

Newchurch Community Primary School  
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Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway

29<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Dear parent/carers,

As the beginning of the new academic year is fast approaching, we thought we would touch base with you all and give you some information to help with the smooth transition of the children back into school.

### Drop off and collection

We have decided to maintain the staggering of drop off and collection times which were in place last year but have needed to make some slight changes. The times for September 2021 are as follows:

Start Time	KS1	KS2	Finish time
8:45am		Year 6	3:00pm
8:50am	Year 2	Year 4	3:05pm
8:55am	Reception	Year 5	3:10pm
9:00am	Year 1	Year 3	3:15pm

You will notice that we have reduced the amount of time between drop off and collection times; there is now a five minute window rather than ten minutes. This allows us to return close to the usual school times we had before the pandemic. The children will be dropped off and collected at the gates like before the summer holidays.

We have looked at the siblings across school and aimed to ensure that they are able to be dropped off and collected at the same time as each other, or within a five minute period. Of course, there will be some families who we have not been able to accommodate within the timings and they will be contacted on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August to explain the drop off and collection arrangements for their children. On Tuesday, we will send out a reminder text of times to everyone.

Before the summer holidays, we had a number of measures in place which allowed us to mitigate any risks to our families. After looking at the guidance, we are able to confirm that face masks do not need to be worn when dropping the children off in the morning and during collection at the end of the day. Many of you will be pleased to hear that the steps can now be used as normal (coming up and down them) but again, please only enter the school grounds at the time your child will go into school.

As you can appreciate, there is an element of risk when such a large number of families are brought together at one time and so staggering the drop off and collection times allows for social distancing to be facilitated. We would very much ask that you help us with this by continuing to arrive promptly within the timeframe for your



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child and follow the one way system to leave the school grounds following drop off. It usually takes us about a week to get into the flow of timings.

### Uniform and PE days

We are very much looking forward to seeing the sea of red walking through the school gates on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September. Children will continue to be able to wear their PE kit all day on PE days as this allows for longer PE session. The PE days are as follows:

Class	PE days
Reception	Tuesday (own clothes or PE kit for Forest School) and Friday
Year 1	Monday and Wednesday
Year 2	Monday and Wednesday
Year 3	Tuesday and Friday
Year 4	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 5	Monday and Friday
Year 6	Wednesday and Friday

**For the first day back, please could we ask that all children are in their full school uniform. PE lessons will start on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Reception Forest Schools will commence week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021.**

Having seen the red polo shirts worn by some children on Sports Day in July, we are sure the change from a white t-shirt to a red polo shirt will be a positive move, particularly from a laundry perspective! Just a reminder of the school uniform expectations:

School Uniform	PE uniform
White polo shirt Red jumper/cardigan/fleece Grey pinafore/skirt/trousers/shorts Black shoes Grey, black, white or red socks/tights Summer term: red gingham dresses etc Black shoes	Plain black hoodie Black leggings/joggers Red polo shirt (not a crew neck t-shirt) Trainers

The red polo shirt does not need to have a logo on it and are readily available in packs of two in many supermarkets for a very good price. Should you wish to have a logoed polo shirt, then our regular supplier Cactus (<http://www.cactusclothing.co.uk/>), are the one stop shop for all our uniform. **Please, please, please label everything so any stray items can be returned to their owners easily.**

Children may wear a watch to school and any earrings worn must be a simple stud earring which will need to be removed on PE days. For health and safety reasons, could we ask that children with hair which is shoulder-length or longer tie it back into a bun, plaits or a ponytail.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 only need their red book bag for school as we do not have space to accommodate larger bags and the book bags fit into the children's trays perfectly. Back packs can be used in Key Stage Two as they have their own lockers to place them in. Children do not require pencil cases as all resources will be provided by school.

### Snacks, lunchtimes and water bottles

It is important that the children have a healthy snack for the morning break. We would like to begin the year with a clear focus on ensuring that all our children make healthy choices at break time. Chocolate bars and



sweets are not allowed as a snack. As usual, snack is available from the school kitchen for classes Year 1 to Year 6 which is payable via ParentPay.

Hydration is also very important to learning. Please could we ask that all children have a reusable plastic water bottle each day. Metal water bottles are not allowed in school. Water is the preferred drink for the children but as a parent myself I understand that some children would not drink anything if they only had water. It is imperative that children drink throughout the day as this could lead to health problems. Therefore, if your child does not like to drink water, then sugar free cordial diluted with water will be acceptable. However, should they need their water bottle refilling throughout the day, only water will be offered.

Children on Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible for universal free school meals. Parents of children in Years 3 to 6 will need to ensure that their ParentPay account is in credit ready for the start of the school term. We often find that when children move into Year 3, some are eligible for benefits-related free school meals. Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

If you believe that you are eligible for benefits-related free school meals, please contact Mrs Heath in the school office and she will help you with your application. Even if your child is in Key Stage One, it is worth applying as school receive funding for children who are eligible which we use to support your child in their learning and educational experiences such as trips, residential etc.

### New Robins 2021

The warmest of welcomes to our new Newchurch robins and their families; we are delighted that you have chosen to become part of the Newchurch Family and look forward to a great start to the children's learning journey.

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September and Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September, Mrs Sizer and Miss Sullivan will be conducting the parental conferences prior to the children starting. Every parent should have a designated time booked for this, but if not, please could you contact school via email: [newchurch\\_primary@sch.warrington.gov.uk](mailto:newchurch_primary@sch.warrington.gov.uk) and we will look to see if we can make an appointment for you.

Each child has been placed in a group which indicates the day they start school full time. All children will be in school full time by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September. Please do not worry if you cannot remember the time you have booked your parent conference for or the day your child starts school, we will send a text out on Tuesday with a reminder.

At the Welcome Meeting in June, we indicated that Reception would start at 9am. You will see from the table above that we have changed this slightly to 8:55am to accommodate the other classes arriving in school and to also support the drop off of siblings. Normally, the children will be dropped off at the gate but as it is their first



few weeks in school, we feel that it is important that you are there to settle them in. Therefore, you will be able to enter the classroom with the children when they are dropped off in the morning and once they are settled, if we could ask you to leave by 9:05am (after Year 1 have arrived) that would be appreciated. If your child is unsettled when you leave, please do not worry. Mrs Sizer and Miss Sullivan have magical powers and your child will be settled in no time at all. We will give you a ring to let you know they are okay.

### **Outbreak Management Plan, Risk Assessment and Changes to Isolation**

As we communicated early in the summer holidays, up until 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021 schools supported NHS Test and Trace by identifying close contacts. However, from 19<sup>th</sup> July, close contacts are identified via NHS Test and Trace and schools will no longer be expected to undertake contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact e.g. friendship groups, family members etc. Schools may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.

For those of you whose child was a close contact of a positive case of COVID, you will be acutely aware of the disruption to the children's learning the isolation had, as well as the impact on working parents. We are sure you are delighted to hear that the current guidance states that from 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021, children under the age of 18 years old will no longer be required to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Instead, children will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would therefore encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so. This means that we will no longer be required to isolate whole 'bubbles' of children and face-to-face teaching will be the norm.

However, as part of the preparation for the start of the new academic year and the possibility of a further outbreak of COVID, schools are required to review their risk assessments in light of the guidance they have received and also have an Outbreak Management Plan in the event that a number of positive cases of COVID is detected within the school. These will be posted next week on the school website. You may note that we have kept some of the restrictions in place such as lunchtimes and playtimes to restrict the mixing of bubbles. This is a temporary measure as we would like to see how the return to school impacts on the number of cases in the community before relaxing any restrictions further.

As a school, we will continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak and the school's comprehensive Outbreak Management Plan which will be implemented if there is an outbreak in Newchurch. The thresholds detailed in the DFE guidance as an indication for when to seek public health advice are:

- 5 children, pupils, students or staff, who are likely to have mixed closely, test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period; or
- 10% of children, pupils, students or staff who are likely to have mixed closely test positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period

Please could we ask that you are mindful that cases of COVID-19 are still being identified across the country and we need to continue to work together as wonderfully as we did last year to limit the cases in our school. Please consider your close contacts outside of school and maintain the hygiene recommendations which have always been promoted.



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## Lines of Communication

We have been looking at ways of optimising the children's learning and one of the changes we are making is asking the teaching assistants to greet the children in the morning at the gate whilst the class teacher can start some morning activities with the children when they enter the classroom. It is surprising how much learning can take place in the first ten minutes of the day.

Teachers will see their classes out at the end of the school day. If you need to speak to your child's class teacher, please could we ask that you contact the school office either by phone (01925 763427) or via email [newchurch\\_primary@sch.warrington.gov.uk](mailto:newchurch_primary@sch.warrington.gov.uk) and the message will be passed to the class teacher. As they will be teaching, it will be lunchtime or the end of the school day when they will contact you.

The class teacher should always be the first port of call for any questions or concerns; however, if the concern is of a safeguarding nature, then please detail this in your conversation with the office or in your email. Please do not give any details, just state that it is a safeguarding issue and this will be passed to me immediately. In my absence, it will be passed directly onto one of the deputy safeguarding leads: Mr Duckett, Mrs Sizer or Mrs Conreen.

And finally...as we prepare for the new academic year, we bid a fond farewell to our gorgeous Year Six robins and wish them all the very best for the future. Dream big and fly high! Keep in touch and remember, 'Once a robin, always a robin!'

See you all very soon.

Kind regards,

*Mrs Jayne Narraway*

Headteacher



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