

Newchurch Community Primary School  
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Dear parent/carer,

Welcome to the start of the last half term of the school year, a very different one than we are used to. Usually, we are looking at preparing for the Y6 end of year play and teachers are deciding what to perform at the final assembly, whilst putting the finishing touches to the children's reports. This year needs to be a little different and so hopefully, the information below gives you an outline of the coming few weeks at Newchurch.

### Home learning

We have organised a series of two week blocks for your children to complete over this half term. The focus remains on arithmetic in mathematics as we feel that this will stand them in good stead at the start of the next academic year. The learning project links to different subject areas and the English focuses on a particular text. Staff will continue to support you and the children with their home learning despite the expansion of other year groups into the school.

We absolutely love receiving photographs of the things the children have been doing and encourage you to share anything with us that we can add to our Twitter feed.

Mr Singleton and Mr Boon have been working on a virtual sports' day which the children can take part in. It sounds very interesting and we will give you further details in due time. You might have to forfeit the parents' race this year – sorry!

### End of Year Reports

At the end of the school year, you would typically receive an annual end of year report which celebrates the achievements of your child during the academic year. Well...no-one can say this has been a typical school year and also, you have been home-schooling your child during the school closure with the materials we have provided. Therefore, after careful consideration, we will provide you with an end of year report which will celebrate your child's achievements and progress until 20<sup>th</sup> March when the school was closed. In terms of providing attainment levels, teachers will base this on what they predict your child would have achieved, based on teacher assessment, had the school year progressed. This will not be as accurate as it would have been had the year progressed as normal, but will be a thoughtful and considered reflection on where your child was academically and where they need to focus in order to continue their progress. Your child's end of year report will be uploaded onto their online platform in the last week of the school year. We will give you further details nearer the time.



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Early in the autumn term, we will complete assessments and organise a parents' evening to provide you with an up-to-date picture of your child's attainment and how we intend to accelerate their learning if it is necessary. For children in Year 6, we are still awaiting guidance on how to report on your child's attainment and we will keep you informed once we know more. Hopefully, we will be able to organise a virtual meeting prior to the end of the school year.

### **Year groups not returning to school until September**

Please accept our apologies if any parents were offended that we did not include Year 2 – 5 children in our initial correspondence regarding the expansion of numbers. To hear of parents' disappointment affected us deeply as this was never our intention. Hopefully, the letter you received the same evening assured you that your child is just as important as those in the classes who are being reintroduced back into school. The intention was always to have two separate letters as sometimes including too much information in one letter can confuse the message being given and also it felt respectful to provide you with your own information. Please be assured that **every** child, family and member of staff is considered in every decision made before it is communicated to you. This is why we have not decided to welcome other year groups into school other than those identified by the government, as how could we possibly choose between our classes – we love them all equally!

### **Reception's transition to Year 1**

Any transition from one year group to another is of importance, but we are sure that parents of our Reception children feel that their child has not had the reception year they should have had before moving into Year One, where the National Curriculum begins. We completely understand your concerns, and actually share them with you; however, in the past, we did have some children who did not achieve the Good Level of Development at the end of Reception and so we needed to make provision for them as they transitioned into Year One. Please be assured that we are using this half term to look at how we can support your child socially, emotionally and academically as they move into Year One. We will adapt our provision as is deemed appropriate and aim to provide opportunities to accelerate your child's progress in the most age appropriate way.

### **Year Six celebrations!**

With the recent announcement of the delay of the phasing in of year groups, you may be thinking Year Six will not be able to have their final few weeks in Newchurch. We aim for this not to be the case if we can help it. We are currently working on how we can do the end of year performance with a difference and have an alternative approach in mind for our award ceremony. Year Six, watch out for your own update later in the half term.

### **Summer Holidays**

Last week, the governing body decided that the school will not be open to critical workers and vulnerable children in the summer holidays as it has been during the Easter and two week Whit holiday. This is to enable staff to have a break after volunteering, taking time away from their own families to provide childcare for our amazing critical workers and vulnerable children, and give them time to have their scheduled holidays which they have undoubtedly earned. This has been agreed with the local authority but we aim to ensure that we provide alternatives for our families. We would like to signpost you to <https://www.mylifewarrington.co.uk/kb5/warrington/directory/home.page> which has a number of alternatives. We apologise for not being able to continue this service but hope you understand the need to ensure the wellbeing of the staff and their families in these times.



Finally, we would like to express how grateful we have been to all our families for the support they have given us. From the emails of gratitude and encouragement, the delivery of treats here and there, the positioning of a decorated pebble by the door as you open up in the morning, the £270 donation towards books after one of our robins completed a sponsored walk during the lockdown and to the children who constantly amaze us with the work they are producing each day. You are our heroes and we love you. Nobody wished for this, nobody wanted us to be parted but we wouldn't want to go through this with anyone other than you!

So...onwards we move: slowly, deliberately, safely and together!

With kindest regards,



Mrs J Narraway

Head Teacher



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