



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](#)

6th December 2024

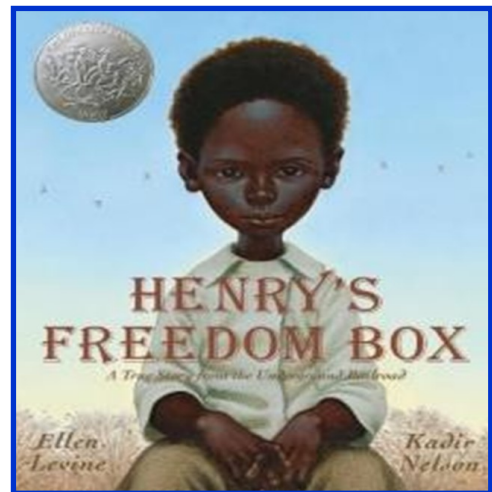
VALUE: PEACE



WE CAN LIVE RESPECTFULLY - ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK

This week in assembly, in the run up to Christmas, Mrs Parkin told the children that our theme for the next three weeks is 'Peace'.

As it is National Abolition of Slavery week this week, Mrs Parkin read the story of Henry 'Box' Brown to the children. This is a story of resilience and courage as Henry, with the help of others who knew that slavery was wrong, mailed himself to another area in America where slavery had already been abolished. This true story starts with Henry as a slave and although he had an 'owner' who treated him well, he was not free but the story ends with hope as Henry's plan works and he lives out the rest of his life peacefully as a free man in Philadelphia.



If you would like to read the story for yourself please [click here](#)



THE HALL FAMILY MAKE IT HAPPEN!

We are incredibly grateful to the Hall family for their generous donation of two beautifully decorated, extremely large Christmas trees to our school community. Their kindness has brought an extra touch of holiday magic to our school, creating a festive and joyful atmosphere for all to enjoy. Please do take a look next time you visit us!

Thank you, Hall family, for your wonderful contribution and for spreading the holiday cheer!

We feel very lucky to have such amazing community support.





WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN— OUR NATIVITY PRODUCTION

Children in KS1 have been busy rehearsing their Nativity Production of Prickly Hay. They are learning their words and signing the songs ready to perform to friends and family on two separate performances on December the 16th at 5pm and the 17th at 1.30pm. Families who have purchased tickets for the performances should look for the programmes in their child's bookbags next week. We look forward to seeing you there!



As well as being able to purchase professional photographs of your child in costume, FONS are also hosting a water and wine stall and refreshments will be available so please bring along your extra pennies to the event.

We are also looking for **donations of wine bottles—both full or empty** and so if your seasonal celebrations are starting early this weekend, please save your empty bottles for us or even better— donate a full bottle for our fundraising efforts! All bottles to be given directly to the school office please!



YEAR R 'MAKE IT HAPPEN' ON A WOODLAND WALK

"We're going on a bear hunt, we're going to catch a big one. What a beautiful day! We're not scared!"

Donaldson Class hunted through the woods on our bear hunt on Wednesday afternoon. They found wavy grass, oozy mud, a big river and a deep dark forest. They couldn't go over it, they couldn't go under it, they had to go through it!



The class finally found some teddy bears having a picnic so they sang them the teddy bear picnic song and enjoyed a teddy bear picnic together before playing some games and then heading back to school. What a fab afternoon! Well done Donaldson class!



MAKING IT HAPPEN AT FOREST SCHOOL

Our six enthusiastic forest school adventurers had an exciting week filled with creativity and fun at Forest School this week. The children rolled up their sleeves and got hands-on with dough, sauce, and toppings to create their very own pizzas. They then cooked their delicious creations in the farm's pizza oven. The joy of making and eating their own pizzas was evident in their smiles and laughter.



In the spirit of the festive season, the children also drilled sea glass to make beautiful hanging Christmas tree decorations. Each piece was unique, reflecting their creativity and the natural beauty of the sea glass.

Our forest school sessions continue to be a wonderful blend of learning, creativity, and outdoor fun. We look forward to more adventures next term!





MAKING IT HAPPEN & SHOWING RESILIENCE ON THE CROSS-COUNTRY COURSE

On Tuesday, a group of KS2 children travelled to Victoria Recreational Ground for an exciting Cross Country competition. This event marked the return of the Island's Primary School Cross Country competitions, which had not been held for the past few years. Carisbrooke took the initiative to restart these competitions, and we were thrilled to participate.

The races were divided into four categories: Year 3/4 Girls, Year 3/4 Boys, Year 5/6 Girls, and Year 5/6 Boys. The children familiarized themselves with the course, and the first race began.

Year 3/4 Girls: Amelie, Annie, and Posy all gave it their best effort. Posy maintained a strong pace and impressively finished in 2nd place out of over 15 competitors!

Year 3/4 Boys: Archie, Kai, and Jaxon had a strong start. Archie was leading the race when he unfortunately lost his shoe in the mud! Despite this setback, he did well to catch up. Kai and Jaxon continued to run strong, with Jaxon finishing in 5th place, earning valuable points for our team.

Year 5/6 Girls: Isla, Katie, and Scarlett were determined and ran a strong race. Scarlett found an extra burst of energy in the second lap and finished in 10th place. Isla and Katie smiled throughout the race and crossed the finish line together!

Year 5/6 Boys: Oliver, Sam, and Buddy were ready for the challenge. Sam ran in 2nd place for most of the race, with Oliver close behind in 3rd. Buddy ran a fantastic race, smiling all the way! When Sam emerged from the woods, he had lost his shoe in the mud and was overtaken, but he stayed strong to finish in 3rd place, with Oliver close behind in 4th. Buddy had a strong sprint finish, completing the afternoon on a high note.



Newchurch finished in 3rd place overall. All of the children showed fantastic resilience and talent. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them!



WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN— KEY EVENTS NEXT WEEK!

MONDAY 9TH

Farm
Y1 Santa's Workshop

TUESDAY 10TH

WEDNESDAY 11TH

KS1 Film Night

THURSDAY 12TH

KS2 Film Night

FRIDAY 13TH

Financial Friday
KS1 Celebrations
Year 5 Showcase
Y2 DT Sewing



MAKING IT HAPPEN FOR THE FIRST TIME ON THE FOOTBALL PITCH

On Monday, Newchurch's U9 Girls team travelled to Shanklin for their first fixture of the year against St Blasius. Despite some initial nerves, the girls were eager and ready to play.

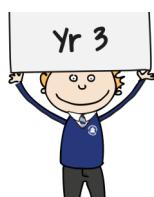
The game began with Newchurch showing strong performance, maintaining the majority of possession while battling uphill. St Blasius defended resolutely, preventing Newchurch from scoring in the first half, which ended 0-0.

The second half mirrored the first, with Newchurch dominating possession, this time with the advantage of playing downhill. Five minutes from the end, a handball by a St Blasius defender resulted in a penalty for Newchurch. Annie stepped up and confidently struck the ball into the bottom corner, giving Newchurch a 1-0 lead.

Superb defending from Maisie and Amelie ensured that Newchurch held onto their lead, securing a 1-0 victory at full time.

For their first outing as a team, the girls played brilliantly, marking a perfect start to the season.

Squad: Ophelia D, Amelie B, Maisie W, Marlee J, Martha F, Margot C, Annie M



YEAR 3 MAKE IT HAPPEN IN THE SWIMMING POOL!

This week, Year 3 students have successfully completed their swimming lessons! The children have shared their excitement about being able to swim in the big pool, with many particularly enjoying the thrill of the deep end. They have had a fantastic time learning how to jump in safely and diving for the 'sinkers.'

For their final session, the students had a fun-filled time playing with their friends, making the most of their last swim. It's been a wonderful experience for everyone involved, and we are proud of the progress each child has made. Well done, Year 3!



WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN—PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!

The deadline for parents to make a primary school application for September 2025 is **15th January 2025**.

If you know of friends and family that are thinking of sending their child to Newchurch Primary please tell them to get in touch. Sadly, as we no longer have an on site nursery we **do not anticipate being over subscribed** as we have in previous years.



We know that sometimes families think it is futile to put Newchurch as a first choice but this year more than ever the chance of getting a place could be more likely.

We are offering tours of the site and are really happy to speak with families who may be considering Newchurch as a first choice for their child. Please encourage anyone that would be interested to get in touch.

Please spread the word!



YEAR 6 MAKE IT HAPPEN AT THE IOW MILITARY AND HERITAGE MUSEUM

On Wednesday, our Year 6 class, along with students from Nettlestone Primary, had an exciting visit to the Isle of Wight Military and Heritage Museum. The children came to school dressed as WW2 evacuees, making an amazing effort with their costumes and looking fantastic!



At the museum, volunteers, including a Winston Churchill impersonator, guided the classes around. The children were fascinated by the artefacts and learned many new facts to deepen their understanding of this significant period in British history. A highlight for many was holding some of the disarmed weapons from World War 2 and riding in the museum's vehicles.



Back at school, Year 6 students have been busy writing their own recounts of the trip, which they are very eager to share with you at home. It was a memorable and educational experience for everyone involved!



YEAR 4 'MAKE IT HAPPEN' AS PUBLISHED POETS

In October, children in year 4 entered a poetry competition set by Young Writers.

They used the poem 'Life doesn't Frighten Me' by Maya Angelou as inspiration and wrote about something they were passionate about, with great results.

We are really pleased that quite a few children in the class have had their poems chosen to be published in a book - *Wonderverse - Rhythms of Laughter*, which is released on 27th January 2025!



This has created a real buzz around writing and the children are really proud of their achievement and look out for some of their poems which will be featured in future newsletters.



POETRY CORNER

We are really enjoying exposing the children to a wider range of poetry this year but it is especially lovely to celebrate their written poetry too. Leah's poem, written as part of the Y6 class study of World War II and shared below, has also been published in the parish magazine this month and we are super proud of her work.

Where the Crimson Rivers Flow

*Savage, deserted war ground,
A green sea of gas following behind,
My heart couldn't help but pound,
Deceased bodies easy to find.*

*Treacherous trenches,
Lost in a maze,
My thirst quenches,
Sight blurred by the haze.*

*A sea of lifeless corpses,
Crimson rivers flow,
Mounds of dead horses,
The ominous bombs blow.*

*Falling debris pierces the souls of innocent
people,
Abandoned houses left to rot,
Pieces from the steeple,
Empty bullet shots.*





Christmas Activities and Events at Newchurch

◆ **KS1 FONS Christmas Film Night—Wednesday 11th December 3.00pm to 4.15pm**

Children can bring PJs or onesies and a cushion and fluffy blanket (optional) to snuggle up to watch 'Mickey's Once Upon a Christmas' with popcorn and a hot chocolate provided by FONS (bookable on school money). The children will change at the end of the school day and staff will take them straight to the hall. We recommend that parents choose this option rather than Coolkidz on this day if childcare is needed.

◆ **KS2 FONS Christmas Film Night—Thursday 12th December 3.00pm to 5.00pm**

Children can bring PJs or onesies and a cushion and fluffy blanket (optional) to snuggle up to watch 'Christmas Chronicles' with popcorn and a hot chocolate provided by FONS (bookable on school money). The children will change at the end of the school day and staff will take them straight to the hall. We recommend that parents choose this option rather than Coolkidz on this day if childcare is needed. **PLEASE NOTE, Christmas Chronicles is a PG—you buying your child's ticket is you giving permission for this.**

◆ **Santa Dash—Monday 16th December during the school day**

See newsletter 29th November for further details. **Please note the date change for KS1/EYFS.** Children who have entered can come into school in PE kit with Christmas accessories in their bags. All children who take part will get a piece of yule log, a hot chocolate and a medal for finishing the walk or the run. Those not taking part will take part in other activities in school.

◆ **KS1 Nativity Performances—Monday 16th December 5pm and Tuesday 17th December 1.30pm**

Please bring costumes into school as soon as possible (dress rehearsal on Monday 16th). Please refer to letter sent 2nd December regarding tickets for parents. FONS will be selling professional photos of the children as well as mince pies and hot chocolate and there will be a water and wine stall there just for fun! Please bring some money (cash only) to spend on these items and all donations of full and empty wine bottles into the office prior to this event are gratefully received!

◆ **KS2 trip to Southsea to watch the Panto—Tuesday 17th December**

See second letter sent out on Monday 2nd December for further details. For the few children not attending, arrangements have been made for them to be in school.

◆ **Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner and Party day—Thursday 19th December**

Children to wear school uniform with a Christmas jumper on top! Christmas accessories welcome.

◆ **EYFS singing around the Christmas tree event—Thursday 19th December**

Details for parents to attend, to follow.

◆ **KS2 Christmas Carol Service at All Saints Church in Newchurch—Friday 20th December 1.30pm**

KS2 friends and family are welcome to attend this lovely event to finish off the Autumn Term.

LAST DAY OF TERM—Friday 20th December FIRST DAY OF SPRING TERM—Monday 6th January '25

MAKING HEALTHY CHOICES—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

As we move into the winter months, we want to remind you of the importance of maintaining high attendance expectations for our pupils. Regular attendance is crucial for your child's academic success and overall well-being.

Miss Howarth has met with the Local Authority this week and Newchurch has been set a whole school attendance target for **96%** this year.

We know that good attendance can involve a little bit of good luck as families attempt to dodge nasty bugs and germs but a new poster from the NHS seeks to inform parents of when it is important to keep children at home and when children can continue to come to school. Please scan the QR code to obtain your copy.

When to Keep Your Child at Home:

Fever: If your child has a fever (high temperature of over 38°), they should stay home until the fever has subsided.

Diarrhoea and Vomiting: Children should remain at home for at least 24 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting or 48 hours if both symptoms are present.

Coughs and Colds: Generally, children can attend school with a mild cough or cold. We will always contact you should they fall increasingly unwell during the day.

We encourage you to refer to the NHS guidance to determine when your child is too ill for school.

Pupils should not miss school on a precautionary basis.

The poster is from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and NHS. It features a girl in a green plaid dress jumping joyfully. The title is 'Should I keep my child off school?'. It lists various illnesses and the duration they should stay home.

Illness	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek

QR code: <https://qrco.de/minfoc>

Advice and guidance: To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfoc>.

There are some healthy choices that we can all make to help prevent the spread of illness within our community. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has published advice on how to reduce the spread of seasonal illnesses.

Here are some key tips:



I CAN MAKE HEALTHY CHOICES



Hand Hygiene: Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly with soap and water.

Respiratory Hygiene: Teach your child to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or their elbow when they cough or sneeze.

Vaccinations: Ensure your child is up to date with their vaccinations. **Additional information about the flu vaccination is coming home with the newsletter this week, should your child have missed the chance to have this in school.**

By working together, we can help keep our school community healthy and ensure that our pupils continue to thrive.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

SO WHAT HAVE WE BEEN LEARNING THIS WEEK?



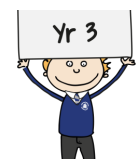
Donaldson Class has been super busy this week! In maths, we have been talking about what makes a circle a circle and learning mathematical language to describe a circle. We have enjoyed spotting circles and spheres in our environment and were great at sorting everyday objects into two groups - 'circle' or 'not a circle'. We iced our own biscuits and decorated them with lots of tasty circles. We used lots of circles to make snowmen and paper chains to decorate our classroom. We have been rehearsing 'We're going on a bear hunt' and drew a story-map to help us recall the order of the families journey to the cave. We also noticed that the author of the story is the same author of Little rabbit Foo Foo and we loved watching him act out the story. We are excellent at reciting it.

Rosen class has had a busy week with lots of rehearsals for the Christmas Nativity. We have continued to look at shape through our Maths work. In Literacy we have been practising writing simple sentences including an adjective using the 'That's not my....!' books as inspiration. The children have created some fantastic versions of 'That's not my Reindeer'. In Science we have continued to look at materials and have been sorting them using Carroll Diagrams. In DT we have made our final sliding pictures and have been thinking about what worked well and what we could improve for next time. We have also started to make some of our props and accessories for the Nativity.



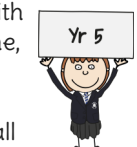
This week, in English we have been finishing writing our own stories based on the story "The Queens Knickers". We have all had so much fun planning and writing our story and using our imagination and all our phonics to help with our writing. In Maths, we have been using tens and ones and part-whole to complete sums with missing numbers and comparing number sentences. This week in PSHE, we were focusing on "being left out". We played a game of stuck in the mud and then had a class discussion about how we felt playing the game, how we felt being stuck and how we felt when no one came to unstick us. In Science, we have still been focusing on Materials but this week we have been learning about where materials come from and what they are made out of. We have firstly been looking at harmful materials to the plant and will continue this next week to Earth-friendly materials next week. In DT we have been starting to plan our bauble design for when we start making them next week. We have still continued to practise the Nativity daily and we are all getting so good with the songs, the actions and the lines of the script.

This week in Wharton Class we have been continuing to work on problem solving with addition and subtraction we have also been looking at estimating by rounding to the nearest 10 or 100. When you are out and about shopping get the children to test their rounding skills as you go around the shops. In English we have completed our description piece of writing for the tin forest. In Science we have tested how strong the force is when putting two magnets together, at what distance do they repel and attract. In PSHE we have looked at celebrating our differences.



Year 4 finished their DT project this week with some delicious healthy treats! Our design brief was to make a healthy snack to enjoy at break time. After lots of research and designing, we finally baked our flapjacks on Thursday. Some children chose to add raisins while some added blueberries. We enjoyed tasting them and evaluating our final products. We have been finding out how deserts are used by humans in geography this week. We thought about all the different commodities that can be traded from the desert, the conditions which make it a perfect place to harness energy or test aircraft and different leisure activities that we could enjoy there. In maths, we have been looking at different techniques and strategies we can use to help us with our times tables. We have also been exploring the relationship between multiplication and division and realise how important it is to have a good recall of our times tables.

Duffy Class have been adding and subtracting fractions this week. Using the fractions sectors to add fractions with the same denominator and then using our skills from last week, multiplying denominators to make them the same, before we actually add or subtract. In English we finished our letters to the supermarkets and concentrated on grammar tasks. Looking back at Year 4 work and then looking at relative clauses, adding information about the subject, using relative pronouns. Finally Christmas has arrived in Year 5. The 1st of December meant that we all could mention anything Christmassy and we decorated our classroom, learning how to make snowflakes and constructing gingerbread houses. We had to solve many problems, work together and show great resilience, to decorate with style. Well done.



This week, Year 6 have been looking at what it means to be a good friend in PSHE. The class came up with some important qualities that would look for in a friend and created their own advertisements for friends using a range of medias. In Maths, we have been looking at units of measure and converting between and across imperial and metric measures; using their understanding of place value to support them. The class have been looking at rhythmic gymnastics this half term, and created their own sequences using balls, hoops and ribbons.

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 ... circles

Words to use ... round, side, edge, circle, flat, roll

Top tips ... can you practice your new Phase 2 sounds?

We have been reading ... We're going on a bear hunt by Michael Rosen

YEAR 2

Talk to me about... Where certain materials come from.

Words to use... metal, cotton, glass and plastic.

Tips for the week... Please practice the nativity songs.

We have been reading... Terrifying tudors, by Terry Deary

YEAR 4

Talk to me about... stereotypes

Words to use... gender, bias, race, age.

Tip of the week... can you find any alliteration in tv or magazine adverts?

We are reading... Leon and the Place Between by Angela McAllister

YEAR 6

Talk to me about... converting units of measure.

Words to use... multiply, divide, ml, l, g, kg, miles, km, equal, same, convert, change.

Tips for the week... practise our class Christmas song at home.

We have been reading... 'Time travelling with a Hamster' by Ross Welford.

YEAR 1

We have been learning ... 2D shapes

Words to use ... square, rectangle, triangle, circle, pentagon, hexagon

Tips for the week ... can you find any 2D shapes in your home?

We have been reading ... The Christmas Extravaganza Hotel, by Tracy Corderoy

YEAR 3

Talk to me about... celebrating difference

Words to use... being different, British Values, LGBT+, relationships, discrimination, diversity, respect, support networks, tolerance, emotions

Tips for the week... think about factors that make people similar to and different from each other. Discussing different people we see on TV is a good starting point.

We have been reading... The Tin Forest by Helen Ward

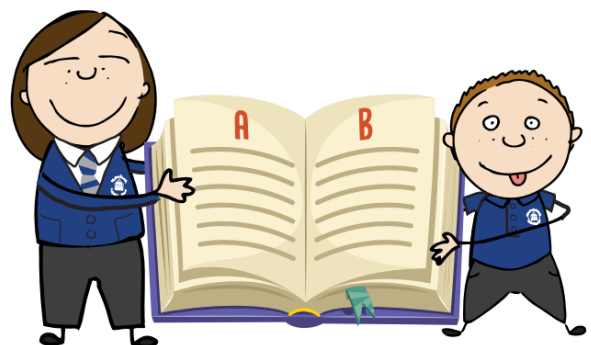
YEAR 5

Talk to me about..... adding and subtracting fractions.

Words to use numerator, denominator, equivalent, multiply, divide, whole.

Tips for the week denominators have to be the same to be able to add or subtract them.

We have been reading..... The Land of Neverbelieve by Norman Messenger



Key Stage 2 Celebration Assembly



Year 3—Aubrey A and Rebecca T

Year 4— Posy B

Year 5—Willow T

Year 6—Zak J



Max I



Alfie Jo



Mia N



Amelie B



Oliver S

BENEFITS OF SCHOOL MEALS

Children are more likely to eat fruit & vegetables

They make food fun in the dining hall with friends

Improved behaviour & concentration

Experience exciting tasty theme days



**THEY ARE FREE IN RECEPTION, YEAR 1 & YEAR 2
SIGN YOUR CHILD UP TODAY**

Chartwells
So much more than fantastic food

Lunchtime Menu — Chartwells for week beginning 9th December 2024

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main	Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Wedges	Sausage & Mash	Roast Chicken, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Chicken & Vegetable Korma with Rice	Fish Fingers & Chips
Vegetarian	BBQ Quorn Fillet with Rice	Quorn Sausage & Mash	Roasted vegetable slice, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Tomato & Sweetcorn Pasta	Cheese & Sweetcorn Omelette & Chips
Dessert	Chocolate Brownie with Orange	Bread & Butter Pudding with Custard	Oat Cookie & Fruit	Lemon Shortbread	Vanilla Ice Cream