

Newtown Church of England Primary School



**Growing together
in strength, love and wisdom,
we shine.**

**Newsletter
Tuesday 5th September 2023**

Message from the Head

I hope you have all had a fantastic summer holiday and are looking forward to the exciting year ahead! This week there won't be a newsletter on Friday, instead I am writing to you on the eve of the new year with updates and information for the coming year.

Summer Works

The summer has been extremely busy both within the school building and outside in the school grounds. The whole school environment is now of a standard that we should all be proud of and will help the children thrive.

The approach to the school is much changed – as detailed in the newsletter at the end of last year – and I hope you find this to be welcoming area. Flower beds will be added in the coming weeks and planting commence in the autumn.

We have also welcomed eight battery hens to the school site which the older children will help keep and clean. This will be done on a rota basis.

You will see that the running track has been installed which will ensure high quality PE lessons can take place as well as providing additional all-weather surfacing.

Hedge reduction work has also taken place at the back of the school which has positively impact not only externally, with a greater feeling of space and far-reaching views across open fields, but also internally where classrooms now have additional light.

Inside the school, decoration work has been completed in Owl, Kestrel and Osprey Classes with news boards, fixtures and fittings improving the learning environment.

Meet the Teacher Event

We would like to welcome all parents to come into the school at the end of the school day on Thursday 14th September. Teachers will give a short presentation to introduce themselves, inform you of what to expect this year and answer any questions. You are then more than welcome to walk around the school and the grounds and see the improvements that have been made.

If you have children in different year groups, or are unable to attend, please rest-assured all information will be shared on the school website class pages.

Year 1 & Year 2 Teaching

Unfortunately, Mrs Lench has still not fully recovered from the broken shoulder she suffered before the summer holidays and will not be returning to school before October half term. We wish Mrs Lench a speedy recovery.

We therefore welcome Miss O'Brien to Hawk Class who will teach the class for this half term.

School Day

A reminder that the school day runs from 8:45am until 3:15pm. The doors will be open from 8:35am and will close at 8:45am. The start of the day is a really important time where interventions and reading takes place so please do all you can to ensure your child is at school on time.

Start of the day:

- All classes will enter school through the foyer.

End of the day:

- All classes will be dismissed from the foyer, with the exception of Falcon Class and Hawk Class who will be dismissed from the field gate.

Attendance

The attendance last year was 95.1%. Our school target is 97%. It would be wonderful if we could hit that this year!

School Uniform

Please be reminded that we expect a high standard of school uniform; this includes school shoes.

Children must wear school shoes and not trainers – black or otherwise - as per our school uniform policy.

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School Clubs

Sunrise Club will be run by Mrs Hordern and Mr Davies and continue from 7:45am until 8:45am each morning.

Sunset Club will continue to be available every night from 3:15pm to 5:30pm. This club will continue to be run by Mr Roberts and Mrs Braithwaite.

In addition to this club, we will run clubs which parents are asked to sign up to specifically. For example, every Thursday there will be a sports club which will be run by Miss Oakley – our Sports Coach.

This half term this club will be Athletics, making use of our new running track, and children are able to sign up to it. Please note that, unlike previously, children in Sunset Club **will not** be able to join this club unless specifically selected on the Teachers 2 Parents App.

Sunrise and Sunset Clubs will continue to offer variety of options for the children, including chillout, but this year we will offer additional clubs which can be signed up to separately.

Forest School

I will lead Forest School on Wednesday afternoons this year which will enable all children to have regular outdoor education.

Further information will be sent out in the coming days, but over the course of the year, each class will have 12 Forest School sessions. These will be split into three 4-week blocks as outlined below.

Forest School Schedule 2023/24

Year 1 & 2	15 th November to 6 th December	13 th March to 17 th April	22 nd May to 19 th June
Year 3 & 4	11 th October to 8 th November	7 th February to 6 th March	24 th April to 15 th May
Year 5 & 6	13 th September to 4 th October	10 th January to 31 st January	26 th June to 15 th July

Owl Class will continue to have a Forest School session every Friday which will be led by Mrs Hidalgo.

School Books

This year, we made the decision to not send books home for most children. There are several reasons for this including GDPR and safeguarding. However, moving forward and with the correct permissions collected, we will send home most books at the end of Year 2 and Year 6.

From now on, rather than starting new books each year, children will carry books through to the end of the key stage - Year 2 & Year 6. This new approach aligns with our commitment to evidence-based learning and will allow us to better demonstrate the sequencing and progression of learning for both staff and children.

PE

Each class will have two PE lessons per week – starting this week.

PE days will be as follows:

Owl Class: Monday & Thursday

Hawk Class: Tuesday & Thursday

Kestrel Class: Monday & Thursday

Osprey Class: Tuesday & Thursday

Falcon Class: Thursday & Friday

New PE kits will be given to the children on the first day back and they should wear these kits all day on their PE days. Please note: children don't have to wear ALL the kit every week, just what is appropriate for the weather. e.g. with the current temperatures, just shorts, t-shirt, socks and trainers.

We are really excited to welcome children to school in their new PE kits but PLEASE PLEASE label them with your child's name!

Year 6 London Trip

A reminder that Year 6 children will be visiting Buckingham Palace and The Houses of Parliament on Monday 11th September – next Monday. Please keep an eye out for further information which will be circulated in the coming days. Please could I ask that remaining payments are now due. Thank you.

Hot Weather

With the forecast for 'unseasonably hot weather' this week, please be reminded to send your child in to school with a water bottle, hat and sunscreen should be applied before they come to school.

We very much look forward to welcoming all the children back to school tomorrow!

Yours sincerely,
Mr Ben Crompton.

Key Dates

6th September

11th September

14th September

Return to school

Year 6 London Trip

Meet the Teacher Event

3:15pm – 4:00pm

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