

Newsletter

September 2017



Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to our existing parents and a warm welcome to our new parents. I am sure you all enjoyed the summer break.

It has been reassuring to see the children coming back into school so happy, 'full of beans' and ready to work. As you all know, 'nurture' is at the heart of everything we do and seeing the children so positive about their return to school demonstrates to staff that the children feel cared for here.

It has been particularly rewarding to see our Nursery children move into Reception. You can certainly see the benefit for those children transitioning from our Nursery to the Reception class; it is as if they have not been away!

This newsletter will be an opportunity to provide some gentle reminders about school life. It is too early to report about any of the activities the children have taken part in.

Celebration!

The first piece of celebratory news I would like to share with you is Mrs Matsangou's 'bundle of joy' who is due to arrive at the end of January! Although I am thrilled to bits for her and her husband I can't help feeling a little lost thinking about her not being present in the school. She has certainly been my 'right hand man' and it will feel like I've lost a hand without her to celebrate our successes, bounce ideas off and pass over a big chunk of running the school.

We are lucky that we had already employed an exceptional teacher, Mrs Nicola Villa, who has experience of senior leadership. Mrs Villa, as you may have guessed, is my daughter-in-law, and someone I have been begging to join me in the schools I have led over the last six years because of her exemplar practice. She has at last capitulated and so we look forward to welcoming her in November providing an opportunity for handover, before Mrs M goes on maternity leave.

I am sure Mrs M will never be too far away, she has committed too much not to continue to be involved in decisions about the school!

New staff and children

The start of the school year has been incredibly busy with over twenty new members of staff and eighty new children joining our school community. The atmosphere in the school has been one of excitement, trepidation, camaraderie and positive thinking. I am looking forward with excitement to this new academic year.

First week

The focus this week has been on children getting to know their new teachers, classrooms, rules and routines. We now have three classrooms in use upstairs and the hall is looking very full at lunch and assembly times. Assessments have taken place and so next week the real hard work begins!

House Celebration

On Friday of this week the Blue Basilisks will celebrate their victory of last academic year by enjoying watching a film, eating popcorn and drinking juice whilst their classmates will be in class working. I wonder which House will be celebrating this time next year?

Newton Leys Summer Fayre

I am sure you are all aware that this Sunday the Newton Leys Summer Fayre will take place on the Green next to the Willow Lake Sales office from 11am to 5.00pm. Our children have organised and will be running a stall; our choir will be singing and our country dancers will be dancing! Please do come along and support them; I know they will be pleased to see some familiar faces.

Meet the Teacher

On Tuesday 12th September from 5.30 to 6.30pm parents have an opportunity to come and meet their child's teacher, see their classroom, get an understanding of what the children will be studying this term, learn about routines and find out how well their child has settled this year. Do come along and find out more.

Uniform

The children look very smart in their uniforms. Please do remember that the uniform list is available on the website and in the Parent Handbook. We have purposely kept the uniform as simple as possible to try to keep the cost down.

Can I also remind you that girls should only wear stud earrings (safety reasons) and no nail varnish. We have remover in school and so if you forget or have not had time to remove it we will be able to do it for you.

Boys should not have extreme haircuts or haircuts with signs, symbols or logos.

The weather is getting colder and we are having some wet days, so please send your child to school with a coat. They will be out on the playground at break and lunch even if it is raining. Only in really wet weather will they have 'wet play'.

The children should have a small, black, drawstring bag for their PE kit. Larger "back pack" style bags do not fit in their lockers and create a storage issue in the classrooms.

After School Clubs

Our after-school enrichment clubs start next week. We have noticed that some children have been booked in for individual sessions rather than the full six-week programme of a particular club.

Please check your School Gateway account carefully for details of the club sessions that you have booked for your child, and ensure that they are collected at 3.30pm on the days that they are not booked into a club (unless they are staying for Tea Club).

Next half term, we will be offering a revised list of clubs, and children will be booked to attend for a full six-week programme. Further details will be released nearer the time.

Holiday Club

Our Holiday Club will be operating again this year. Sessions are led by School Staff who are known to the children, and an exciting programme of seasonal activities is planned for each holiday, making full use of our School facilities. Further details and booking forms for October half term will be available soon.

Prescription medicines/ over the counter medicines

I have been approached by a number of parents about the administration of medicines. As a school, we need a trained member of staff to administer medicines and unfortunately, I cannot source a local provider. As soon as we have a trained member of staff, I will inform all parents.

And finally...

Please do take note of the “Dates for Diaries” below, as there are a number of events planned for this term.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me, or pop into the School Office.

I look forward to working closely with you over the next academic year.

Warm regards,

Pippa Villa

Dates for Diaries

September 4 th	Start of autumn term 2017-2018 children return
September 12 th	Meet the Teacher evening 5.30 – 6.30pm
September 26 th	Curriculum Information Evening 6 – 7pm
September 27 th	Open Morning 9 – 10.30am
September 29 th	Macmillan Coffee morning
September 16 th	Culture Week
September 20 th	Harvest Festival 2.30pm

Autumn Term Half Term October 23rd – 30th incl. Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)

October 31 st	Children return
November 7 th	Learn Alongside (Maths) 8.45 – 9.45am
November 8 th	Individual Photographs (winter uniform)
November 9 th	Learn Alongside (Maths) 8.45 – 9.45am
November 15 th	Book Fayre (1 week)
November 17 th	Children in Need
November 29 th	Open Morning 9 – 10.30am Year 5 assembly to parents 2.30pm
December 8 th	Parent Panel Meeting 8.45am Carol singing at Milton Keynes Centre
December 12 th	Evening Christmas Production 6pm
December 13 th	Afternoon Christmas Production 2.30pm
December 15 th	Carol Concert 2pm

Christmas Holidays December 18th – January 2nd 2018 incl. Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)

January 3 rd 2018	Start of spring term 2017-2018 children return
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Spring Term Half Term February 12th – 16th incl. Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)

February 19th Children return

Easter Holiday March 26th – April 6th incl. Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)

April 9th 2017 Start of summer term 2017-2018 children return

Summer Term Half Term May 28th – June 4th incl. Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)

June 5th Children return

July 23rd Start of summer holidays *Holiday Club (Dependent on uptake)*