

January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Welcome to a new school term**

I can't quite believe that we are already in January, the year is flying by. The children have settled back into school really well. I love their enthusiasm and love for school, they literally cannot wait for the gates to be opened in the mornings! The atmosphere in school is calm and focused, with excellent standards of behaviour and the children are really engaged with their learning. We are all looking forward to an exciting and successful term.

We have all been presented with such challenges due to Covid-19 over the past 18+ months and we are very fortunate to have such a supportive and caring parent community. I would like to thank you all for your kindness and understanding during these difficult times.

### **Welcome to all new staff and children**

I would like to welcome all our new children and staff to the school. Mr Stapleton has joined us as a teaching assistant in Year 4 and Mrs Moulds as a classroom assistant in Nursery and Reception.

### **Fundraising**

Thank you to all of you for your generosity and contributions to our raffle – we were overwhelmed by your generosity. In total we raised: £434.16.

The Christmas Jumper Day also raised £229.88 for Save the Children.

### **Pupil of the Week postcards**

Hopefully, you will have already heard from your children about our new Pupil of the Week postcards. Each week, one child from each class is chosen by their teacher for particularly going above and beyond and for upholding our school values. The postcards should arrive as a surprise for the children at the weekend and are celebrated in our weekly celebration assembly.

### **Reading incentives**

Reception and KS1 may have come home in the past week telling you about the 'Evil Pea', apparently, he is causing mayhem for our poor reading bugs. Hopefully, you will have seen the video created by Miss Edmonds and Mrs Villa, where the children need to read to save the bugs! As you may have seen, there is a surprise pending for KS2 – all will be revealed in due course.

### **Gate update**

Mr Betts and Mr Cracknell, our site team, have been working hard to install a new gate for the children in Years 5 and 6 to use as an alternative to the staff car park gates. The gate is almost complete, and a new gravel path is also being laid so the children will be able to access this easily from the pavement. We are hoping that this should be in use very soon.

### **Parking**

We have received complaints from residents that they cannot access or leave their properties during the school drop off and pick up time, due to their driveways being blocked. Please can you ensure that you do use the car park where possible and do not stop on the zigzags outside the school, or park obstructing access for residents and other road users.

## Covid - 19 update

Further to my Covid update letter, we now have clusters of positive cases in Reception, Year 2, Year 4, and Year 6. This means that despite the national changes regarding Covid and facemasks, we still fall under stricter measures due to the sheer numbers of cases in the school. Therefore, all restrictions that have been in place since January 2022 will continue until we are advised otherwise by Public Health.

There has been a significant impact on our staffing across the school and we have a high number of teachers and support staff who are now self-isolating due to Covid-19. I am doing everything possible to ensure that classes are not sent home, for example by covering absences with support staff, which means that your child may not be taught by their normal class teacher.


Please can you ensure that if you have tested positive for Covid, you are not entering the school site to drop off your children or come into contact with school staff. If we have further staff absences, we will not have enough staff to cover the classes and may need to, as a last resort, close classes/year groups.

## Future events

We are very much looking forward to getting to the point where we can resume normal activities for our school. Below are some key dates for your diaries. We are planning several other events for the children, particularly in the summer term, more details will follow.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and we are all looking forward to an extremely successful term ahead at Newton Leys.

Miss E Donoghue



Headteacher

## Dates for Diaries

<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<i>Break up for half term</i>
<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<i>Children return to school</i>
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	<i>Parents' Evening</i>
<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<i>Parents' Evening</i>
<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<i>Year 4 &amp; 5 Residential visit – Frontier Centre</i>
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<i>Break up for Easter holidays</i>
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<i>Children return to school</i>
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	<i>Bank Holiday</i>
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<i>KS2 SATs week</i>
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<i>Walk to school week</i>
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<i>Break up for half term</i>
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<i>Children return to school</i>
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<i>Class Photos</i>
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<i>Year 6 Activity Week</i>
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<i>Break up for summer holidays</i>