



Friday 16th December 2022

Newsletter

Newbold Verdon Primary School

We Inspire Our Dragons to Fly Higher!

WARNING!!!! GIANT NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents

As we come to the end of another jam packed term can I thank everyone who has contributed to the on-going progression we are making as a school. Christmas really is a time to celebrate at Newbold Verdon Primary School. There have been so many positive changes and every single part of our school community has contributed to these. Moving forward, we have many more things to come which should add to the offer we make for your children. This newsletter is created by all the staff who want to share and celebrate the developments and changes they have contributed towards. Newbold Verdon is a wonderful place to bring up your children and we are proud of everything the children, parents, staff and community have achieved. Thank you for all your support and we wish you a very Merry Christmas!

Next year my New Year's resolution is to produce a Newsletter once a month! You can hold me to this one and remind me of my promise if I fail.

Mrs Collins

Seesaw and Tapestry

In the Unit, we continue to communicate with parents and share photos of the children working in the day. Across the rest of the school, Seesaw and Tapestry are going from strength to strength with evidence of the children's work and successes being available for you to see. Some of the children who have been taking guitar and ukulele lessons with Tom over the last term have uploaded their Christmas songs to Seesaw and we hope you enjoy watching them. Please feel free to comment on your children's work and celebrate the success from home also.

Phonics and Reading

In phonics the children have made some excellent progress. The new RWI scheme has certainly had a positive impact on both reading and writing. Mrs Swann and Mrs Page have been working to level all of the other books in school so that we can ensure all the class reading books clearly match the

ability of your child. We shall be launching some exciting reading projects in the new year so keep an eye out for how you can get involved. Don't forget to encourage your child to participate in the weekly reading raffle - if they read or share a book with an adult five times a week they can have their name entered into the reading draw and one child wins a £10 Amazon Voucher. Please remember to sign your child's reading record.

Celebration Assembly

Our celebration assemblies have gone from strength to strength. The children love the Dragon Points and each week we raise the cup to the winners. Values Certificates have been appreciated by the children and have really recognised their individual qualities, strengths and efforts. Next term we are introducing the Ambassador Fleeces, (they have finally arrived)! Ambassador Fleeces are given every two weeks to two children in each class. They are for those children who always demonstrate the Newbold Verdon Values, Behaviour Code and encourage others to 'fly higher'. If your child comes home with a green and gold fleece, this will show you that they are behaving and working really well, setting an example to others. Please look after it for two weeks and listen out for when it needs to be returned to school to be washed.



Discos

This year we have been lucky enough to have two school discos - Halloween and Christmas. We have had few changes to the PTA. Amanda Hopwood and Kelly Bayliss are the new Chair and Co-Chair and they are ably supported by Vickie, Anne and Becky. Thank you to all who have helped run the PTA events. New members are always welcome.

Christmas Events

The Unit invited all parents to attend our Special Christingle Assembly. We had some fantastic contributions from parents designing beautiful Christingles which they sent in from home. Thank you all so much - they were lovely.

The Pre-School and Reception took part in 'A Wiggly Christmas'. They danced and sang their way through a wealth of songs which were loved by so many parents.

KS1 Nativity - Years 1 & 2 performed 'Christmas with the Aliens'. The children dazzled their audiences with such amazing singing and acting. Thank you to all the parents who supported our production, not just by being a great audience but by helping the children learn their lines. All photos have been uploaded to Seesaw.

It was great to see so many parents support in the Christmas Activity Morning. The children made some excellent crafts and the parent's efforts weren't too bad either!

Christmas in the church was enchanting. Sharing songs as a Newbold family. Remember Christingle in the church on Christmas Eve!

Dragon Day

The children had a lovely Dragon day on Monday. The children enjoyed a range of activities including Multi-skills, Christmas Baking, Dodgeball, Christmas Arts and Crafts, Christmas film and popcorn and Lego and Board Games. Great fun was had by all.

Charities

We have launched our year group charities. Each year the geographical impact and influence expands with the age and maturity of the children. This way, each child gets to experience a broader range of charities to develop their understanding of the world.

The Pre-school and Reception have been supporting the local community. They recently went to sing at the Newbold Verdon Working Men's Club to the 'not so elderly' members so the village. Next term they shall be singing to the Dementia group who meet at the Library.

Year 1 - Our charity The Trussell Trust, is a local food bank in Hinckley that is part of a nationwide network of food banks. Together they provide emergency food and support to people locked in poverty, and campaign for change to end the need for food banks in the UK.

Year 2 - Our charity is the Rainbow Hospice in Loughborough. This is a charity that supports and cares for children with serious illnesses who are unlikely to get better. In October we were visited by Gary from Rainbows, who talked to the class about what Rainbows does. Since then, the children have been busy collecting coins in their coin boxes at home. And on Monday, we were very excited to take part in a sponsored Santa Fun Run. The children had a surprise visitor - Bow Bear - who watched them do their Fun Run. Thank you so much to all the children and families who have donated so generously to this cause. If you still have sponsor forms/money at home, or the boxes, please could you return them to school as soon as possible so that we can send our donations to Rainbows. Thank you for all of your support.



Year 3 are supporting Shelter. They have been raising awareness about homelessness with the children and will look to complete further activities next term.

Year 4 have chosen the Royal National Lifeboat Institution as their charity this year due to the amount of work they do, keeping us safe on the beaches and waterways. Also, we found out that they do a lot of work protecting the environment and wildlife. We have a welly boot in the class (thank you Eliza!) where we are collecting loose change. £50 can raise enough money to buy a new pair of special boots for the volunteers. We hope to hold a 'welly wanging' contest in the spring and a cake sale later on in the year.

Year 5 have decided upon Save the Children as their charity. The children have spent time researching this wonderful charity, learning about the places and people around the world whom it helps and supports. The children empathised with those less fortunate around the world, and they are looking forward to 2023, when they can start to raise money and awareness for Save the Children.

Year 6 are supporting the charity Water Aid.

The Unit charity is Canine Partnership and we are hoping to have a guest speaker in next term to describe the work they do.

Celebrating Diversity

In the unit we all enjoyed our Diwali week celebrations. In October, across the whole school, we focused on Black History and found out about significant people from Black heritages who have contributed extensively to Britain and the wider world. All children also enjoyed an African drumming session in the music studio where they not only learned how to play traditional djembe drums but found out interesting facts about the continent of Africa. As part of our PSHE lessons we have all focused on diversity and equality. We continue to build a celebration of our differences and uniqueness.

Sporting Achievements

As always clubs, coaching and sports events have played an important part of school life. Many children have excelled and all have opportunities to take part in a range of events. As the year goes on this offer changes and progresses - please see updates on what is on offer for your child. In Year 4-6 some children from took part in the Cross Country Competition in October and others were represented the school in a Boccia Tournament. 8 year 2 children participated in a Change4life Festival and the boys and girls football teams have had competitions. In addition, the Tree Tops class really enjoyed having a special guest Robin Hood coming into school and teaching us to do archery.

Art/DT and Forest School

In Art, all year groups have completed their first 6 week blocks of Art and Group 2 from each year group are currently on their 3rd week of Design Technology, they will have 3 more weeks after Christmas. The children are enjoying the Kapow scheme and producing some lovely work. The sketch books are full of examples of their work and you can enjoy many of these on SeeSaw. We are also working towards our own Newbold Verdon Art Gallery in which to display some of the best examples of work throughout the school.

We love Autumn and Winter at Forest School. Falling leaves, warm forest colours and crisp frost underfoot; perfect for Autumn crafts and inspiration from our children for activities. Our sessions have been wet, sunny, cold, rainy, icy and very muddy! We are very grateful to have been given a donation of £300 from Newbold Verdon Gardening Club. This has been used for new waterproof clothing to keep us warm and cosy. All our learners have had an inspirational time, with regular opportunities to

achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on-learning experiences in our Forest School. On the school website is a wonderful 12 Days of Forest School film for you to enjoy. Merry Christmas!

Wellbeing

To support the wellbeing of children within the school, Mr March has created a specific wellbeing room called The Dragon's Den. This is available to children who may require a little extra support at a difficult time, a quiet space for children to relax or share their thoughts and a space for interventions to support children who may be experiencing bereavement, trauma or require some extra nurture.

The school supported Anti Bullying Week through Odd Socks Day, celebrating what makes us all unique. The theme this year was Reach Out and the children made a video to show children how to get help when they need it. This will be available on the website. A friendship bench has also been purchased to be seated outside the Dragon's Den. This will provide a safe space for children to seek support from their peers.

The school recently completed a Safeguarding Audit and I am pleased to say this went really well and our systems and processes were highly praised.

Eco Council

The new Eco council and previous members, who have been kept on as experts, have been involved in a community project where they planted trees in Barton in the Beans. This was great day out which inspired and engaged the children in supporting local environment issues.

The Eco Council have worked really hard with Mr March to achieve the Green Flag Award. We were praised for the collective achievements they have made to protect our planet for future generations.

Pre-school and Wrap Around Care

Both the Pre-School and Wrap Around Care are increasing in popularity. The atmosphere in both is warm and welcoming. If you would like a place for your child in either, please contact the school office.

Unit

We are very excited that we have purchased Rebound Therapy Trampolines. These will be coming in the New Year and we are having in-service training about rebound therapy and will be using these as part of our sensory processing programmes for the children.

We are also supporting two students in the unit; Casey from South Leicestershire College and Paige from Leicester College.

Volunteering

We have been really pleased to have two regular volunteers in the Unit, namely Toby and Arthur and we thank them both for all their hard work. If you are interested in volunteering, Mrs Brennan will be recruiting Reading Volunteers to support hearing children read in school. Training will be provided and safeguarding checks carried out.

Community

The school is well and truly part of the community now. From singing at the Club, visits to the libraries to building connections with community groups and the broad range of churches. We are also going to be hosting the Scouts Gala in September. Only today, we have taken the children to St James' church and yesterday the children decorated the tree at the Baptist Church as part of the Christmas Tree Festival. The Unit have all enjoyed monthly visits around the village. They have visited the park, and the older class have completed some orienteering around the village.

In addition to all the links with the community, a great deal of donations and contributions have been made by local charities and parents. Hope Welsh's dad has purchased a large mud kitchen, stage with seating and a water-wall for the Reception Playground. Bricks have been donated by a variety of sources to support the building of the Community Garden, money has been raised by the Newbold Community Group for new doors in the Community Lounge and the Dixie Trust have helped with the purchase of resources to support us becoming a Dyslexia Friendly School - thank you to all who have contributed, your support is overwhelming.

Goodbye

Sadly we have some good-byes this term. Mrs Cerone in the Pre-School is sadly leaving to spend more time with her children. Mrs Cerone has contributed a great deal to the development of our Pre-School as it currently is and has helped to give it the warm and caring learning environment enjoyed by our children. Mrs Marlow is also leaving us after eight years at the school. She has added so much to the children's experience of school, particularly our Literacy teaching and to the children's time in Year 2. Both will be missed enormously by staff, children and parents alike and I know you will wish them well in their new exploits. Both Mrs Marlow and Mrs Cerone will stay in touch through either supply or additional tuition work. We are pleased that we won't lose them completely and still get the benefit of their skills.

Hello

We would also like to welcome a number of new staff to school. Miss Kaur will be taking over the teaching of Year 2 for the whole week and I am sure she will have a great time getting to know the children and parents in the Spring. We have also welcomed Mr Collins to the school. He is working primarily with Key Stage 2 and is teaching the children through supply and 1:1 tuition. We are pleased to say that we have also employed four more teaching assistants to support the learning of the children and so we formally welcome Mrs Moore, Mrs Jimenez, Miss McGuinness, Miss Bell.

Homework

It has been great to see so many children completing their weekly Maths and grammar homework this term. The purpose of this homework is to support our children to consolidate their understanding of concepts taught in class and to retrieve prior learning from previous year groups. Thank you for your continued support with this as we head into 2023.

Reminders

If your child is ill then please let the office know. Holidays in term time will not be authorised. We can only authorise absence if your child is actually ill, not if they are kept off school as a precaution.

Also, please remember to send your children into school with the right kit for PE, clubs and Forest Schools. Clothes that are labelled with your child's name and class are less likely to be lost.