

Newchurch Community Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway

28th February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the start of a brand new half term! We trust that the children had a wonderful half term and they are raring to go.

Many thanks for the smooth start to the morning with the drop off of the children. Please could we ask that all children in Reception, Year 1 – 4 have an adult who is responsible for them on the playground at the start of the school day. It does feel a little more unstructured that what we have been doing since COVID but we will all get used to it. The trick is to only arrive just as the children are about to go into school rather than hanging around on the playground for ten minutes.

COVID-19 Update

As you will be aware, on Monday 21st February the Prime Minister set out the next phase of the government's COVID-19 response '[Living with COVID-19](#)'. COVID-19 continues to be a virus that we learn to live with and the commitment to reducing the disruption to children and young people's education remains. The latest COVID guidance states that as risks of severe illness from COVID-19 in most children and most fully vaccinated adults are very low, and the successful vaccination programme has achieved a high rate of take-up, other guidance can now be removed.

From Thursday 24th February, the Government removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.

In addition, the Government no longer asks fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days, and they have removed the legal requirement for close contacts, who are not fully vaccinated, to self-isolate.

As parents and carers, we are sure you will agree that a pupil with the key symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend the school, given the potential risk to others. The Local Authority have advised that if a parent or carer insists on a pupil attending school, where they have a confirmed or suspected case of



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COVID-19, we can take the decision to refuse the pupil if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.

We have also been asked to continue to exercise caution to the situation. We will ensure that the measures already in place for good ventilation and hygiene will continue within school until further notice. It is expected that health and safety operational guidance will be updated by 1st April when risk assessments will need to be written to consider COVID as an 'infectious disease.' The Public Health team will support work on this and send out further information in the coming weeks.

My Masterpiece Exhibition – 7th March 2022

We are delighted to announce that we are partnering up with My Masterpiece Gallery once again to give our Newchurch Robins the chance to exhibit their work like a professional artist. Some of you may remember the exhibit which we have done in the past but for many of our families it will be a new experience.

The exhibition was planned to take place prior to COVID, but unfortunately, due to the need for gathering together, we had to postpone. We have finally managed to find a date which works for both the gallery and ourselves: Monday 7th March.

The exhibition will be made up of a piece of art created by each child. This is then framed by My Masterpiece and exhibited in the school hall at the end of the day. Parent and carers are then invited to visit the exhibition and see all of the amazing work and are also given the opportunity to purchase the framed piece for around £5-£6. A portion of the proceeds go to school, My Masterpiece and also Zoe's Place Baby Hospice (www.zoes-place.org.uk/).

The exhibition will be in the school hall at the end of the school day (3pm) and parents will be able to access the exhibition through the hall doors once they have collected their children. The exhibition will remain open until all children have left the school building so don't worry about missing it.

Due to the possible cost implication for families, we just wanted to make you aware of this upcoming event and also to invite you along to see all of the amazing artwork linked to Earth Day which we will be focusing on in April.

Reception and Year 1 Phonics and Reading workshop

Many thanks to those parents who have already signed up to the Reception and Year 1 phonics and reading workshops to be held on Thursday 10th March at 6pm. If you haven't already done so, please use the following links to help you let us know you are attending so we can ensure sufficient resources are prepared.

- Reception: <https://forms.gle/6bVcP2ZqKBSZqbee8>
- Year 1: <https://forms.gle/GZFiQa1mgFadprHw8>

We currently only have four people for each workshop but hopefully there will be more by the end of the week.



Uniform

You may have received a text in the holidays to inform you that the Children's Society Charity Shop in the village will take any unwanted uniform. Our Uniform Policy is now on the school website which outlines how we have taken steps to make our school uniform affordable and good value for money.

Whilst we are talking about uniform, please could we ask that all children keep to the school uniform expectations. We are seeing trainers being worn on days which are not PE days. We respect that sometimes things happen which result in children needing to wear different footwear but this should not be a daily occurrence.

Parent Board

Parent Board is a group of parents and staff (Mrs Sizer and me) who come together to work in partnership for the good of the children. We look at a range of different parts of the running of the school and look to make positive changes. Prior to COVID, we met on a regular basis and we would like to return to our termly meetings again. The meetings last no longer than an hour and will be held virtually as we find that this facilitates child care and more parents can attend.

We are proposing to have our next meeting on Tuesday 29th March at 6pm. The focus of the meeting will be to discuss homework and ways for parents to support their children at home. We hope to create a schedule of workshops and a bank of resources parents can draw on. If you would like to attend, please complete this form <https://forms.gle/p5PXoFoHDCZsDrzdA> providing your email address so the link can be sent to you. Everybody's opinion is listened to and the content of the meeting is a genuine consultation between parents and staff. If you cannot attend, but would like to express your ideas for us to discuss, please use the comments section of the google form. Following the meeting, we will feedback to all parents and carers on what was agreed.

Midday Assistant

Are you interested in becoming a member of the Newchurch team? We are looking for a dedicated midday assistant who is able to support our children at lunchtimes. If you are interested, please see the advert on our school website: <https://newchurch-primary.eschools.co.uk/>

Kind regards,

Mrs Jayne Narraway

Headteacher



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