

Newchurch Community Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway

6th November 2020

Dear parent/carer,

As you are well aware, the nation went into lockdown yesterday to help curb the rate of infection of COVID-19. We wanted to take the time to reassure you that at this point in time there is no intention to close schools and so it will be business as usual at Newchurch. We are committed to providing all the children with as much face to face teaching as possible until we are advised to do otherwise. Should schools be advised to close, you will be informed as soon as possible.

In the meantime, we are working behind the scenes to prepare some Christmas festivities for the children to keep the spirit of the season alive – all carefully linked to the government guidance!

Contingency Plan

This week, we have needed to implement our contingency plan with our Year Two class. We were delighted to see so many children log in to the virtual register and engaging with the online learning resources and live guided reading sessions. We are ever so grateful to the parents for their understanding, flexibility and support during this time and of course the children for their continued resilience and positivity. We will be asking the parents to complete a short survey regarding the implementation of the contingency plan in order to celebrate what has gone well, and to improve the service and communication should another class be asked to work remotely.

As part of the contingency plan, some children have been loaned devices. Please could we ask that these are returned on Tuesday 10th November in their plastic wallets to the school office. There will be a box in the porch for you to place them in which will then be quarantined for 72 hours. Could we also remind parents who have received a device to complete the agreement and return it to the school office.

Time out of school

Having lost so much schooling in the last academic year, maintaining the education of our Newchurch robins is vital and there is an expectation that all children attend school unless they need to isolate. Therefore, request for holidays in school time will continue to be unauthorised and we ask that you refrain from booking anything if and when the lockdown has been lifted.



LOTTERY FUNDED



Since coming back to school after half term, a number of parents have requested to collect their children earlier (with siblings) to go to meetings. The staggered drop off and collection times are worked not just for the safety of the children and our families but to ensure that the children get the allocated teaching time that they are statutorily entitled to. Therefore, no children should be leaving school before the designated time unless there is a proved medical reason for this.

Homework

Thank you to all those children who are uploading their homework each week and to those parents who are supporting them with this new way of working. The tasks set for the children are there to consolidate learning delivered in class and aim to help the children become more independent.

As part of the catch up needed, due to the school closure, the completion of homework is vital. We appreciate that some weeks it can be tricky and so perhaps one piece is done rather than all of it, but we have been monitoring the classes and there are some children who are not accessing the homework at all. Staff will be contacting these families to offer support and see what we can do to help – this is to ensure that there is equality for all our children.

Parking

Without a doubt, the staggered start and end of the day is impacting positively on the flow of traffic and the safety of pedestrians outside of school. However, we are finding that there are a few drivers who are parking outside our neighbours' houses, blocking their driveway and also parking on the double yellow lines. Please could we ask that you are respectful to our lovely neighbours and park responsibly and safely. Please do not be offended if you are reminded of this should we see anyone parking irresponsibly.

Keeping warm

As stated in our risk assessment, the classrooms and school building need to be well ventilated throughout the school day. Therefore, windows and doors are kept open to allow a flow of air throughout the day. At play times and lunch times, they are opened widely to really allow the air to flow. In order to ensure the comfort of the children, it may be worth them wearing a base layer of a t-shirt or skin under their shirts and jumpers. Please do not worry – your children are not going to be in Arctic conditions, but we appreciate that some people feel the cold more than others.

Free School Meals

As we go into another national lockdown, we are aware that some families may begin to feel the financial burden of this. In these challenging times, we are aware that people's circumstances can change weekly, and encourage you to apply for free school meals if you feel you may be entitled.

In KS1, we only need the parent/carer's national insurance number and evidence (screenshot/photo) if you are in receipt of the following benefits:



BENEFIT	PROOF OF BENEFIT
Universal credit (UC)**	Letter or screenshot of entitlement to Universal Credit which must be dated no more than 6 weeks before the date of application.
Income support (IS)	Letter or screenshot of entitlement to Income Support which must be dated no more than 6 weeks before the date of application
Income based job seekers allowance (IBJSA)	Letter or screenshot of entitlement to Income Based Jobseekers allowance which must be dated no more than 6 weeks before the date of application
Child tax credit but only those who are not entitled to a Working Tax Credit* and whose annual income (as assessed by the Inland Revenue) does not exceed £16,190 (subject to annual review),	Tax Credit Award notice as supplied by Inland Revenue for the current tax year * Tax credit award notice as supplied by the Inland Revenue for the current tax year and proof of the date employment ceased or the date employment of less than 16 hours per week started.
Working Tax Credit run-on	Paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
Support under part vi of the immigration and asylum act 1999	Vouchers as supplied by Inland Revenue.
Guarantee element of state pension credit	Pension Credit Award Notice (M1000)
Income related employment and support allowance (IRESA)	Letter or screenshot of entitlement to Income Related Employment and Support Allowance which must be dated no more than 6 weeks before the date of application
**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)	

You are probably thinking that you do not need to apply as the children in KS1 receive Universal Free School Meals, but this application leads to funding for the school which we use to subsidise trips, purchase IT equipment and provide vouchers towards school uniform. This will remain with your child for six years, even if your entitlement ceases.

KS2 parents will need to complete the form below and send in evidence (screenshot/photo) if you are in receipt of the benefits listed above. Please apply if you feel you may be entitled, or if your circumstances change, as we are happy to check on your behalf. Please send details/applications to newchurch_primary@warrington.gov.uk If there is anything we can do to support you, please do not feel that you cannot ask for help.

Finally, thank you to those parents who continue to exercise caution when a member of their family is symptomatic by keeping their children off whilst they await the results of COVID tests. This enables us to keep the children and staff safe and ultimately continue the face to face teaching of the children.

With kindest regards,



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Jayne Narraway

Mrs Jayne Narraway

Head Teacher



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Warrington Inclusion Hub
Committed to Inclusion
2018-19



Children's Services

