

April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Changes in staffing**

At the end of this term, we have some members of staff who will sadly be leaving us. Mrs Watson (school receptionist) left earlier this half term and Mr Stapleton and Miss Johnson (teaching assistants) will be leaving us to start new adventures. We wish them all the very best for the future. We will also be bidding a fond farewell to Mrs Muncaster, who is leaving us to spend more time with her family. We are extremely grateful for all the hard work and dedication Mrs Muncaster has shown to our children and our school, she will be truly missed. We have two new teaching assistants; we are very excited to welcome Mrs Christmas-Stone and Mrs Greer. We are also welcoming a new Admin Assistant Mrs Ford.

We have had some fabulous things happening in our school this term.

### **World Book day**

We celebrated World Book day on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. The children across the school took part in some wonderful activities including a book scavenger hunt and a visit to our library. We held our own 'book week' where the children studied the text 'Here we are' by Oliver Jeffers and the week culminated in our Bedtime stories evening. We had a 'book in a jar' competition and were completely overwhelmed by the quality and sheer number of entries.

### **Frontier Centre**

This term some of the children in Year 4/5 have been on a residential visit to the Frontier Centre in Irthlingborough. They took part in some fantastic confidence and team building activities and really took advantage of trying new experiences. We are incredibly proud of the children who showed amazing resilience and were prepared to do activities that took them out of their comfort zones. A slideshow of photos of the visit has been sent to the parents of the children who took part.

### **Jungle Book**

It was wonderful to see all the children together in their key stages to watch a live theatre production of the Jungle Book this week. The children have told me that they really enjoyed the show. We are hoping to rebook the company for a Christmas pantomime which was our original plan before Covid.

### **Fundraising**

Thank you to all of you for your generosity and contributions to our fundraising this term, in total we raised the following:

**Red Nose day/Comic relief: £331.48**

**Day for Ukraine: £514.17**

### **Sports achievements**

We are very proud of our children's sporting achievements. Below is an update on the events we have taken part in:

'Let girls play football' festival - Y3/4 team took part in skill-based games. They were full of energy and enthusiasm and left feeling excited for the Women's Euros.

'Let girls play football' festival - Y5/6 - took part in competitive match play and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 8 teams. They demonstrated sportsmanship and fantastic team work.

Y5/6 England Dodgeball tournament Bletchley college - We were placed 6<sup>th</sup> out of 8 teams. The children enjoyed playing a new competitive sport. We were awarded the sportsmanship award and recognised for playing fairly, acting honestly and following the rules.

Netball Tournament: A team of 5 played their first competitive games against local schools. We came 4<sup>th</sup> out of 8 schools. The girls showed impeccable sportsmanship and were a credit to Newton Leys.

Cross country National competition – we had three boys take part in National competition and all three did really well. They were competing against older boys and despite this they came 21<sup>st</sup> (first for Milton Keynes) 102<sup>nd</sup> and 138<sup>th</sup> in the country. An amazing achievement.

### **Friends of Newton Leys (PTA)**

After the Easter break, we are hoping to get our PTA up and running again so that we can start to plan events for the next academic year and re-ignite our fundraising efforts. If you are interested in being involved, then please contact the school office after the holidays.

### **School Uniform reminder**

We have always prided ourselves on how smart the children look in their uniform coming to and from school. However, we have noticed several children are not always wearing the correct uniform or footwear. Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct uniform as stated in our uniform policy:

- Newton Leys crew neck sweatshirt or cardigan with logo
- White polo shirt (nursery to year 5)
- White collared shirt with school tie (tie provided by the school, Year 6 only)
- Plain black trousers (not combat style), shorts, black pinafore dress/skirt.
- After Easter – purple gingham summer dress or playsuit, white socks
- Black/Grey socks/tights
- Black shoes
- PE kit: plain white round neck t-shirt, plain black PE shorts, plain black sweatshirt/zip through, plain black jogging bottoms, plain black trainers.
- Newton Leys book bag with logo (a plain purple book bag without the logo is acceptable)
- On Health & Safety grounds children are not allowed to wear jewellery to school (except for small studs in pierced ears and watches) Small studs must be covered during PE.
- Plain black or white headwear is permitted on religious or medical grounds and may have to be removed during PE for safety reason.
- Extreme haircuts/hair colour are not permitted. The definition of what is extreme is at the discretion of the Headteacher.

On PE days, children should come into school wearing their PE kits. Please note that football shirts are not acceptable for any part of the school uniform.

Uniform with the school logo can be obtained from: Kedaph, Bletchley or Maisies, Wolverton. If any family is experience financial difficulty and is unable to buy correct school uniform, please speak to the school office or a member of staff on the gates in the morning. We have a stock of pre-loved uniform that can be purchased through the school office and always accept donations if you have any uniform that your child has outgrown.

### **Free School Meal Vouchers**

Milton Keynes Council are continuing with the Free School Meal Voucher Scheme throughout the Easter Holidays. Vouchers will be issued to families who are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM). Families will receive £15 per child per week. For example, if you have 2 children who are eligible for FSM you will receive a £60 voucher for the two weeks. These vouchers will be issued on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Vouchers are sent via email. Please make sure that you redeem these vouchers.

### **St Marks Meal Boxes**

We would like to share with you information regarding St Marks Meals, who are now supporting our school community. This wonderful charity provides schools with meal boxes that can be given to families who are, for whatever reason, struggling to provide a meal for their family. The boxes are all vegetarian and provide a full family meal including a pudding. A simple recipe card is included. St Marks have also provided us boxes that can provide a meal using only a kettle. We invite any families, now or in the future, to speak confidentially to a member of staff if you wish to access a meal box.

### **Foodbank**

Our local Foodbank can be contacted on 0300 303 4933 or text 07874 964505 between the hours on 9-3pm Monday to Friday. If you are struggling financially and need urgent help with food, the Foodbank offers a self-referral system so you can contact the Foodbank and they will issue you a voucher number.

### **Play in the Park**

Milton Keynes Play Association are running an Easter Play Scheme throughout the Easter Break. These play sessions are free for families to attend but need to be booked. We are very lucky to have this within walking distance on Newton Leys and is a great opportunity for children to have lots of fun with no cost attached.

There are 2 play days within Newton Leys **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April** at 9.30 for 2.5 hours and **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April** at 9.30 for 2.5 hours. Bookings can be made on the following link:

<https://www.mkpa.co.uk/play/> Easter Play can include messy play, crafts and adventure play.

### **MK Gallery**

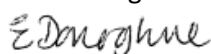
Milton Keynes Gallery, which is located next to Milton Keynes Theatre, are running a Bramble Ramble from 9<sup>th</sup> April to the 5<sup>th</sup> of June. Families will be able to collect their Bramble Ramble kits from MK Gallery to enjoy in Campbell Park. These kits will provide fun and interesting ways to engage with nature and enjoy the outdoors. These kits are free and can be collected from MK Gallery. More information can be found on the following link: <https://mkgallery.org/event/bramble-ramble/>

Milton Keynes Gallery also show films at a discounted rate. They have some new realised films showing throughout half term at a discounted rate of £5 per ticket. These can be viewed and booked on the following link: <https://mkgallery.org/whats-on/?event-category=cinema>

If any family is experiencing difficulties financially, please reach out to the school and we can support you in the best way we can.

I hope that you all have a lovely break and we look forward to welcoming all the children back on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

Miss E Donoghue



Headteacher

### Dates for Diaries

Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	<i>Break up for Easter holidays</i>
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<i>Children return to school</i>
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	<i>Bank Holiday</i>
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	<i>KS2 SATs week</i>
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	<i>Walk to school week</i>
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	<i>Jubilee party lunch Break up for half term</i>
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<i>Children return to school</i>
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	<i>Class Photos</i>
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	<i>Year 6 Activity Week</i>
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	<i>Sports Day</i>
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	<i>Reception Theatre Trip</i>
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	<i>Meet the teacher evening 3.45 – 6.00pm</i>
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	<i>Year 6 Performance 5.00pm</i>
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	<i>Year 6 Performance 5.00pm</i>
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<i>Break up for summer holidays</i>