

Newnham Junior School



8th September 2023

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope you are well

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 members, Mrs Robert, Mrs Lee, Mrs Lacey and Miss Lennon.

We try to produce a newsletter every week and I would like to stress the importance of reading it. We make sure we have clear headings to allow you to find information which is relevant to you and your child.

CLUBS – Our Autumn term clubs list was emailed out earlier this week and sign up for clubs goes live on the Gateway on Saturday 9th September. **This goes live at midnight on Friday evening.** Please check with your child before signing up for a club. If a club is no longer showing on the Gateway – the club is full. We do not hold waiting lists, if a place becomes available it will be offered out on a first come, first served basis. **ALL CLUBS START WEEK COMMENCING 18TH SEPTEMBER. (Except Mindful Time which will start on 25th September)**

We are very proud of the amount and variation of clubs we offer and every teacher runs a club. We would like to do more but are limited in the space we have.

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. You have up until half term to purchase the PE kit. Please contact the school office if you are struggling to order it or needs financial help.

I hope you understand that to maintain our high standards we have to speak to children who are not wearing the correct uniform. **To prevent them facing consequences for this we ask that you send in a letter or email briefly explaining the reason why they are not in the correct uniform.**

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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Newnham Junior School



Continued...../2

PREPARATION – Thank you for equipping your child for school. 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.

NEWNHAM WALKING MAP - Please see attached. I would ask you to walk, park and stride if possible and the map shows places where you can park if necessary and walk the rest of the way. As a school, we really encourage our parents and carers to leave cars at home where possible and appreciate the benefits of doing so for our whole school community.

MUSIC TUITION

We offer small group and 1:1 lessons here at Newnham for those in Year 4 (and above). Mrs Brennan teaches violin and viola on Fridays and Mr Dignum teaches brass on Thursdays. Please use the following link for further details and to register your interest: www.hillingdon.gov.uk/music - Click on "Learn a New Instrument"

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.

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Newnham Junior School



Continued...../3

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 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.

SCHOOL POLICIES – These are available on our website 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 (4th 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 (Wednesday 27th September), Year 5 (Thursday 21st September) Year 6 (26th 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.

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Newnham Junior School



Continued...../4

YEAR 3 PARENT TOURS : 9AM ON TUESDAY 26TH 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.

AUTUMN TERM CURRICULUM PLANS – Please see the attached.

Information from the Local Authority

MyHealth Asthma Workshops - MyHealth are running FREE Asthma workshops for parents and carers who have children with Asthma. These sessions are run by the Hillingdon Hospital asthma nurses giving you the chance to learn from health professionals and to ask them questions directly. Some of the content included in these sessions is:

- Asthma attacks
- Asthma triggers
- Inhaler techniques
- Asthma action plans

The workshop is run online using ZOOM you can register your FREE place [HERE](#). All sessions are from 4 - 5 pm and current dates are:

- Monday 2nd October
- Monday 6th November

You can also contact the MyHealth team on tel: 01895 543437 or nhsnwlcg.myhealth@nhs.net.

Yours sincerely

Mr N Wilkey
Headteacher

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