



# 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 Miss P Baldwin

22ND MARCH 2024

VALUE OF THE WEEK: HONESTY

### TEACHING FINANCIAL RESILIENCE AND CAPABILITY – FINANCIAL FRIDAY

Today was an exciting day in school as it was the fourth of our Financial Fridays!

This year, staff are aiming to build financial resilience within all of the children by introducing a bespoke curriculum designed to enhance the children’s awareness of money. We appreciate that the children are growing up in a world where they may not see money rather they will see items paid for either by a swipe of a plastic card or a scan of a phone screen. They also believe that we get money from a hole in the wall!

We know that children are absorbing life experiences and starting to learn money habits as early as age 3-7 and so our view is primary school is the perfect place to start building healthy financial habits and financial resilience.

Below you can see some of the activities that the children started to explore today and thank you to the staff for making this happen! Please continue to talk with your children about their learning at home to further add to their understanding of basic financial matters—we are amazed at how much they know and how curious they are!



Yr 1

Year 1 spoke about how money makes us feel when we donate it and how it must feel when you need money.

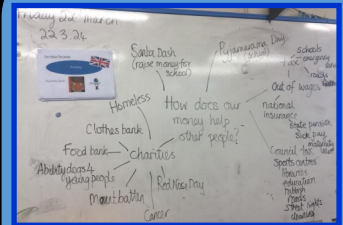
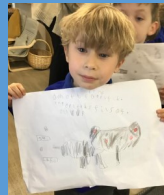


Jake - "Instead of buying another pair of trainers I could help monkeys who are losing their habitats, I would feel really proud".

Luna - "Homeless people don't have a nice fluffy bed so if I help them they can feel happy too".

Ralph - "I want to help orcas maybe I could share some of my pocket money and sponsor one".

Brandon - " You could buy your mum some flowers with your money and that would be being generous".



Yr 3

Year 3 have been looking at how our money can help other people.



Year 5 looked at charities and how they help others, why fair trade goods cost more and how much tax and VAT we have to pay, as an employed adult. The class were shocked but realised once they knew what the taxes were for, they understood why.



Yr 5



Year 6 have been focusing on the big question "How does our money help others?" We had a visit from Georgia and Josh this morning from Rouse (a financial advisory firm in Newport) they told us how choices make a difference to others, and how putting money in a bank can support those in need as it enables them to take out a loan. The class engaged well with all of the activities and had lots of questions for our visitors.



Yr 6



## FINANCIAL FRIDAY—THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

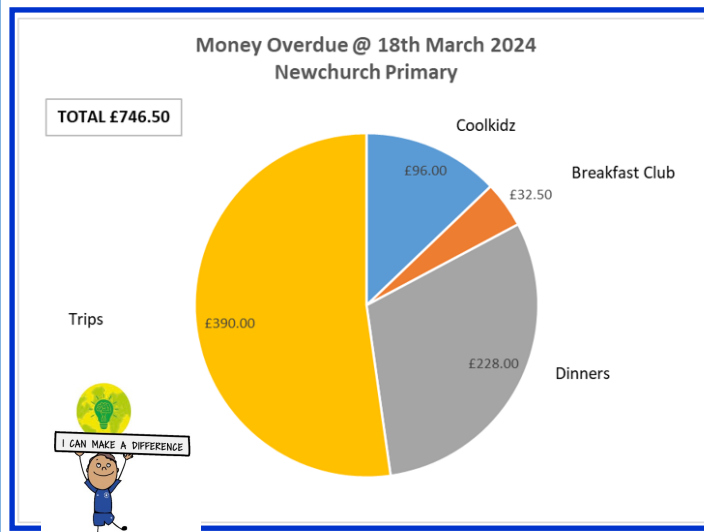
Members of the governing body met earlier this week and on the agenda for their meeting, as usual, was outstanding debts.

Governors were pleased that the amount of money owing to school has significantly reduced since the introduction of bespoke meetings to discuss the personal circumstances of those owing money to the school, but they do remain concerned that the debt still stands at £746.50. The chart below highlights the **overdue payments only** and does not include

forthcoming payments for trips or any remaining payments as part of a payment plan.

£746.50 is simply the total of the amounts that have not been paid for since we returned to school in September. This includes £228 of unpaid dinner money, £32.50 of unpaid Breakfast Clubs money, £96.00 of unpaid Coolkidz money and £390.00 of unpaid trips money. Although there is still a debt position, this is a much better situation than we were in on our last Financial Friday and so thank you to all that have paid their monies owed.

Schools are being asked to do more and more with less and less and every penny really does count. If clubs, Coolkidz and trips remain unpaid we may have to seriously reconsider our ability to offer such provision as there are no financial reserves in the school budget to meet the



staffing costs required to supervise these activities safely.

Please, please, please make it your 'mission possible' to check your account and settle your School Money account this weekend if you are able.

If you are facing financial difficulties please talk to us rather than simply not pay as there may be support and advice that we can signpost you to that may help. Thank you for your support.

## FINANCIAL FRIDAY—FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Please can we remind all families that **children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible for a yummy free meal every single day.** To date only around half of our community are taking up this **free offer** and it would be great to see more families doing so after Easter. We are really lucky to have a fabulous chef on site and the menu is always published for parent's information in the newsletter to help you decide whether you want a **free meal everyday** or just on selected days.

It is super easy to take advantage of the offer, all that is needed is for parents to pre order their free dinners on School Money and complete the check out process (even though there is a zero balance) and your child will be able to enjoy their free meal.



Are you entitled?



For children in Key Stage 2 and any parent that has a change in personal circumstances the eligibility criteria for free school meals can be found at apply for [free school meals](#).

We would encourage any parent who has faced a change in personal circumstances to consider the criteria and apply if they are eligible.

If the application is approved eligibility can open a gateway to a host of additional benefits for your child including supporting the purchase of school uniform, funding for school trips and additional in-class support. It really is worth applying.

END OF  
TERM!!!

Please be reminded that school finishes for the Spring Term at 3pm on Thursday 28th March.

## FINANCIAL FRIDAY - TRUST FUNDS

Linked to our Financial Friday we have been asked to remind parents about Child Trust Funds.

The Child Trust Fund was a scheme introduced to encourage saving for children. The scheme was open to all parents of children born between 1st September 2002 and 2nd January 2011.

The first set of children who were on the scheme were able to access their money on 1st September 2020.

76% of parents in the UK opened an account when the scheme launched and HMRC estimates there are 700,000 accounts which have been forgotten about or 'lost'. To find out more information please click the link below...

<https://www.justfinancefoundation.org.uk/childtrustfund>

Even if no money was added at all, there could be £250 - £1000 in your account.

£ 2.5 Billion

'lost' and 'unclaimed' money  
in Child Trust Funds  
(Which?)



## FINANCIAL FRIDAY—ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

Could you be claiming up to £2,000 per child each year towards childcare costs?

The Government-backed Tax-Free Childcare scheme is designed so that for every 80p you put into your Tax-Free Childcare account, the state will add 20p. Eligible parents can get up to £2,000 per child per year.

### How does it work?

You open an online Tax-Free Childcare account using your Government Gateway ID and for every 80p you pay in, the Government will top up your account. A quick way of making sure you put in the right amount is to look at your childcare bill and multiply it by 0.8. This gives you 80% of the total bill – and the amount you should put in your tax-free childcare account – and you'll get the remaining 20% as a top up (subject to the £2,000 a year cap).

### What can you use it for?

You can use tax-free childcare for all sorts of childcare including breakfast clubs, after schools clubs, holiday activities, childminders, nurseries.

### Eligibility

To qualify, you (and your partner, if you have one) need to be working (including self employed) and:

Each earn national minimum wage – To be eligible you'll need to earn the equivalent of 16 hours/week at the national minimum wage for your age group.

Each earn £100,000 a year or less.

### What do you need to do?

If you're eligible, you'll need to create an online childcare account via the Government Tax-Free Childcare site – [www.gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare).

Book your clubs directly with the school office by emailing [office@newchurchprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:office@newchurchprimaryschool.co.uk)

- Pay money into your online childcare account by making a payment from your bank account using your debit card. The Government will top up the account on the same day.
- Search for the school's name in the list of childcare providers on your childcare account and make a payment directly to the school from your account.
- Once the school receives payment, it will be allocated against your clubs bookings on School Money and you'll receive an email receipt. Payments can also be held as a credit on your account for future bookings.



## KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE—SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

A key measure of resilience is coming to school, ready to learn every single day. Improving attendance is everyone's business. The law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education and it is the legal responsibility of every parent to make sure their child receives that education by ensuring they attend regularly. This means they must attend every day the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the school.

As we get close to finishing our second full term of this academic year our whole school attendance figure is **95.78%** which is **0.87%** better than this time last year! However it is still slightly below the target figure of **96%**. We try really hard to get the best attendance that we possibly can and it is really pleasing to see that by working closely with parents that our efforts are really working on the whole. The key factor that has impacted our attendance this term is holiday requests as since January 1st we have lost **140** days of learning due to pupils being on holiday. Term time holidays remain the significant barrier to us achieving excellent attendance and outcomes.



Holidays during term time are not authorised, this is in line with both schools and Isle of Wight local policies which state that Headteachers may only authorise absences from school in exceptional circumstances; which would largely be of an unforeseen or emergency nature. As holidays are planned in advance they are not deemed to be exceptional.

Please can we ask that parents make the healthy choice not to impact their child's learning by taking them out of school for a planned trip away.

We have noticed that, whilst there is still room for improvement with our overall attendance punctuality and lateness, it has significantly improved since January 1st. Only **74** late marks have been recorded across the school for this time period which is so much better than the first term. The very large majority of these can be attributed to a single incident. This means that classes have not been as disrupted and the very large majority of children have arrived on time, calm and ready to start their day.

We know that recent road closures and roadworks have proven very challenging and we thank our community for showing their resilience and commitment to still make it to school on time whenever they can!

At Newchurch Primary School all pupils are expected to arrive on time for every day of the school year. The **school day begins at 8.40am**. We advise all parents to ensure their child is on site prior to this and offer Breakfast Club from 7.45am in support. All pupils arriving after this time are required to report to the main office with their parents, who will be expected to register their child and provide a reason for their absence. If their arrival is before 9am it will be recorded as late - L code (Late before the close of register).

The school register officially closes at 9.00am. All pupils arriving on or after this time will be marked as having an unauthorised absence for the morning session - U code (Late after the close of register). This is categorised as an unauthorised absence for the session.

We will be sending home your child's registration certificate for the year to date on **Wednesday 27th March**.

Should you have any questions about your child's attendance please do make contact with the school and we will be happy to assist.

We are here to help.





REC

## PENNY CLASS MEET PEOPLE THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



Linked to their topic 'Once upon a time' and their learning about heroes and villains, Penny Class were lucky enough to meet some real-life superheroes this week! First, Michelle came to talk to the class about her role as a paramedic. She showed the children her uniform and the equipment she uses and gave them a special tour of her ambulance van. Lee then came to talk to the class about his role as a police officer and gave them a tour of his police van. The children could spot things that were the same and things that were different in the two special vehicles.



Next, Kelly came to talk to the children about her role in the British Army. She showed them everything she wears and has to carry. The children absolutely loved learning about how these three heroes help keep us safe. Together they had lots and lots of questions to ask them and found their visits very interesting.

Mrs Starkey and all of the class would like to say a thank you to Michelle, Lee and Kelly for giving up their time and for being so patient and lovely to Penny Class.



## Y5 & 6 IT HAPPEN AT THE NETBALL TOURNAMENT!

On Friday, last week and Monday this week, three teams, from Year 5 and 6, participated in the Isle of Wight netball tournaments. They played lots of different schools, using all of their netball skills that they have been learning in the after school netball club.

On Friday Miss Hygate took two teams to Seaclose to play 4 other schools, the teams did really well and the hardest game was playing each other! Well done to both teams, the yellow team came third and



the black team came fifth. It was great to see so much support and the teams really enjoyed it!

On Monday Miss Hygate took one team to play at Ryde Academy. They were split into two groups and then played three games to see where they placed. Then the team played our final game, successfully winning it, placing us fifth. Miss Hygate reports that all of the children should be very proud of their performances and their excellent behaviour and manners.



## WE CAN LIVE RESPECTFULLY - ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK



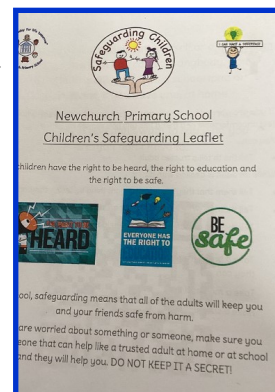
It was world poetry day on Thursday this week and so on the way into assembly, the children listened to the poem 'Tiger Tiger Burning Bright' set to music and then they shared a poem from the book 'An Animal Poem For Every Day of the Year' which is also now in the library.



The theme of the next two weeks in school is honesty.

The children were very good at identifying times when being truthful is difficult, however, they all recognised that it's most often the best way to be. The children identified that sometimes a friend or somebody else might ask you to keep something secret and that if this secret makes you feel uncomfortable or is a secret that if kept, somebody might be hurt, then it's right to say that you can't keep this a secret.

With this in mind, Mrs Parkin and the Young Governors introduced our new 'Safeguarding for Children Leaflet'. The Young Governors created this leaflet in order to support children to keep themselves and their friends safe and to report something worrying to a trusted adult. This leaflet has a QR code on it. If children feel unable to talk to an adult, they can scan this code (at school with a school device or take the leaflet home and scan the QR with a home device) which will take them to a google form. They can then answer the questions (anonymously if they want to) and this form will then automatically go to Mrs Parkin's email inbox and adults in school will then do all they can to support.



We all think that they did an amazing job in designing this leaflet.

## WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN—WHAT'S ON NEXT WEEK!

MONDAY 25TH	TUESDAY 26TH	WEDNESDAY 27TH	THURSDAY 28TH
RE DAY		Y2 CINEMA TRIP	YEAR 1 CINEMA TRIP
YEAR R FAIRYTALE DAY		OLYMPIC ATHLETE VISIT	EASTER EGG HUNT
			LAST DAY OF TERM



## MAKING THE HEALTHY CHOICE TO ACCESS MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT



We are sharing a publication from the Isle of Wight Mental Health Support Team along with the newsletter this week that signposts further sources of support for anyone in our community that may need to reach out for further wider agency support.



Please do make the healthy choice to look at the sources of support on offer as you never know if the occasion may arise for you or someone you know needs to access the services identified.

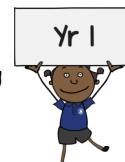


## SO WHAT HAVE WE BEEN LEARNING THIS WEEK?



This week Penny Class have been talking about real life superheroes . We've been thinking about what a hero is and discussing who helps us and keeps us safe at home. We decided that our mummies and daddies must be because they're pretty awesome at looking after us! We also talked about our emergency services and had a go at role playing a 999 call. We have been observing our beans and were delighted when they started to sprout . We love checking on them to see if they need any water and they're now a couple of inches tall. We were delighted when our mystery bulbs bloomed into beautiful daffodils and have painted some beautiful pictures of them. In maths we have been sorting objects into sets. First we had to guess what the rule was for Mrs Starkey's two sets, then we had a go at making up our own rules. We sorted objects by size, by colour, by properties (straight/round, pointy/not pointy). We realised that some objects could be in both sets so we made our two hoops overlap (introducing a Venn diagram).

What a great week in year one! This week we have been busy in Science learning all about animals and how we can group them by their animal group, the children have all been wonderful scientists using the key terminology mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and amphibians. In History this week we have been learning all about the RNLI and the impact they have, we compared the RNLI lifeboats to the boat Grace Darling used and discussed how sea rescue has improved. This week in phonics we have been looking at reading our longer words and have been using our magic finger to spot digraphs, traigraphs, quadgraphs, and split digraphs in a word without sound buttons.



Shilling class loved having their grown ups visit the classroom this week for their showcase assembly. We hope you enjoyed their fantastic rendition of 'London's Burning' on the ocarinas. We have continued to enjoy 'The Egg' and have been using this to write some super descriptions. In maths we have continued to look at our two times tables and doing an investigation involving odd and even numbers. In Science we have been looking after our bean seeds and continuing with our cress experiments, whilst making notes about our findings. In History we have looked at the question, 'What did the King do to make London better?' The children recapped why London burnt down so quickly during the Great Fire and came up with a variety of solutions to make it safer in the future. They were surprised to see that some of their ideas matched those of King Charles.

This week in Real Class we have been working on measures using metres, centimetres and millimetres. In Science we have carried out some investigations about water looking at evaporation, condensation and melting. In our English lessons we have been starting to create our leaflet/booklet about improving our beaches based on our book 'The Promise.' In PSHE we have also been looking at the environment and thinking of ways we could improve our school environment. For Financial Friday we have looked at the ways our money can help others, thinking about the choices we have when saving and spending money.



Year four have had another busy week! In English, we finished writing our recount of George giving Grandma the medicine. We wrote in role as George and focused on adverbials of time and manner and using what we had learned about the rules of punctuating speech to add in a quote from Grandma. Some children also used alliteration just like Roald Dahl does in the book! We made our torches in DT and used what we have learned about circuits in our science lessons. After designing the circuit and how it will be attached to the body of the torch, we set about making them. Our resilience was tested at times but everyone did a brilliant job! We learned how to program a procedure in computing and also how to use a count controlled loop to create a pattern. In maths, we have been using our knowledge of perimeter and the measurements we already know to find the value of missing lengths in rectilinear shapes.

Krone class has been working hard looking at ordering and comparing numbers up to 3 decimal places. They have had to be really confident with their understanding of tenths, hundredths and thousandths, to be able to know which ones are greater or less than the number before. This will also help them when we continue to look at rounding decimal numbers and then relate decimals to percentages. In English we have been looking at a poem called 'Adder'. It has a unique structure and the class have been collaboratively, writing their own poems about hares, using the technique of acrostic poems and using metaphors and similes, to describe the animal. This will help them write their own acrostic poems about the animal of their choice, next week. In History we answered the question 'How well did the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings get on?'. We looked at how the Vikings behaved and learnt about some of the barbaric things they did, when coming to Britain. I am sure that pupils will want to tell you about the gruesome facts!



It's been another jam-packed week for year 6, with Financial Friday and RE day in amongst all of their usual learning. We have started a new topic in Science: sound. The class have been exploring some new vocabulary, and using some everyday objects to create a range of pitches and sounds. We have been looking a little closer at the Benin Bronzes in history, and have been using pictures and quotes to understand why these artefacts were taken and why others tried to claim them as their own.

## 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 ...** real life superheroes

**Words to use ...** brave, kind, helpful, courage, thoughtful, emergency, police officer, paramedic, firefighter, coast guard

**Top tips ...** Can you practice making a 999 call? Can you learn your home address?

**We have been reading ...** Real Superheroes by Julia Seal

### YEAR 2

**We have been learning about...** new plants

**Words to use...** seed, root, shoot

**Tips for the week...** Which plants are growing the best/worst in your garden? Why?

**We have been reading...** The Large Family books, by Jill Murphy

### YEAR 4

**Talk to me about...** how we can be charitable.

**Words to use...** volunteer, community, fairtrade. Ethical

**Tip of the week...** practise the times table you are least confident in.

**We are reading...** George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl.

### YEAR 6

**Talk to me about...** my ideas for a healthy snack.

**Words to use...** healthy, alternative, sugar, substitute, natural, fruit, carbohydrates.

**Tips for the week...** familiarise yourself with the new Safeguarding for Children leaflet

**We have been reading...** Dog Man series by Dav Pilkey

### YEAR 1

**Talk to me about...** numbers to 50!

**Words to use...** greater than, less than, equal, two digit, before and after.

**Tips for the week...** ask me all about how I can take care of something.

**We have been reading...** The storm whale by Benji Davies.

### YEAR 3

**Talk to me about...** improving the environment

**Words to use...** what is meant by environment? How many different ways are there for us to help improve our environments? Can we save energy? Can we save water? What about food packaging?

**Tips for the week...** talk about what people around the world are doing to improve our environments.

**We have been reading...** The Promise by Nicola Davies

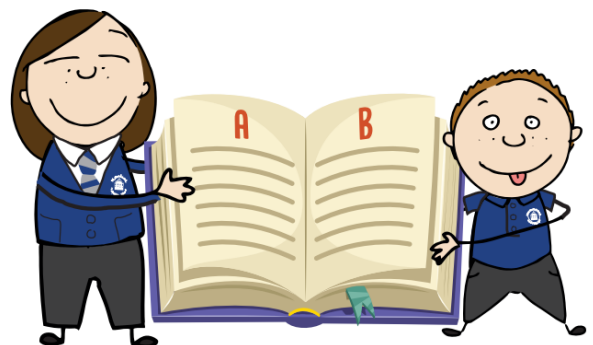
### YEAR 5

**Talk to me about.....** crumble kits.

**Words to use...** systems, monitoring, program, algorithm, sparkle, LED lights.

**Tips for the week.....** look out for things that require programming to work (traffic lights)

**We have been reading...** The Lost Words by Robert Macfarlane





# Key Stage 2 Celebration Assembly



Year 3: Kobe T  
 Year 4: Harvey R  
 Year 5: Theo I  
 Year 6: WHOLE CLASS

**WELL DONE!**  
**We are so proud of all of our winners!**

Sticker Cards:  
 RED: Luke B (4)  
 GREEN: Harvey R (4)  
 YELLOW: Sam B (1) Eddie M (3)

Laurence B



Casper BM



Emily M



Harvey W



Imogen T



## Lunchtime Menu – Chartwells for week beginning 25th March

	Monday 25th	Tuesday 26th	Wednesday 27th	Thursday 28th	Good Friday
<b>Main</b>	Cheese & Tomato Pizza with Wedges	Turkey Con Chilli & Rice	Roast Turkey, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Fish Fingers & Chips	
<b>Vegetarian</b>	Sweet Potato Curry & Rice	Macaroni Cheese	Cheesy Leek & Carrot Crumble, Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Quorn Nuggets & Chips	
<b>Dessert</b>	Chocolate Fudge Cake	Crunchy Chocolate Biscuit	Chocolate & Vanilla Marble Cake	Shortbread Biscuit	

