Teeth, by Jarvis

YEAR 3

Talk to me about... helping each other to stay safe

Words to use... respect, support networks, relationships, keeping safe, getting help, relationships

Tips for the week... think about activities outside of school where the children either help to keep others safe or are looked after by someone. Why do we trust these people, what should we do if we feel something isn't right?

We have been reading... The Night Box by Louise Greig and Ashling Lindsay.

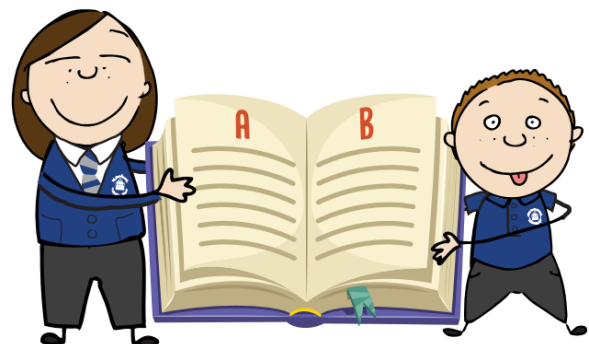
YEAR 5

Talk to me about..... finding fractions of a number.

Words to use equal, share, denominator, unit and non-unit fractions, multiply, divide.

Tips for the week look out for when we use fractions in real life. Do you have to calculate the fraction of a number?

We have been reading..... The Dam by David Almond



Key Stage 2 Celebration Assembly



Year 3: George L

Year 4: Charlie R

Year 5: Isabelle M

Year 6: Grace S



Oscar H



Boedi R



Natalie dB



Ethan H



Harvey KL

Sticker Cards:

BLUE:

Katie P (2) Archie C (4) Jim F (7) Ethan H (1)

YELLOW:

Eddie M (5)

GREEN:

Amelia B (4)

WELL DONE!

We are so proud of all of our winners!

Lunchtime Menu – Chartwells for week beginning 3rd March 2025

	Monday 3rd	Tuesday 4TH	Wednesday 5TH	Thursday 6TH	Friday 7th
Main	Cheese & Tomato Pizza	Sausage & Mash	Roast Gammon, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken & Vegetable Korma with Rice	Fish Finger & Chips
Vegetarian	BBQ Quorn Fillet & Rice	Quorn Sausages & Mash	Roasted Vegetable & Cranberry Slice	Tomato & Sweetcorn Pasta	Quorn Dippers & Chips
Dessert	Chocolate Brownie & Orange Slices	Peach and Ginger Pudding	Oat Cookie & Fruit	Lemon Shortbread	Vanilla Ice Cream