

Newchurch Community Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway

1st June 2020

Dear parent/carer,

We hope you are having a wonderful half term holiday and are enjoying the sunshine. We have been exceptionally lucky with the weather during the school closure which has made the experience just a little more bearable.

Over the last few weeks, we have been completing risk assessments, supported by the Risk and Resilience team and the teaching unions. A copy of our risk assessment is currently with the local authority for a final review before 8th June. You are able to access the risk assessment on our school website under the 'School Closure' tab and 'Update' link.

All the staff returning to school have a comprehensive handbook which details their roles and responsibilities in keeping the children and themselves safe. The staff are eager to be back with the children and will ensure that they follow the guidance set out for them.

We will do our very best to support your child with their social distancing; we cannot guarantee that there won't be times when this is difficult. In addition, we are not able to control how much families outside of school times adhere to the social distancing expectations. As we move into this next phase we are seeing lots of pictures in the media of gatherings of families and friends, an increase in the amount of traffic on the roads and people out and about. We therefore ask that all members of our Newchurch family continue to be cautious and continue with the disciplined approach we have seen so far. A family not exercising effective hygiene procedures and social distancing could impact on the safety of the children and staff they are working in a nest with. We are able to control what is happening in school but this would be to no avail if families were not adhering to the guidance outside of the school environment. Therefore, we have revised our Home School Agreement to address expectations during the current pandemic. We have uploaded this onto the school website. We ask that you read this document carefully. When you bring your child to school, you will be provided with a paper copy that we will ask you and your child to sign to state you will maintain the agreement, thus participating in keeping our children and staff safe.

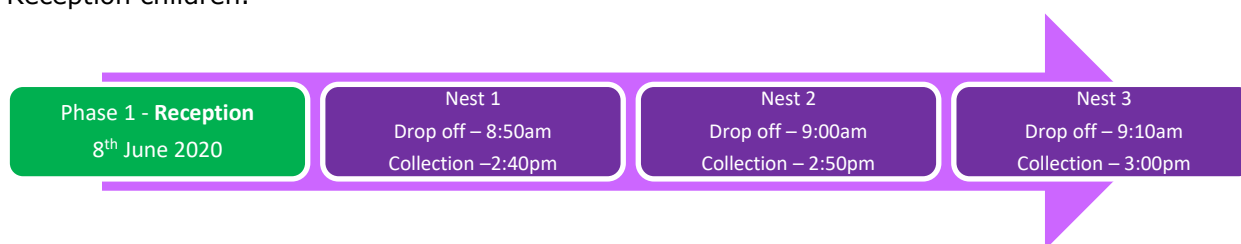
We will be contacting all Reception parents **today** to ask them to confirm if they are sending their children in on Monday 8th June. From the list of children who will be returning we will group them into nests accordingly, making use of the mind maps we have received to try to put friendships together as best we can.



LOTTERY FUNDED



As previously communicated, we will be operating a staggered approach to the children being dropped off and collected in the morning. The diagram below shows the times of drop off and collection for our Reception children.



You will be communicated via text as to your child's drop off and collection time. Please can we ask that you do not come any earlier or later than your scheduled time as this will impact on effectiveness of the staggered approach detailed in our risk assessment.

As we phase Year 1 and Year 6 children into school we will follow the same procedure of providing a social story for the children, contacting families for their decision and informing them via text of their times for drop off and collection.

We have had a number of queries as to whether we are able to provide childcare for children whose parents are being asked to return to work. When the school closure was announced we conducted a rigorous exercise which identified those parents who were considered critical workers based on the list provided by the government. These families have been contacted to see if they require childcare and now the childcare places are finalised. We would love to welcome more children into school but only when it is safe to do so, and so the message given by the government, 'if your child can't go to school, you can't go to work' needs to be applied.

Critical worker children will need to be in the school building between 8am and 8:30am each morning and be picked up at 3:30pm – 4:30pm each day to reduce the population on site at key drop off and collection times. As the number in this nest has increased, we will be operating two nests instead of one.

Please remember that if your child is returning to school, they will need to bring a sun hat, sun cream, water bottle and coat. We also ask that if your child is ill, you inform us as soon as possible that you will not be bringing them into school. A simple phone call to school is all that is needed.

We acknowledge that this is a difficult time for you as parents to make decisions for your child to come back to school, and also to keep them at home possibly until September. We appreciate that you will have questions and anxieties of your own and it has been suggested that we ask parents to complete a mind map too. This is completely voluntary but we welcome your thoughts and possible solutions to the pathway we are taking in working in partnership with our families.

We are working hard on a recovery curriculum for the children when they return to school. This will focus on supporting children emotionally, socially and academically following their experiences during the pandemic. It is not going to be easy, but we love your children and will do the very best for them all. All children, regardless of their date of return to school, will be provided with equal access to the support they require. We hope to give you further details of this in the coming weeks.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your messages of reassurance over the last few months and for your continued and valued support.

With kindest regards,

Mrs J Narraway (Head Teacher)

