



Newchurch Primary School

News from Newchurch Primary School and across the Federation

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29th January 2021

Value of the week: Unity



SPINNING PLATES—A MESSAGE FROM MISS HOWARTH

I've been in school leadership for nearly 20 years and it has always been a balancing act of different priorities. However, never in my career have I felt like I am spinning so many plates as I do now! I know also that many members of our community are feeling exactly the same whether it be the juggle of remote learning, working from home, ensuring loved ones are well cared for, dealing with self-isolation, separation from friends and family etc etc. These crazy times have put us all under so many different pressures and we all continue to have empathy with community as we try to muddle

through together.

The latest plate to join our school based juggle is that of staff testing which we have been preparing for this week. The very large majority of staff have indicated a willingness to be tested twice weekly in the hope that any asymptomatic cases may be identified and therefore not transmitted within our communities. We hope that parents will appreciate that this is another really positive step that we are taking to help keep our communities safe.

I have been super impressed with the efforts of the whole community in terms of accessing remote learning our figure for last week was 88% which is outstanding!

Unlike the last period of lockdown the national curriculum has not been suspended and therefore it is really important that you continue to engage with the work set for your children but please be kind and access it at a time and in a way that works for your household. We know that many of our families have siblings in different schools and therefore various demands are being placed in terms of device access and learning protocols. We want to keep it as simple as possible for everyone in order that you can continue to keep your plates spinning nicely at home!

Please do alert staff via your welfare calls if you feel that you need more support and we will always do our best to help.

The Prime Minister shared on Wednesday that the earliest possible date for schools reopening to more pupils would be March 8th but that this remains dependent on many factors. I have fallen victim to false hope previously and so I guess the best we can do at this point is continue to watch this space and do all that we can to keep our respective plates spinning until we get further clarity. I promise to let you know as soon as we have more details.

In the meantime, please continue to take care and stay safe.

ARE YOU A SUPER TWITCHER? THE RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH!

One of our whole school curriculum aims encourages the children to 'make a difference' and as such we are challenging all of our families to help the RSPB this weekend and take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch. We have all had the time to notice a lot more wildlife during the periods of national lockdown and this weekend the RSPB need our help to count the species we see in our gardens and outdoor spaces!



Our value this week is 'unity' and we are sure that together we can help this excellent charity with their valuable work.

You can choose any hour between 29 and 31 January. So whether you're an early bird or a night owl, you can still take part. The more people that take part the better as the information is used to see how our garden birds are thriving and surviving across the nation.

All we have to do is count the birds we see in our gardens or outdoor spaces, ignoring any birds that are still in flight over the period of one hour.

For more information follow this link for lots of free resources to help you start spotting <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/packrequest/>

We would love to hear about the birds that you manage to see so please post pictures on our Facebook page over the weekend. Also please reward with a sticker on your sticker chart if you take part in this wildlife challenge!



PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH

If your child is continuing to attend school it is essential that you notify us at the earliest opportunity should your child develop symptoms of coronavirus, be identified as a close contact or obtain a positive test result. It may be that the school needs to take action as a result and if we are made aware as soon as possible it enables us to work with Public Health England and inform any members of the community who made need to self-isolate as a result.

Should you need to make contact at the weekend please do so via an email to office@newchurchprimaryschool.co.uk using the subject header URGENT COVID UPDATE and a member of staff will get back to you as soon as it has been read.

If your child is accessing work from home it is also helpful if you can notify us of any change in circumstance as this may impact your child's ability to engage with our remote learning offer.

We will always do our best to help.

DO YOU REQUIRE ADDITIONAL HELP AND SUPPORT?

We have been asked to publicise the Citizens Advice Bureau as the team are on hand to support with any assistance that you may require during this period of national lockdown. For more information please go to

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>





MR TUCK'S CHALLENGE!

This weekend we have an extra special weekend challenge. Many of our community will have known Mr Ray Scovell and will have heard the very upsetting news that he sadly passed away last week.

Ray had been 'Mr Athletics' on the Isle of Wight for nearly 30 years. He joined the Isle of Wight Athletics Club in 1993 when the track had just been built, and coached many of our children, parents and several staff members too, along with numerous international athletes.

One of Ray's biggest legacies is the Medina parkrun, which regularly attracts over 300 runners jogging or walking 5km, including many of our school community past and present. He recently passed the parkrun baton on to focus on junior parkrun, as getting children involved in running and athletics had always been a huge passion for him. Again, I have seen several of our Newchurch children running laps of Seaclose or Apply Parks over the 2km distance.

Ray was always a huge supporter of Primary School athletics, helping out and lending equipment for our very own Newchurch Nine and the Harwoods Cross Country Relays, as well as helping to run the Sportshall and Quad Kids Athletics competitions and the Baylink Games.

I had been lucky to call Ray a friend for 27 years and he was an inspiration to me. Always encouraging and supporting anyone and everyone to participate, whether they be an elite athlete at the front or the first timer walking at the rear.

For this weekend's challenge, I would love it if you could all complete your own junior parkrun, Ray's latest project. This consists of a 2km run (or walk), an achievable but challenging distance for most children.

For the many of you who knew Ray, you will appreciate that he would be super proud that he is still inspiring potentially hundreds of children and their parents to put their running shoes on this weekend.

Come on Newchurch community - let's do it for Ray!



KEEPING FIT AND HEALTHY AT HOME

Sustrans Outside In, is a free resource to help parents who are looking after their children at home.

It provides fun ideas and inspiration for parents to bring education, health and wellbeing activities into their home.

Parents can access resources by registering for a free parent newsletter. Over four weeks, you will receive weekly videos, themed activities, games and challenges designed by experienced school officers. To find out more please visit www.sustrans.org.uk/OutsideIn.

KEEP CALM, LEARNING IS ON!

You are all doing an amazing job with home learning but there are some simple things you can do to make learning at home more productive and enjoyable for both you and your child, such as:

- Create a chart with a timetable and goals for the week
- Display a clock to keep track of how long different tasks will take
- Ensure there are set break times
- Make sure there is a variety of tasks - mix up those requiring intense concentration, with some that are open-ended and allow for creativity

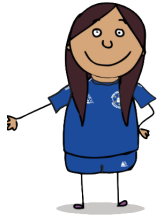


A little insight into the pupils' blended learning this week:



This week Team GB read *The Gingerbread man*. We really loved the story and have had a great time retelling it. It also inspired us to do lots of science experiments. We tested to see what would have happened to the Gingerbread man if he had swam across the river ... it didn't end well! We then tried different liquids to see what would happen to the Gingerbread man and compare differences between each liquid. In school we tried milk, water, oil, apple juice and vinegar and at home children got very creative with their testing too. Hot tea seemed to prove the most immediate danger for the Gingerbread man! We also tried to build a bridge to help the Gingerbread man cross the river safely. We could use anything we liked but it had to pass two safety checks: 1. Stand up on its own 2. Hold the weight of a small toy. Finally we attempted to make a raft for the Gingerbread man so that he could safely float across the river. Again, we had to test to see if it would work. We've decided that testing is the very best bit about science!

Iceland class have been very busy this week finding some poetry! They have been listening to and learning poems by Brian Moses. We have looked at rhyming words and the children have tried really hard to write their own poems, which I have been super impressed with! They have also been doing lots of subtraction problems. I look forward to seeing lots of you do your run this weekend and perhaps having a go at the Big Birdwatch!



Denmark class have worked incredibly hard on their writing this week. The class finished their diary entries based on *Lila* and *The Secret of Rain* and managed to include adjectives and time conjunctions. We started our new Maths topic (shape) and have been focusing on naming shapes; counting sides and vertices; and finding lines of symmetry. We hope that you all had a relaxing Wellness Wednesday and have again enjoyed seeing all of your pictures. You have all been very busy with puzzles, walks and bike rides! We were treated in school to hot chocolate and cookies this week whilst colouring together. Next week, we look forward to finding out some more about Kenya and a very important person - Nelson Mandela.

It is good to see Year 3 working hard on their remote learning. There have been some good diary entries so well done. In Maths they are working hard on their new topic of money. The animal art that has been uploaded is great too. Well done to those who have managed to get out and get some exercise and also well done to those who have been learning a new life skill such as weighing ingredients in the kitchen or checking the oil and water levels in the car! It is still learning!



This week Sweden Class have been looking at capacity, we have used water to estimate how many litres/millilitres are in different containers....some of us were very accurate! We have written instructions on how to train a dragon, which are hopefully better than the instructions in the book, the book's instructions are **JUST SHOUT AT IT!** In science we have been looking at the different functions of teeth and why animals' teeth may differ from humans. Well done Year 4!

Switzerland Class have been looking at mental addition and subtraction this week, building on their column addition and subtraction skills for last week. I think that this week has been more challenging, trying to add and subtract, keeping all those numbers in your head! It has also made the class check their answers by then writing them down. In English, we have been revising punctuation we have learnt in Year 5 so far. We looked at parenthesis, using brackets, dashes and commas to add extra information to a grammatically correct sentence. I am hoping to see all the new punctuation in their writing next week! The class have enjoyed Science this week, explaining night and day. There have been some excellent videos and ways of explaining it and I think I see some budding presenters in the class!



This week in Brazil Class we have been conducting research into orang-utans and writing a non-chronological report. We were interested to find out that we share 97% of our DNA with orang-utans and that they are one of our closest living relatives! We have been studying the theory of evolution during our science lesson this week and looked at Darwin's finches and how they evolved over time to become adapted to their environment. We have been focusing on percentages in maths and learning how to find a percentage of an amount and also tackling some really tricky missing number problems! On 'Wellness Wednesday', the children in school finished off their marble runs and also painted rocks with positive messages. Well done, Year 6!

KEY STAGE 2 CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY



Headteacher Awards

- Year 3- Amelia W
- Year 4- Lily B
- Year 5- Toby P
- Year 6 Jess G



Star Spellers of the Week

- Year 3- Ruby B
- Year 4- Addison BM
- Year 5- Delphina C



Star Readers of the Week

- Year 3- Frankie S
- Year 5- Callan G
- Year 6- Noah FS



Mathematician of the Week Awards

- Year 3- Chloe R
- Year 4- Annie B & Amelia J
- Year 5- Kiera D
- Year 6- Flo H



Star Writers of the Week

- Year 3- Arianna R
- Year 4- Tehya L & Emilia S
- Year 5- Annabelle S
- Year 6- Tom C



PE Superstar

Joseph F— Yr5



Resilience Cup

Edward B—Yr6

Caring & Sharing Award

Jessie T—Yr5



Sticker cards

- Sofia F—Yr4
- Ava R- Yr4
- Ewan P—Yr4
- Olivia S—Yr5
- Tom D—Yr 5

We are super proud of all of our winners !

Lunchtime Menu — Caterlink for week beginning 1st February 2021

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Choice 1	Cheese & Tomato Pizza	Sausage Roll & Wedges	Roast Chicken, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Macaroni Cheese & Garlic Bread	Fishfingers & Chips
Choice 2	Filled Jacket Potato	Filled Jacket Potato	Filled Jacket Potato	Filled Jacket Potato	Filled Jacket Potato
Desert	Lemon & Orange Shortbread	Fruit Crumble & Ice Cream	Fruit & Ice Cream	Fruit Sponge Cake	Oaty Cookie

Yoghurt & fresh fruit is available daily as a dessert choice

ALL HOT MEAL ORDERS MUST BE IN BY 9.15AM

DON'T BE LATE THE COOK CAN'T WAIT!!!

