

Newchurch Community Primary School
Glebeland
Culcheth
Warrington
WA3 4DX



Telephone: 01925 763427
Fax: 01925 766045
www.newchurchprimary.co.uk
Email: newchurch_primary@sch.warrington.gov.uk

Headteacher: Mrs J Narraway

5th October 2021

Dear parent/carer,

Let us start with some great news...

We are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Eric Toone! Many congratulations to Mrs Toone, her husband Danny and of course, big brother Freddie. We look forward to meeting him very soon and wish all the family well.

World Mental Health Day

Sunday 10th October marks the celebration of World Mental Health Day 2021. In partnership with the Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals Charity we would like to mark this event with a 'Rainbow Day' in return for a donation of £1. We challenge the children to come to school on Friday 8th October wearing as many colours as possible – the brighter the better! Anything goes! As well as being for a good cause, it will lift our spirits on these cold and wet days.

Reading Expectations

As part of the transition back into school, the children have all been benchmarked in their reading. This allows us to check the children fluency of reading as well as their comprehension. In some cases, children can read fluently (without hesitation and with attention to the punctuation) yet still need their language comprehension developing. It may be that your child has been given a book which you consider to be too easy for them. Books that are sent home are at an independent level and should be easily accessed by the children to help develop their fluency and confidence in reading. When reading with their teacher, they will read books which are the next level up – at an instructional level. Once the teacher feels that your child is accessing these books independently, they will be benchmarked again to see if they can move up a level.

In July 2021, the Department for Education conducted a reading reform. As part of this, they identified that reading is the most important element of any child's education and that children should learn to read 'at a glance'. Linked to this is the development of the children's vocabulary through reading. Here is what the statistics say:



Never reads	1-2 times per week	3-5 times a week	Daily	Five reading experiences a day
4,662 words	63,570 words	169,520 words	296,660 words	1,483,300 words

It is remarkable to see the difference in the amount of words learned when children read daily and have lots of reading experiences.

In school, the children engage with daily guided reading, daily English lessons based around a key text as well as time to read individually for pleasure and have the opportunity to be read to by their teacher each day. This equates to four reading experiences a day. The fifth one would be reading at home.

We recognise that we all have busy lives outside of school but would like to ask you to ensure that your child reads daily if possible. We include the weekends in this as some children have clubs after school and family life can be very busy. Please could we ask that your child reads at least three times within the week and you sign your child's reading record to confirm this. Children will be awarded house points for each time they read.

At the end of the week, the percentage of pupils who have three signatures will be collated in each class and we will see which class is top of the leader board. The results will be published each week via a letter such as this. The class with the highest percentage will be recorded and the one with the most times at the top of the leader board at the end of the year will have a special treat.

You may ask why are we doing this? It is simple really...at school you learn to read and then read to learn. The more you learn the better life chances you have. Here is some further research to support the importance of reading:

- Vocabulary at 3 years old is an indicator of KS2 SATs outcomes
- Vocabulary at 5 years old is an indicator of GCSE attainment
- Vocabulary at Year 6 is an indicator of future income

Together, we can increase the life chances of our Newchurch robins by helping them to grow their vocabulary through reading.

Open Evening at Culcheth High School for Year Six

As many of our Year Six parents are aware, the residential to Arete coincides with the open evening at Culcheth High School. We have been speaking with Mr Brown, the assistant headteacher, and he has organised for our Year Six children to visit the high school week commencing 18th October for about an hour. They will be treated to a tour during the school day and have the opportunity to ask any questions. We will inform you of the exact date as soon as it is finalised.

Mr Brown had advised that all parents considering Culcheth High for their child's secondary school visit on Thursday 7th October. This link <https://openevening.culchethhigh.org.uk/> provides details of the open evening. We are delighted that once again, the strong partnership between the high school and Newchurch has enabled us to facilitate their visit.



Parental Conferences Autumn 2021

You may have seen from the newsletter that we have already set the dates for the parental conferences for the Autumn term. They are as follows:

Reception	22 nd November
Year 1	23 rd November
Year 2	24 th November
Year 3	25 th November
Year 4	26 th November
Year 5	18 th November
Year 6	19 th November

Booking for timeslots will be available via ParentPay from 9am on Friday 8th October for you to select a time which is convenient to you. Each parent will be allocated a ten minute slot to discuss their child.

One of the positive things to come out of the COVID restrictions is that we have developed our practises in school. Therefore, we are able to offer you the option of a parental conference which is: via telephone, virtually through Google Meet or face to face in school. Please could you complete this google form to identify your preference: <https://forms.gle/H7WKGUJs1Wt1T6xv8> If you have selected a virtual meeting and would like more than one parent to attend, please give details on the form and we will send links to both parents nearer the time. We hope that this allows working parents more flexibility and supports childcare arrangements.



Author Visit

On Monday our Ks1 classes will be visited by Sean Perkins to share his latest release entitled 'Oscar and Ben'. The children will be able to purchase a signed copy of the book if they wish. The cost of the book is £7. If you would like your child to have a book signed by the author or to order books, please complete the following google form <https://forms.gle/YJabNwf6e2LemU8Z6> and send payment in an envelope with your child's name and class clearly written on the envelope on Monday 11th October.

COVID update

As you may have been aware from our correspondence of late, we have unfortunately had a number of positive cases of COVID identified. Thankfully, we have not needed to ask classes to isolate and work remotely. We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to every single parent in the school who is following the guidance and our recommendations when positive cases are identified. In addition, we acknowledge how you are all acting on the side of caution should your child display any possible COVID symptoms and keeping your child at home. This is really appreciated.



Kind regards,

Mrs Jayne Narraway

Headteacher



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