

Newchurch Community Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway

19th April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back! We trust that you have all had a lovely Easter break and the children are raring to go for the final term of this academic year. There is lots going on as usual in this term so if you have not had time to put the dates in your diary, please check out the school newsletter.

Classes for next year

As mentioned in our earlier correspondence, we have now finalised out staffing structure for the next academic year. The reasoning behind such early communication is to ensure effective transition for all our children between now and September, enabling the children to form positive relationships with their new teacher and teaching assistant prior to the start of the school year.

When making decisions around staffing each year, there are many factors that need to be taken into consideration: the needs of each cohort, the journey each class has had whilst at Newchurch as well as the professional development of staff. We have been working on our structure since October and feel that we are now in a place to share this with you. The staffing structure for 2022-2023 will be:

Class	Teacher	Teaching Assistant(s)
Reception	Mrs Sizer	Mrs Dixon
Year 1	Miss Igglesden	Miss Sullivan
Year 2	Mrs Toone (Mondays and Tuesdays) and Mrs Conreen (Wednesdays, Thursday and Fridays)	Mrs Monks
Year 3	Miss Jones	Mrs Worthington
Year 4	Mrs Brinksman-Wood	Mrs Shepherd Mrs Wilkinson-Gamble
Year 5	Mr Duckett	Mr Boon (Nathan)
Year 6	Mr Singleton	Mrs Storey

You will notice that Mrs Conreen is working in Year 2 and will job share with Mrs Toone who will be returning from maternity leave in July. Mrs Price will continue with her pastoral teaching assistant role working with a number of individual children, small groups and delivering forest school across all year



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groups. Mrs Mowbray will continue to work in school one day a week to provide quality teaching and learning as well as release time for subject leaders to develop the curriculum.

Transition arrangements

Working alongside the Parent Board last half term, we looked at the transition arrangements for the children into the next academic year. We have always boasted an effective transition for our pre-school children into reception and wanted to replicate this if possible for all our children as they move into their next year group, or indeed prepare to fly onto high school.

We would like to share with you the following organisation for the summer term for the children currently attending Newchurch:

Wednesday 6 th July (all day)	Moving up day – all classes move to their new classroom and Y6 visit CHS
Monday 11 th July (3:30pm)	Meet the teacher meeting for current Y1, Y3 and Y5
Wednesday 13 th July (3:30pm)	Meet the teacher meeting for current Reception, Y2 and Y4

The 'Meet the Teacher' sessions will be aimed at providing you with information regarding routines and expectations in the next year group, provide an opportunity to meet the staff your child will be with next academic year as well as details regarding any residential visits or trips.

Throughout the last half term, the teaching assistants will occasionally be working alongside their new classes and individual children in order to make attachments ready for September and there will be opportunities for the teachers to read to their next class. In addition to this, in the last two weeks when Mrs Toone returns, there will be opportunities for staff to teach their new classes for either a morning or an afternoon.

Year Six children who are attending high schools other than Culcheth High, will have their own personalised transition plan as detailed by the school they will be going to.

Parent Board

Last half term, Parent Board met to look at homework and the support we could give to parents in terms of reading, writing and mathematics. During the meeting, we looked at the feedback from parents and children following the google form we sent out and it would seem that we need to refresh what homework looks like at Newchurch. We really do appreciate the time parents gave to complete the google form.

Feedback from the parent questionnaire was that homework was a little dry, predictable, repetitive and did not reflect the 'chocolate box curriculum' we offer at Newchurch. Some parents indicated that the completion of homework was somewhat of a challenge with their children. After careful consideration, we are looking towards a more project-based approach to homework where the children have a choice of activities over a half term. These activities will be linked to house points. At the end of each half term, the children will bring their project into school and they will present to their peers which will develop their speaking and listening skills. The project will look somewhat familiar to you if you remember the curriculum day task mats we did during lockdown. We will be modifying these to be



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based around the children's topics so they are able to develop their learning beyond the classroom. School will support with some of the resourcing if needed.

Prior to COVID-19, we used to have a summer term project and so we know that this is something the children enjoyed and was successful for many reasons. Therefore, we have decided to trial the homework projects after the Whit holidays. Further details will follow. We will be asking for pupil and parent feedback following the trial.

We are also looking at providing a series of loom recordings of how we teach different mathematical methods, grammar and spellings as well as providing crib sheets as to how we teach certain aspects of these areas of the curriculum. Parents felt that these would support parents the most as they could keep referring back to them but that some face to face workshops for parents would also be welcomed.

Communication with staff and the office

As you know, Mrs Dowling has left the position of School Business Manager and we are currently in the process of recruiting. This will leave a reduction in staffing in the office for at least seven weeks and we would kindly ask that you help us out with the management of the daily hustle and bustle of the school office. These are the ways in which you could help:

- Communicate information such as the picking up of children by other parents or for medical appointments via email newchurch_primary@sch.warrington.gov.uk
- Communicate messages to staff via the above email
- Leave non-urgent communication until after 10am
- Ensure that your child is on time as we have many children coming into school after the bell has gone and they need to come through the entrance
- Make note of information on the weekly correspondence sent to you – we aim to be as clear as possible
- Ensure Newchurch Robins accounts are in credit
- Inform us if your child is absent from school

Could we also ask that parents refrain from communicating with staff via their school emails. These emails are solely for the purpose of staff communication between each other and are, in many cases, linked to their phones which mean that when emails are coming through at the weekend and the evenings, it is potentially impacting on their wellbeing. If you need to contact your child's teacher, then please do so via the school email address instead. Thank you in anticipation of your support with this.

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Our Jubilee celebrations are well under way and we are in a position to share some further details with you. As we are not in school on the day of the actual Platinum Jubilee, we will be holding our celebrations in week commencing 23rd May. Here is the schedule:

Date	Activity	Classes involved
Monday 23 rd May – Friday 27 th May	Children will complete a range of activities linked to many areas of the curriculum	All classes
Tuesday 24 th May	Let's boogie day – a dance company will be coming to Newchurch to teach classes different dances through the	Year 2 to Year 6



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	decades the Queen has been in reign.	
Wednesday 25 th May	Children will come home with a white t-shirt which they have decorated with the flag of the country of the Commonwealth they will represent on the Thursday.	All classes
Thursday 26 th May	Commonwealth Games – Newchurch style. Children come in PE kit and their Commonwealth t-shirt for the day.	All classes
Friday 27 th May	Jubilee procession with children in their clothes from the decades Picnic at the Primary School lunch with the nurseries Music through the decades outdoor assembly for parents Afternoon tea available courtesy of the PTA	All classes and families

Just a reminder of the decades for each year group for the Friday:

Reception	2020s
Year 1	1960s
Year 2	1970s
Year 3	1990s
Year 4	1980s
Year 5	1940s
Year 6	1950s

The children can come dressed as a famous person of the era or in clothing synonymous with the decade. For example, they could dress as Elvis, one of the Beatles, Elton John, Abba, Winston Churchill, the Spice Girls etc.

We will send further details nearer the time regarding timings and the other logistics of the week. To say we are a little excited is an understatement and we hope the week will be a lifelong memory for our Newchurch Robins.

Have a lovely week.

Kind regards,

Mrs Jayne Narraway

Headteacher



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