



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 D Hoar](#)

4th September 2020

Value of the week: QUALITY

Welcome Back!

Oh my goodness it is good to be back!

It was lovely to welcome the children back to school on Wednesday and I am delighted to share that we had a **98% return** which is indicative of the fantastic parental support for our new COVID-19 related arrangements.

Even those who were dreading the car parking were pleasantly surprised at the flow of traffic and limited congestion—thank you to all parents for their support with this aspect.

Things do look and feel a little different in our bubbles in school but the children have adapted brilliantly to the changes that have been put in place.

There have been very clear directives from the DFE and these are captured within our risk assessments. In the new guidance released on the 28th August it was encouraged that all schools should return to their **usual uniform policies** and it was lovely to see the children looking super smart upon their return. We have adapted our practice slightly to enable children to wear PE kit on days that they are engaged in physical activities and it seems this has gone down well with the children! You will also be pleased to hear that the new guidance clarifies that uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more than usual!

Sadly, we are unable to welcome parents onto site without an invitation and so please ensure that any class correspondence is communicated by phone to the school office or for the attention of the class teacher in the first instance using the office email. Usual organisational/administration matters can be dealt with in the school office via email or telephone. We welcome Miss Polly Hopper as our new School Administrator and she will take up post on 14th September working alongside Mrs Hoar who will be returning to Newchurch for two days a week. Both ladies will be very happy to answer any queries you may have.

You may have seen suggestions that children should be wearing face coverings to school. This **does not apply** to children of primary school age. Staff are permitted to wear masks in communal areas should they wish to do so and so your child may see staff in masks from time to time. We will also be asking adult visitors to wear masks for invited appointments as well as if you need to pick up your child for any reason during the day.

We promise to keep you updated of any changes to the current arrangements and thank you for your co-operation and understanding to date.

Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Howarth

Back to school

Walk, cycle or scoot to school where you can.



STAY ALERT ▶ CONTROL THE VIRUS ▶ SAVE LIVES

INSET DAYS

The school will be closed to pupils on the following dates

Monday 21st December 2020

Tuesday 22nd December 2020

Thursday 22nd July 2021

Friday 23rd July 2021

Important Information

Clubs

The new clubs programme starts on Monday and is filling up fast! As always we are really proud of our extensive range of clubs that are offered and we are pleased that we can continue to offer the additional safety component of children remaining within their bubbles for their clubs each evening. Please be aware that it is really important that we know in advance if there are any changes to the end of day arrangements for your child, including whether they will be attending an after school club or not. You are free to contact the school office at any time to advise us of any unforeseen changes and we will confirm via a text message that any change has been relayed to your child.

After School Club provided by Newchurch Nursery has had to limit attendance to children of key workers only and will do all that they can to keep children separate according to their bubbles.

The DFE has asked schools to share the advice that **parents may want to limit the number of different out-of-school settings providers they access, as far as possible** and to only access provisions that can demonstrate their compliance with the COVID protective measures. We know our children love to get involved in lots of different activities out of school but this may be a time to think carefully about whether doing lots of different things is the safest approach.



Keeping Children Safe

In line with statutory regulations we are required to collect a minimum of two emergency contact numbers for every child in school. This will ensure that in the event of an emergency occurring we can easily and quickly contact immediate family or close family friends of the child involved. If you are unsure if you have provided two contacts please contact the school office as soon as possible where

Mrs Hoar will be happy to check. Thank you for your co-operation.

Please be reminded that the **Designated Safeguarding Lead for the school is Miss Howarth** but that also Mrs Parkin, Mrs Kelly and Mrs Martin are suitably trained to deal with any concerns regarding child safety or welfare that you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact the school at the earliest opportunity to raise any concerns or worries you may have and we will do our best to advise and assist.

All staff have received updated safeguarding training and all classes have posters on display which show the NSPCC green speech bubble (shown above) along with images of who children can talk to in school if they feel worried or a little bit unsure about anything. We always encourage children to 'speak out to stay safe' and this has never been more important than now. Staff will have access to further mental health training this term in order that they can suitably support children through this time of transition back to full time school.

We will continue to use our local surroundings and children will be leaving the site for walks and PE activities in the open meadows surrounding the school. We cannot do this without your consent and therefore please can we encourage you to **send back your consent forms as soon as possible**. School visits are permitted as long as all procedures are COVID safe and so we do hope that some of our classes will be able to get out and about this term.

TOKYO 2020 Our Curriculum Offer

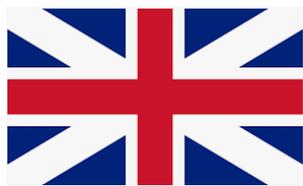


In line with DFE requirements we will continue to offer a broad and ambitious curriculum this term. The theme for our learning is **Journey to Tokyo** with each class adopting a name of a country participating in the Olympic Games next July. This will enable us to have great fun learning about not just about the physical activities in the games but also all about the geography of our countries too!

As our learning was cut short we also have still work to do on our Science focus from last year and are still looking to obtain our Ocean Guardianship accreditation. So it will be busy, busy, busy!

From next week we will begin to gently assess the pupils to begin to identify any gaps in learning and the following week we will be undertaking virtual mentoring meetings to talk with you about any concerns that you may have regarding how your child has settled back into school life. Your class teacher will be in touch with arrangements for these soon.

SO HOW HAVE WE SETTLED IN?



Great Britain Class, affectionately known as Team GB, have absolutely amazed Mrs Starkey this week! It has been wonderful to see them so keen to join Newchurch Primary School and so excited to explore their new learning environment. We have thoroughly enjoyed our stay and play sessions and are very much looking forward to spending more time with the children next week. We got to meet Mr Allen who will be taking us for PE on a Tuesday and Thursday and found out where our pegs were. Now we are keenly awaiting the arrival of our personalised peg labels - who knew the choices would be quite so diverse but Mrs Starkey did say we could pick anything we wanted

Wow what a super first week back in Iceland class! The children have taken all the recent changes in their stride and have returned with a really mature attitude. I have been so pleased with how they are settling in to their new routines.



Year 2 (Denmark class) have settled back into school extremely well this week. They have enjoyed exploring their new classroom environment and getting to know their new teachers. Using 'The Colour Monster' we have focused on our well-being and have started to develop our year 2 Number and place value knowledge.



Year 3 are settling nicely into Netherlands Class. So far, they have learnt about how to keep themselves safe and happy after returning to school this week. They have created fact files about their class name and the class bear has been given a name, Hendrik.

Sweden Class has settled in brilliantly, we have done some tricky maths work, making mini me's where the children had to measure themselves, then half their measurements. We have also completed some English tasks including setting ourselves five targets we would like to achieve in Year 4. I am so impressed with their start back to school considering the long time they have been away so they all deserve huge congratulations.



Switzerland Class have returned full of energy and positivity. They have had a fantastic first week, settling into Year 5, looking so grown up and smart in their uniforms. We have concentrated on all our well-being and making sure that we all feel safe and welcomed back. We have looked at government statistics, displayed in charts, graphs and pictures from Lock Down and used our knowledge of place value to work out the cost of furlough! We have been looking at electricity and used our knowledge of complete circuits to make a 'Super Hero', light-up cuff. Superb!

Year 6 or Brazil Class have had a busy few days! We have been learning about our strengths and how to maintain a positive, growth mindset. We have tested out our maths skills whilst paying 'The Pirate Game' and have also started our new 'Black History' topic. I have been really impressed with everyone's enthusiasm and positive attitude to being back at school, well done year 6!



CAN YOU HELP?

We are currently looking for an additional parent representative to join our Federation governing body.

Governors work with the senior leaders in the Federation to help to shape strategic direction and hold the schools' leaders and finances to account. We currently have an opportunity for new governors to join our team - are you interested in directly contributing towards the development of the Federation?

The most desirable aspects that you would bring to our team are commitment and a parent's/carer's perspective, but our governing body is particularly looking for commercial experience such as finance, HR, legal, PR and property management. Any experience in these areas would be especially welcome but is not necessary.



Attendance

The DFE have stressed that it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise, as far as possible, the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.



School attendance is once again mandatory. This means that the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including;

- Parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age.
- School's responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence.

We have always had excellent attendance figures at Newchurch Primary School and are keen to work with parents to secure regular attendance for their child. Please remember that **holidays are not authorised** in term time and a leave of absence form is required to be completed for all absence requests. Please note that leave will only be granted in the most exceptional circumstances.

Whole School Attendance Target 2020/21 97%



FREE SCHOOL MEAL ELIGIBILITY

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, perhaps related to the pandemic, to consider the criteria and apply if they are eligible.

Are you entitled? 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, additional in-class support.



What's for lunch next week?

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main	BBQ Chicken Pasta	Sausage Roll & Wedges	Homemade Lasagne	Chicken Wraps with 50/50 Rice	Battered Fish & Chips
Vegetarian	Vegetable Pasta Bake	Vegan Mexican Roll & Wedges	Vegetarian Lasagne	Vegetable & Bean Wraps with 50/50	Spanish Omelette & Chips
Dessert	Chocolate & Beetroot Brownie	Fresh Fruit & Yoghurt	Iced Sponge	Apple Sponge with Ice Cream	Spanish Cookie

**ALL HOT MEAL ORDERS MUST BE IN BY 9.15AM DON'T BE LATE THE COOK CAN'T WAIT!!!
DON'T BE LATE...THE COOK CAN'T WAIT!!!**

