



Tuesday 31st January 2023 Newsletter

Newbold Verdon
Primary School

We Inspire Our Dragons to Fly Higher!

Dear Parents,

Welcome back. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and a positive New Year. I promised you a newsletter each month and this is my first attempt not to break my New Year's resolution (I just scraped in in time). As a staff, we have had a busy start to the new year – as part of our on-going strive for improvement we have invited advisors into the school to examine the quality of our provision and curriculum. They have been really impressed with the curriculum and the offer which is made for our children. Advisors also looked at our EYFS and phonics provision – the improvements made have been considerable and reflect the desire from all staff, to get the learning right for all our children. I am really proud of the effort everyone has made to make these changes and I know as parents, you have also recognised the positive impact we have had. Making the best offer to our children is a joint endeavour which requires support from every aspect of our community and I would like to thank those of you who have participated so fully in all aspects of your children's learning; from feedback on the playground, attendance at Phonics Evenings, Book and a Biscuit through to the Parent's Forum, PTA and Governing Body. Thank you – let's continue to give our children the best start in life through our close working partnerships! Mrs Collins

Phonics and Reading

Book and a Biscuit across the whole school had a great turn out. Thank you for joining us. Events such as these are part of our on-going Reading for Pleasure initiative. Evidence suggests that children read more if they have a love of books and a shared interest in books alongside their peers. Therefore, we have re-vamped our books corners, ensured our books match the level of reading children are at, developed a wonderful Reading Nook in the main corridor, created Top 5 and 10's of books and increased the opportunities for children to explore quality books and literature. This will work alongside our developments in phonics and comprehension. Language and reading are integrally linked – the more you can talk to your child in a meaningful way, the more they will broaden their language and understanding of the books they read. There will be many more opportunities to share in this work and we look forward to seeing the success in reading for our children.

Celebration Assembly

Our Ambassador fleeces have arrived and the first group of children were nominated by their class teachers to wear their fleeces for two weeks. We are now on the hunt for who will be nominated on Friday. Please celebrate the success of your children in achieving certificates, Dragon Points, Ambassador Fleeces but most of all, in trying their best to do their best!

Children took part in Cross Country last weekend and we celebrated their success in assembly on Friday. They had showed great determination and a number of children have made it through to the next round. Well done to all who took part!

PTA

The Friends of Newbold PTA have a number of events coming up including the Easter Disco, Mother's Day Shop and Valentine Cake Sale. All dates are listed below. The PTA is open to all parents to support and new members are always welcome. If you would like to attend the next meeting please call the office and leave you name and we shall put you in touch with the team.

Welcome

Last week I was invited to the Licensing of Reverend Jonny Gordan at St James' Church. This was a lovely welcome into the village for Jonny, Kate and Pippa. Ceremonies were led by the Bishop of Loughborough who was so inspiring. I know you will all welcome Jonny into the village and we look forward to having further involvement with our local churches.

In January, we had a few new starters into the Pre-school and Foundation Stage. In addition, Miss Kaur has also joined Year 2. Mrs Moore, Mrs Jimenez/Wilson and Miss Bell have also joined us as LSA's in class. All newcomers have settled in well.

Dyslexia Resources

On Wednesday, staff took part in training to aid their understanding of how to support children with Dyslexic tendencies. In order to purchase the resources, Mrs Brennan applied for a grant from the Dixie Educational Foundation fund and.... was successful! This week we received out new Dyslexia Resources and we are in the process of putting them all together so that the children can be more ably supported in their learning. They include; writing slopes, ear defenders to aid concentration, talk tins to rehearse sentences, magnetic letters, coloured overlays and many more. Thank you Mrs Brennan!

Parent Survey

Thank you for all those who contributed to the Parent Survey. I am pleased to say that the majority of parents are happy with education their children are receiving at the school and there were only a few areas for improvement. We have had a few teething problems with the allocation of reading books – in the main these have been sorted out but if you have concerns about your child's reading book, please speak to the class teacher in the first instance. An issue of play-ground management was raised regarding children being asked to wait against a wall when not behaving – this has been discussed with lunchtime staff and is not part of our general behaviour policy. Questions around the Report Cards and the reporting of progress has also been raised. I agree with the sentiment of the feedback and we are looking at how our assessment system supports a truer picture of your child's achievement. In addition to the Parent Survey, I also receive feedback from parents via email or over the phone. I am happy to hear your views and your feedback is always helpful. I know we cannot

please everyone all of the time but we genuinely do listen to your views and consider the best ways forward for your child and the school as a whole. If you ever feel you want to raise concerns or suggestions these can also be done through the Parent Forum where all parents are welcome to attend.

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.

Volunteering

Mrs Brennan put out a call for volunteer readers in school. A few parents have come forward but we are always looking for more. As volunteers, we do not place you into your child's class as this can cause a conflict of interest for all involved and can sometimes dysregulate a child in class. However, your support is widely welcomed in other areas of the school and we encourage you to participate to support all children's learning in school. If you would like to become a volunteer reader, please contact the school office and ask for Mrs Brennan.

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.

Diary Dates	
Strike – school closed	01/02/23
PTA Valentine's Day cake sale	10/02/23
Parent Forum Meeting	10/02/23 9am until 10am
Half Term	20/02/23
Book Fair	28/02/23 until 06/03/23
World Book Day	02/03/23
Parents Evening	01/03/23 and 02/03/23
PTA Mother's Day shop	08/03/23
Sports Relief	17/03/23
PTA Easter Disco	30/03/23
Easter Holiday	03/04/23
Class Charity Event Day	27/04/23
May Day	01/05/23
Coronation Bank Holiday	08/05/23
KS2 SATS	9 th 10 th 11 th and 12/05/23
Year 6 visit to the Warning Zone	15/05/23
Class Photos	16/05/23
Half Term	29/05/23
School Closes for Summer Holiday	13/07/23