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Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway

7<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

What a great first week back we have had! The children have settled back into school really well and when showing prospective parents around school yesterday, they were highly impressed with the children's engagement in their learning, their love of the curriculum and exceptional behaviour of the children. We could not be any prouder of our Newchurch robins.

We have a lot to share with you in this letter today so here goes...

### Afterschool Clubs

We are pleased to announce that we are in a position to offer extra-curricular activities to our children after school once again.

Club Title	Which classes	Maximum number	Member of staff leading the club	Day of the Week
Choir	Y2 – Y6	Unlimited	Mrs Narraway	Monday
Girls Football	Y5 and Y6	20	Mr Boon	Tuesday
Dodgeball	Y3 – Y6	20	Mr Boon	Thursday Lunchtime
Film	Y1 and Y2	20	Miss Igglesden	Monday
KS2 Football	Y3 – Y6	20	Mr Boon	Monday
Arts and Craft	Y3 – Y6	20	Mrs Conreen	Monday



Games	Y3 – Y6	20	Miss Jones	Wednesday
Dance	All KS2	20	Miss Brinksman	Wednesday
Computing	Y1 and Y2	20	Mr Duckett	Friday
Forest School	Reception, Y1 and Y2	15	Mrs Sizer and Miss Sullivan	Monday

Please complete this form link <https://forms.gle/uXVW9t4WrQ1bgiQZA> by Wednesday 12th January 2022 if you would like your child to take part in these extra-curricular clubs which are free of charge. Clubs will start week commencing 17th January until Friday 18th March.

If you have more than one child, please complete a form for each one of them in order to ensure that we can organise the clubs and communicate effectively with you.

We have put restrictions on the numbers for each club for health and safety reasons. Your child can make as many selections as they wish and will be allocated at least one club they have selected so that all children get a chance to attend something they have selected. If your child made more than one choice and did not get into the club, we will add them to a waiting list. It is the expectation that the children show commitment to the club they are attending and therefore they should attend every session unless they are absent from school. If they miss two sessions, then their place in the club will be given to someone on the waiting list.

Clubs will run until 4pm. The children can bring a snack to have between finishing school and the start of their club. Please can we ask that you do not think of the clubs as childcare provision; they are an enhancement of the school curriculum. At 4pm, children will be collected from the front entrance where they will can be collected by an adult.

### **One man's rags is another man's treasure...**

After Christmas, you may find that you have a plethora of board games that your children no longer use or have out grown. If you have any unwanted board games that are in good condition with all the pieces in place, we would very much welcome any donations to school.

### **Year 1 Phonics Screening Parents' Meeting**

In June each year, schools must carry out the Phonics Screening Check with all children in Year 1. In order for you to find out more about how we administer the checks and to look at ways in which you can support your child with their phonics and reading skills, we would like to invite all Year 1 parents to a short workshop on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 6pm.



## Reception Phonics Parents' Workshop

Phonics is one of the key ways in which children learn to read and write. Each day, children in Reception and Year 1 have a phonics session following a structured programme. We would like to invite all Reception parents to a phonics workshop on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 6pm. The aim is to share with you how we teach phonics and early reading skills and ways in which you can support your child at home. Please note that this is not the same as the Year 1 Phonics Meeting detailed above.

## Year 2 and Year 6 SATs Meeting

We would very much like to also invite the parents of our Year 2 and Year 6 children to a meeting on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March to provide information regarding how the Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) which will go ahead this year after being cancelled the previous year. The meeting will give you guidance on how the tests are administered, a chance to have a look at some past papers, information on how we are preparing the children and provide you with ways in which you could support your child.

## Reading Plus

In KS2, all children have access to the online platform Reading Plus which is a great programme for improving reading speed, fluency and comprehension. Since using Reading Plus, we have seen a significant improvement in the reading skills of those children who make use of it frequently within the school week.

Over the past year, teachers have given their class the target of reading a particular number of words in the half term in order to achieve a reward. However, after discussion between staff and the children, we feel that we need to change the organisation of this to reward effort rather than the number of words read. For instance, Child A, who reads regularly and has good fluency, will read at a greater speed than Child B who may read regularly too but is not secure in their decoding of words; however, this does not mean that Child B has not put in the same amount of effort as Child A.

Therefore, this half term, children will be set individual targets (a weekly target to achieve a half termly target) based on their current reading speed as detailed on Reading Plus e.g. 1000 a week. If they do achieve this within the week, then they will receive a raffle ticket which will go into a prize draw at the end of the half term. If they achieve their end of half term target, they will also have their class reward. The children will receive their targets on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January via their reading records.

We hope that this will ensure that all children feel motivated to use Reading Plus which really does impact on the children's reading outcomes. If you have difficulty accessing Reading Plus, please contact the school office and we will look at supporting you.



## PE Days

Following some classes having rugby and swimming, we needed to change some PE days. Just to confirm that, starting next week, PE days are the ones detailed below.

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

## Reading assessments and benchmarking

Next week we will be benchmarking the children to see if they are able to move up in their reading level following progress week before the Christmas break. Guidance from Ofsted states that the children in Reception and Year 1 need to have decodable books matched to the phonics skills they are working on in order for them to apply their knowledge. Therefore, you will see that some books coming home do not have a coloured book band as before. Do not worry, they are the right book for your child. Also, all books sent home for home reading should be at an independent level, meaning that your child can practise reading with fluency.

## KS1 and Year 3 visit to the Parr Hall

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January, KS1 and Year 3 will be visiting the Parr Hall for the performance of Snow White. We are not sure who is more excited, the children or the staff! We have received a COVID risk assessment from the Parr Hall and we have completed our own too and we feel secure that it is safe to take the children.

In order to ensure that we arrive at the Parr Hall on time, we need the children to come to school for 8:45am so they can be registered and have the chance to use the toilet before departing. Both gates will be open from 8:45am so the children can go straight round to their classes. Snack and a drink will be provided for the children on this day and they will be back at school in time for lunchtime.

## Year 6 Booster Sessions

Just a reminder that we will be starting the Year Six booster sessions every morning from 8:30am to help prepare the children for their SATs and also make sure they are in a great place for starting the high school in September. The boosters will be delivered by Mr Singleton, Mr Duckett and myself. Year Six



can enter the school building from the KS2 gate as usual. They will have 30 minutes of either Reading or Maths booster and then start their normal school teaching and learning hours at 9am, thus finishing school at 3:20pm.

And finally....

Thank you to all those parents, carers and grandparents who continue to wear their masks and social distance when dropping off and collecting the children each day. With the growing numbers of positive cases nationally we all need to continue to adhere to the rules and try to mitigate the risks as much as possible. Please could we ask that you only come onto the school premises when it is your allocated time as we have seen an increase in adults waiting. The times 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

Have a great weekend everyone!

Take care and keep safe,



Mrs J Narraway

Head Teacher

