

December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your patience during this term. Despite the impact of Covid, we have still ensured that school is as 'normal' as possible and that the children have had some amazing learning experiences. As you know, cases in Milton Keynes are currently high which is why Milton Keynes Public Health instigated further measures and restrictions for all schools in the local authority. Sadly, we have also had 2 outbreaks of Covid in our school this term which have impacted on both children and teaching staff. These measures are currently in place until the end of this term. Thank you to those of you who are wearing a face covering at drop off and pick up, it is much appreciated. I am sure that at this point in the term, we are all hoping to spend Christmas with our families and to not end up self-isolating over the festive period. If we all do our part, we can help to reduce the spread of this disease.

Christmas treats for the children

Despite the restrictions, staff at Newton Leys have still ensured that the children are having exciting learning experiences, particularly in the run up to Christmas. Over the next week, there will be some special events for each year group that will be announced in a series of live assemblies.

Christmas nativities

Miss Edmonds is in the process of filming the EYFS and KS1 Christmas nativities and performances to ensure that despite not being able to have a live audience – you will still be able to see a recording of these. More details will follow when they are ready to share with you.

Staff changes

Sadly, at the end of this term our extended care manager Mrs Moolman will be leaving us for new adventures. I am pleased to share with you that Miss Fisk and Miss Dunn will be our new Deputy Managers and wrap around care will continue to be staffed by Newton Leys staff.

Holiday Club

We operate our holiday club from 8.00am to 5.00pm daily during the school holidays. Bookings are available for the beginning of the Christmas holidays. (Monday 20th – Thursday 23rd December 2021). Please note that you will need to make payment upon booking and that after the published closing date, we are unable to cancel, or refund any Holiday Club bookings, as staffing provision will already have been made. **We are closing bookings on the Friday 10th December 2021.**

A full timetable of what your child can expect, and further information can be found on our school website.

Information regarding some changes to the school lunch menu

I am sure you have been aware from the news that there has been some major disruption to deliveries across the country this term due to Covid and driver shortages. This has certainly impacted on us as a school where we have been experiencing several issues with delivery of our normal food supplies. This has resulted in us having to make some substitutions to the main menu at times. To manage this moving forward, we are simplifying the lunch menu from January 2022 to the following three choices: Main meal, Vegetarian option, Jacket Potato.

Raffle – prizes and draw

We were overwhelmed again with the amount of donations we have received. Despite us not being able to have a Christmas Fayre this year – we will be having a raffle! You will have the opportunity to be able to purchase raffle tickets from the school office from next week. They are £1 a strip and there are many prizes to be won including: pamper hampers, adult (alcoholic) hampers, chocolate hampers, assorted gift hampers, dominos voucher, vouchers for dentistry and barber vouchers. I will be drawing the raffle on Wednesday 15th December, and we will announce the winners via Schoolcomms. So, once you have purchased your tickets, please do not lose them as you will need them to collect your prize. All proceeds will be going towards the cost and maintenance of a school minibus.

Children in Need/Macmillan coffee morning

Both our Macmillan Cake sale and children and need events were hugely successful. Thank you once again for providing so many cakes that the children said were delicious! In total we raised the following money for two worthwhile charities:

Macmillan: £444.38

Children in Need: £455.76

Emergency Closure alerts

While we make every effort to keep the schools open, there may be occasions when it is not safe for pupils and staff to be at school, for example in extreme weather conditions. When the decision is made to close, we will inform you by text and email using Schoolcomms. Please ensure that we have the correct contact details for you.

Back to school in January 2022

Remember: School opens for the children on **Thursday 6th January 2022**.

On behalf of myself and the Governing Body, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your on-going support this year and to wish all our families a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Miss E Donoghue



Headteacher

Dates for Diaries

Monday 6th December	<i>Raffle tickets on sale from the School Office</i>
Wednesday 15th December	<i>Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day Raffle draw</i>
Friday 17th December	<i>Christmas Carols on the 4G pitch – 2.45pm Break up for Christmas holidays</i>
Tuesday 4th January 2022	<i>INSET day</i>
Wednesday 5th January	<i>INSET day</i>
Thursday 6th January	<i>Children return to school</i>
Thursday 3rd February	<i>Whole school Pantomime performance</i>
Friday 18th February	<i>Break up for half term</i>
Monday 28th February	<i>Children return to school</i>
Wednesday 2nd March	<i>Parents' Evening</i>
Thursday 3rd March	<i>Parents' Evening</i>
Wednesday 9th -11th March	<i>Year 4 & 5 Residential visit – Frontier Centre</i>
Friday 8th April	<i>Break up for Easter holidays</i>

Monday 25th April	<i>Children return to school</i>
Monday 2nd May	<i>Bank Holiday</i>
Friday 27th May	<i>Break up for half term</i>
Monday 6th June	<i>Children return to school</i>
Tuesday 14th June	<i>Class Photos</i>
Monday 20th – Friday 24th June	<i>Year 6 Activity Week and Camping Trip</i>
Thursday 21st July	<i>Break up for summer holidays</i>