



# March 2025 Newsletter

Newbold Verdon  
Primary School

**We Inspire Our Dragons to Fly Higher!**

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a very changeable Spring Term so far. We have gone from freezing temperatures and floods to bright sunshine. The children loved the cold and especially enjoyed pulling the ice from the tyres and finding ways to get it to melt. The sandpit was also a source of exploration – who knew sand froze so hard? The children have also enjoyed throwing the water out of the sandpit when we have rain. Science in action! They are now loving the outdoor activities even more in the sunshine. I have witnessed walking on cable reels, Tug o' War with an extra-long cable and fabulous scooting to the sounds of the boom box. What a privilege it is to work with children and witness their curiosity!

A few changes are coming into place after Easter. Mrs Hardman is making a move to Wolverhampton and so will be leaving us. We wish her well in her new role. Miss Wood will move over to Year 5 and will stay with them into Year 6 next year, and Year 4 will be ably led until the end of term by Mr Sharma.

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

### **Aspirational – Aim high**

This year we have embarked on the Voice 21 Oracy Project. Staff are participating in two years of training to raise their knowledge and understanding of language development and how this can be encouraged through the curriculum and classroom activities. The back and forth nature of talking and conversations is so valuable to the development of early language skills and how children progress through school. Phones and screens have hampered this a little as a screen is a passive recipient of conversation and nothing beats the positive interactions shared with a parent or guardian.

World Book Day has just taken place. Thank you to everyone for sending your children in pyjamas or costumes. All the children enjoyed hot chocolate and a good book. The Book Fair will be with us from 26<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> March – World Book Day tokens can still be used.

### **Uniqueness – Celebrate differences**

Mrs Brennan and Mrs Allcock have attended Everyone's Welcome's training about Diversity and Inclusion. Staff have received training and parents will soon be invited to contribute to the roll out of

this programme. Our school is becoming increasingly diverse and I'm sure you'll agree, it is extremely important that all members of our school community feel welcome.

Our Instagram and Facebook pages are up and running. These are a great opportunity to see how the children are participating in a multitude of activities in school. There are some beautiful photographs to share with the children.

Mrs Younger has left to go on Maternity Leave. She has given birth to a beautiful baby girl – Violet Lily. We are really pleased for her and we will share your good wishes with both mum and baby when we get to meet the little one. Year 6 are being ably supported by Mrs Ridsdale. They are all working hard towards their SATs and rehearsals for their end of year performance have already started.

Mrs Brennan has had her first meetings with parents regarding The PINS project – which is about how school can best support neurodiverse children. It was good to see a number of parents engaging with this and feeding back to the co-ordinators of the project. If you have a child in the mainstream school who is neurodiverse this may be something you wish to get involved in.

### **Curiosity – Wanting to know more**

Our school has achieved a Food for Life Bronze Award, which means that the food we serve has been rigorously assessed to ensure it is high quality, healthy and sustainable. As a Food for Life Bronze school we:

- Have committed to improve school food culture by developing a school food policy.
- Meet Bronze Food for Life Served Here Award standards which shows that school food is healthy and uses seasonal ingredients that are at least 75% freshly prepared.
- Involve pupils and parents in planning improvements to school menus and the lunchtime experience, boosting school meal take-up.
- Give every pupil the opportunity to visit a local farm, and take part in cooking and food growing activity.

### **Perseverance – Keep trying**

The children have today participated in a Red Nose Day sponsored walk. Some were more competitive than others but all have participated and persevered to walk the furthest they could. A group of children and adults have also been working hard on our Community Garden. They have kept it weeded and maintained in preparation for a range of plants to be planted. These have been grown from seed by one of our very generous parents. This is so good to see.

### **Courage – Have a go**

Year 6 have been working very hard on their SATs preparation. They will attend their residential in the Summer term which will require lots of courage and enthusiasm. They all attended The Warning Zone in the city this week. This gave the children interactive experiences which challenged their understanding of dangers in life, such as internet safety, railway lines and stranger danger. This was a great day out and the children were highly praised for their behaviour.

### **Empathy – Think of others**

In our special assemblies we have enjoyed Martin Luther King Day and Holocaust Memorial Day this term. In addition, there have been many class assemblies which parents have enjoyed. It is great to see so many of you supporting your children in this way.

The Therapy Dogs have been back in school and many classes have enjoyed their company. They both look like very large rugs with eyes and soggy tongues. They are the most patient animals I have seen.

Can we say a huge thank you to all the children (and parents) who saved their Christmas Cards and brought them into school. The school Eco-Councillors are proud their recycle and reuse project was such a success! We look forward to creating some lovely recycled Christmas decorations in school later this year. We have also signed up for Climate Change 180 which will support us in assessing our site and curriculum to guide us in how we can make meaningful changes which will affect your children's futures.

### Reminders

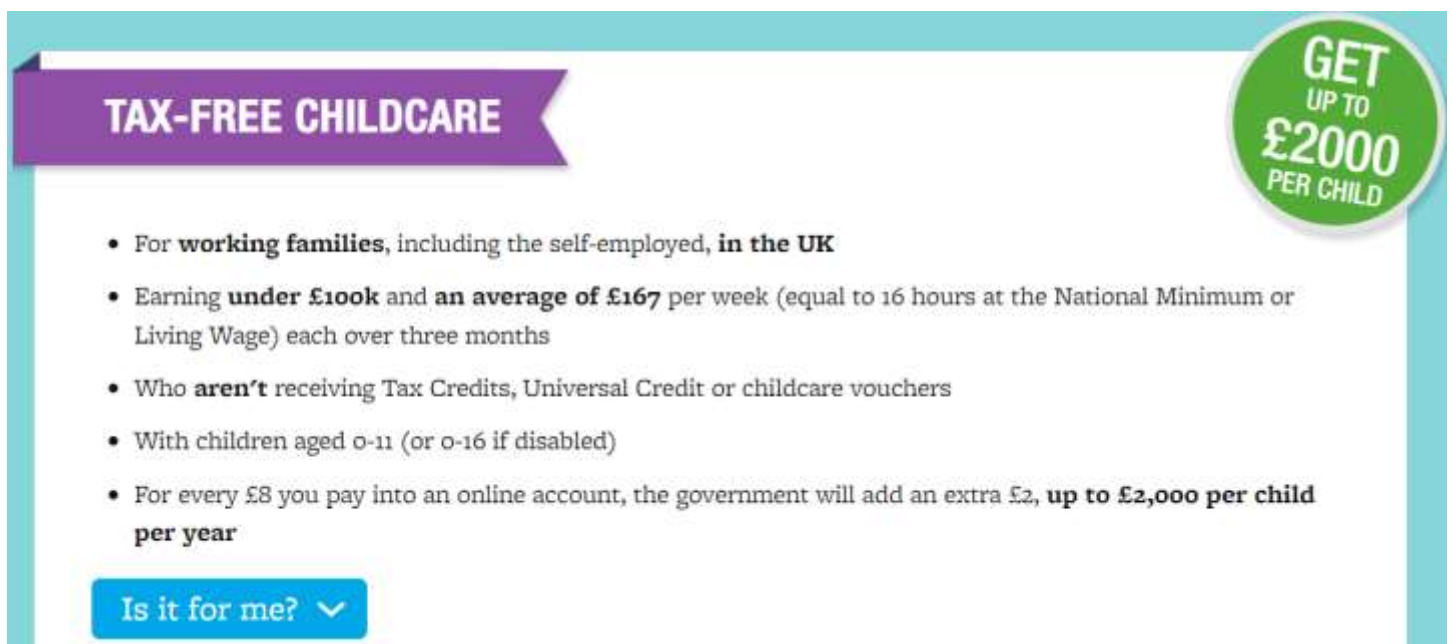
Just a reminder that children need waterproofs, wellies, warm old layers and warm socks in Forest School sessions. It is super muddy in there and in our changing hut. They need coats and wellies in school for breaktimes and gloves are essential.

Getting them in on time through the gate – some parents are starting to bring children in through the office when they should be through the gate on time (this does not apply to pre-arranged exceptions), and some parents are parking unnecessarily in the car park. This clogs the car park and causes unnecessary risks to children being brought in for the afternoon pre school session.

### 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 regular movie nights and themed 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



The infographic features a purple banner at the top left with the text 'TAX-FREE CHILDCARE'. On the right side, there is a green circular badge with the text 'GET UP TO £2000 PER CHILD'. Below the banner, there is a list of five bullet points detailing eligibility criteria. At the bottom left, there is a blue button with the text 'Is it for me?' and a downward arrow.

**TAX-FREE CHILDCARE**

**GET UP TO £2000 PER CHILD**

- 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? ▾