

# Newnham Junior School



9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents & Carers

**QUEEN ELIZABETH II** - Here at Newnham we, along with the rest of the country and the wider realm and commonwealth, are very sad at the loss of our dear Queen Elizabeth II. Yesterday, at the age of 96 she passed away at her Scottish estate, Balmoral with her closest family by her side. She was the longest reigning Monarch the UK has seen and for 70 years gave her life to crown and country. We have celebrated the Queen's life in assembly today and talked with the children about their memories of the Queen. All of our thoughts are with her family at this sad time.

**WELCOME BACK** - Welcome back to a new school year and a very warm welcome to our new Year 3 children and their parents and carers. We would also like to welcome our new staff member, Mrs Kundhi and Mrs Lovelock who has returned from Maternity Leave.

**FAMILY FUN NIGHT** - Due to the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, this event has been postponed from next Friday and provisionally rescheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> September at the earlier time of 4.30 - 7.30pm. This date will be confirmed early next week.

**GARDENING COMPETITION** - Before the holidays, the children were invited to enter a competition to suggest ideas for further developing our wildflower area at the far end of the school field and thank you to everyone who took part. We had planned to take some of the entrants to a trip to the Superbloom moat at the Tower of London on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September however this trip will be rescheduled.

**CLUBS** – All clubs begin next week. Please remind your child about the clubs they are signed up for to prevent any confusion about when and where they are being collected.

At the start of a new academic year, I would like to advise you of the following:-

**UNIFORM** – Thank you for sending your children to school looking so smart and please ensure that all clothing brought to school is clearly named to enable us to return it to you. A copy of our Uniform Policy is attached for your information.

**PREPARATION** - Before leaving home to come to school in the morning, please ensure that your child has everything they need for the school day i.e. homework, lunch box and water bottle, coats, jumpers/cardigans, glasses etc. Our School Office is very busy and we cannot guarantee that any items subsequently brought in will be given to your child in time for when they are required.

**ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL** – School starts at 8.45 but the children can arrive between 8.30 – 8.45am. The school gates will open at 8.30 **for only the children to enter**. A member of staff will be on the playground at 8.30am who will be available to take any quick messages for teachers from parents. The children will enter the school straight away and will be expected to start work in their classrooms. This is called a soft start. Any children arriving after 8.45am should be accompanied to the School Office to be signed in. Any parent who wishes to see the class teacher personally should contact the school office and an appointment to see the relevant member of staff will be made as soon as possible.

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**END OF DAY PROCEDURES** - I would like to remind all parents, carers and children about the procedures for going home at the end of the day which are shown below. These procedures work well if followed and the children are regularly reminded of the above in school. We would be grateful if these messages could also be reinforced at home. Thank you.

- Children finish lessons at 3:15pm and are taken onto the playground by their class teacher. The children wait with their teacher until they see the adult who is picking them up. There is also a member of the Leadership Team on duty. If they are not collected by 3:25pm, they will be taken to the school office.
- **For the safety of all children, please wait behind the yellow lines and/or cones unless you wish to speak briefly to the class teacher.** At the moment parents/carers are getting so close to the children that many cannot see who is going to collect them. If you wish to have a detailed discussion with your child's teacher, please contact the School Office who will arrange an appointment for you.
- If you know you are going to be late, please call the School Office on 020 3745 6216 **by 3.05pm at the latest.** We will then ensure that your child does not go into the playground but waits for you in reception.
- If your plans change during the school day and somebody else needs to pick your child up, please notify the School Office so that we can let your child and their class teacher know. If somebody turns up to collect your child and your child was not expecting to go with them, we will need to make contact with you before the child is allowed to go.
- If you see someone else's child in the playground that hasn't yet been collected, please do not take them from the playground (even if you know the parent) as this can cause distress for the child, whoever was meant to be collecting them and for us in establishing their whereabouts. In these circumstances, the child should return to the School Office.

**PERMISSION TO WALK HOME ALONE** - If you are happy for your child to walk home on their own after school (including after Clubs), please email the School Office at [office@mail.newnhamjun.org.uk](mailto:office@mail.newnhamjun.org.uk) to enable us to update our records. This permission will remain in force during your child's time at Newnham.

**RIDING A BIKE OR SCOOTER TO SCHOOL** – If your child will be riding a bike or scooter to school, please contact the School Office and we will send you an Agreement Form for completion and return. Your child will then be given a sticker to put on their bike or scooter to show they have agreed to comply with our rules. Anyone without a school sticker will not be permitted to bring a bike or scooter to school.

**MOBILE PHONES** - Year 6 children may bring a mobile phone to school if they walk home unaccompanied, however written consent must be provided from their parents/carers beforehand. The phones will be kept in a secure place and will be returned at 3.15pm. The school cannot take responsibility for any phones not handed in to a teacher. For safety and privacy reasons children are not allowed to have their phones out on school premises unless they have been given permission to do so by their class teacher.

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**SCHOOL POLICIES** – These are available on our website [www.newnham-jun.hillingdon.sch.uk](http://www.newnham-jun.hillingdon.sch.uk) under the Statutory Information heading and please can I draw your attention to our Positive Behaviour, Anti-Bullying and Attendance Policies. I would also like to highlight the following which are included in our Attendance Policy:-

- **Religious Observance** - No absences, including religious observance, can be authorised retrospectively. If you know that your child will be absent from school due to a religious festival, we still require you to seek permission beforehand in writing to enable this absence to be authorised and please remember that we can only authorise one day for each religious occasion.
- **Entrance Exams** - If your child will be sitting any school entrance exams, all requests for absence must be put in writing beforehand with supporting evidence and we can only authorise half a day for each exam.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES**

### **PARENT AND CARER INFORMATION SESSIONS**

**Year 3 (Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October)** - Parents and carers will be given a 5 minute individual appointment to meet with their child's teacher and further details will follow shortly.

**Year 4 (28<sup>th</sup> September), Year 5 (20<sup>th</sup> September) Year 6 (21<sup>st</sup> September)** - Parents and carers are invited to these information sessions which will all start at 6pm where details will be provided covering the ethos of the school and the value of education. This will be followed by an opportunity to meet the class teachers informally in their classes. The staff would like to stress the importance of these meetings to ensure that you are fully aware of the expectations they have for your children and how they can work in partnership to ensure every child makes progress. No appointments are necessary and please come to the school hall for a 6pm start.

**YEAR 3 PARENT TOURS : 9AM ON TUESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER** - I would like to give Year 3 parents and carers the opportunity to gain a better understanding of our school with a 30 minute tour with a member of our Leadership Team, followed by a brief visit to a selection of classes. We cannot guarantee you will see your child's class but you will see another class in that year group. There is no need to book - just come to the School Office on the day.

**CHILDREN'S WELL-BEING SESSION AT 9AM ON TUESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER** - 'Mindfulness' are providing a session on supporting children's well-being as detailed above and cake will also be provided at this session! There is no need to book in advance, just turn up on the day. This session is also being repeated at 8pm on the same day **online** (log in details to follow shortly) and please join us for one of these sessions.

**SEND COFFEE MORNING 9AM ON WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER** - Please join us for our first SEND coffee morning as detailed above for a chance to meet other parents/carers of children with SEND as well as have a cup of tea and cake! We have found that at some of our sessions last year, it was often parents and carers who were able to offer the most useful advice and support and that many people appreciated the chance to share their experiences with others who might be going through the same things. Our SENDCO, Ms Majhail will also be available for an informal chat.

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**SCIENCE** - In order to enhance our Science lessons this year, we are hoping to tap into the vast knowledge and experience of our parents and carers. If you work in any field of Science and feel you can help by coming in and speaking to the children about your job or the field of Science you work in, we would be very grateful. This would go a long way in enriching our Science lessons by making them 'real' and 'relevant'. Please email the School Office at with your name and a short description of how you can help so that we can put together a bank of names we can approach. Many thanks in advance.

Also this year we are working towards gaining a quality mark in Science (PQSM). We have renewed our vision for Science at Newnham and the principles we use when teaching Science. Please see the attached poster and ask your children about what they are doing in Science.  
Mrs Horn.

**UPDATED HOLIDAY DATES** – Attached for your information.

**LOCAL COMMUNITY NOTICES** - Further details can be found on our website

- The Arrow Players (a local drama group) are looking to attract new recruits for the junior chorus for their pantomime. Auditions are open to children in Year 5 and 6 and full details can be found on our website.
- Vacancy at St Lawrence Church
- QPR Girls football club.

Yours sincerely

Mr N Wilkey  
Headteacher

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