



20th December 2024 Newsletter

Newbold Verdon
Primary School

We Inspire Our Dragons to Fly Higher!

Dear Parents,

Well, we have finally made it. The Autumn Term is always such a long term for both children and staff but we see so much progress in the outcomes for learning. All the new starters have settled and we look forward to another intake of children into the Pre-School in January. We have really enjoyed getting to know our new parents and it is lovely to see fresh faces on the playground.

As a staff we are in a really privileged position to see the children progress throughout the school and their individual personalities begin to shine through. It has been especially nice to see the older children supporting and guiding the younger children in their play and interactions over lunchtime. They show such caring and kindness and these are skills that will see them through their own interactions in life. Education is so much more than Maths and English and it has been a pleasure to see children excel in all areas of the curriculum.

May I take the time to thank all the parents for their positive feedback and contributions to school life. We have a wonderful PTA who constantly surprise us with their innovative approaches to raising money and this enhances the life of all our children. Our governors are supportive and thoughtful and they have loved visiting the school and sharing in the children's learning. Most of all I would like to say a big thank you to all the staff who have supported your children this year. They work exceptionally hard to provide the children with a great standard of learning and a safe and caring environment. I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a calm and restful New Year!

We are very proud of our school values and hope you can see the value in them for your children also!

Aspirational – Aim high

During this half-term there have been a number of sporting activities that our children have enjoyed participating in. Some of the children in Year 3 and 4 represented the school in a Get Moving Festival at Green Towers Club for Young People in Hinckley. They enjoyed a range of activities from target practice, martial arts and trampolining to making a smoothie on a smoothie bike! There was a Dodgeball Festival for Year 5 and 6 at Bosworth Academy. The children showed great teamwork, courage, perseverance and respect during the festival and finished third in their league. We look forward to more events in the new year.

Uniqueness – Celebrate differences

We have had a fantastic half-term in the Unit. We started off by enjoying a lovely Diwali Day where we did some super Bollywood dancing and made beautiful Diva Lamps. Treetops did well with their class assembly and their parents enjoyed coming to see it – thank you for your support.

We have had a fantastic countdown to Christmas – taking part in so many lovely activities such as our Christmas Activity day and of course our wonderful Christmas performance. The children did so well with our performance we were so proud of them all and it was so lovely to see so many parents and families in attendance thank you all so much for your continued support.

We said a very fond farewell to Louise who has retired this term after working at our school for 22 years! Thank you Louise for all your hard work and kindness. We welcome Helen into the Rainbow Class team to start working with our children in the new year.



The whole school had a wonderful visit from Father Christmas this year. He looked very glamorous in his beautiful suit and the children were enchanted by him. Each one received a lovely pair of socks and a small bar of chocolate or colouring activities. It was so nice to see every age group participate in his visit with such enthusiasm.

Curiosity – Wanting to know more

The children have loved exploring the new Dragon Playtimes equipment. From construction play, balance activities on cable reels, exploring sound through enormous tubes, sand play in the new sandpit, mud fun in the mud kitchen and mud pit (apologies for the state of uniforms), gross motor play in the tyres and great fun with scooters, basket ball and boom box! The children are really starting to demonstrate their curiosity and understanding of forces in action, balance, materials and wheels. Don't forget the wellies, waterproofs and warm clothing for after Christmas!

Perseverance – Keep trying

The unit Quad is finally looking presentable with lush artificial grass, new guttering and fascias and a new path for the children to run around. We are trying hard to get the gazebo finished and the outdoor resources in place. This has been partially funded by money raised by unit parents and elements of the PTA funding. Thank you to all who have contributed – we look forward to seeing the final product after Christmas.

Courage – Have a go

EYFS and Year 1 and 2 have shown real courage in their Nativities. Lights, Camel, Action and the Wiggly Nativity entertained us all. It was so encouraging to see how the children progress and grow in confidence at performing in front of an audience, singing their songs, remembering the words and saying their lines. It is such an important part of their development and it was great to share this with all of you as parents and grandparents.

Empathy – Think of others

So far this year the children have gained a greater understanding of other religions. Year 2 and 6 have visited the Synagogue to find out about Judaism. All the children have attended the church and met Johnny the Vicar. This was a lovely event with a range of songs performed by every class. With so much conflict in the world at the moment, it is so important that children understand and show empathy for different religions and cultures and show tolerance of each other.

Requests

Prepare for the cold and wet. If your child is taking part in Forest School please ensure they have thick socks in school, wellies and waterproofs and coats. It is also useful to ensure they have similar equipment in school throughout the week for our lunchtime activities. Children will be outdoors in all weathers and as it gets wetter and colder the children will need to be more prepared for outdoor muddy playtimes. I am very conscious that children are slipping in the mud and going home requiring their uniform to be washed very frequently. You may wish to send spare clothes in so that children can get changed.

Donations for lunchtime club We are requesting a range of items to support both Board Game Club and Lunchtime Club – things which you may be clearing to make space for new Christmas presents such as colouring pens, colouring books, quality toys, simple board games, marbles run, train tracks, dinosaurs or other small world toys. They all make for a more interesting lunchtime. Much appreciated.

PE Kits and Uniform Please make sure children have the correct, warm PE kit and correct uniform. Shoes should be black and joggers can be worn for PE in the winter.

Community

Safety over Christmas is of paramount importance. Christmas can often be a time of fun and laughter but it can also be a time for some of increased tension and difficulties. Please look out for each other both in your neighbourhood and on-line. If you have any safeguarding concerns the Local Authority Safeguarding team can be contacted on 01163050005 or call the police if you have immediate concern on 101 or 999.

Message from our Chair of Governors

Dear parents,

Firstly, I wanted to wish you a wonderful Christmas break with your families.

Additionally, you may or may not be aware that Mrs Collins' husband has been diagnosed with cancer. This means that Mrs Collins will be in and out of school working flexibly for a period of time while he undergoes treatment. Whilst she is still available and working, it does mean she may not be immediately available in person at all times. Please bear this in mind as we move into the New Year.

Best wishes,

Samantha Lane

Wrap Around Provision and Clubs

Our Wrap Around Provision is fun and exciting – there are lots of special events happening and children are enjoying the range of activities available. They have taken part in Christmas movies and craft events. It is so good to see how many play opportunities the children take part in. If you require childcare please contact the office.

If you are concerned about the cost of the provision then I have been informed that many parents including those in work are able to get the clubs subsidised heavily by applying for <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> Use the link and navigate to the section described below.

TAX-FREE CHILDCARE



- For **working families**, including the self-employed, **in the UK**
- Earning **under £100k** and **an average of £167** per week (equal to 16 hours at the National Minimum or Living Wage) each over three months
- Who **aren't** receiving Tax Credits, Universal Credit or childcare vouchers
- With children aged 0-11 (or 0-16 if disabled)
- For every £8 you pay into an online account, the government will add an extra £2, **up to £2,000 per child per year**

Is it for me? 