

# Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022

## Newsletter

Newbold Verdon  
Primary School



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

Welcome back to the start of the new school year. A particularly big welcome also goes to all those children and parents who are new to the school. I am sure our community will make you feel at home and support you in becoming familiar with the routines of the school and broader community. We have a thriving PTA in the form of the Friends of Newbold, as well as a Parent Forum and strong Governing Body. We are always looking for newcomers to join us in improving and contributing to the school further.

**First Day** The children have had a great first day and as I have been walking round I have seen happy faces and a real sense of enthusiasm towards their learning. We have had some new staff to the school also including: Miss Davison (teaching in Year 5); and Miss Gaskell (EYFS), Miss Farrington (Year 2 and Unit) and Mrs Levens (Year 1) supporting classes in learning across the school.

**Attendance** As I mentioned at the end of last year, the Government expectations for attendance has increased. I shall be providing you with more details on this as the year progresses. Children are expected to have attendance of at least 95% and holidays in term time will no longer be authorised. We work closely with our Education Welfare Officer, Paula Renee, and should attendance drop she will support us in ensuring the correct processes and support are followed. If a child's attendance drops to 80% that is equivalent to having one day off a week, which has a significant impact on their learning. Please support your children and the school in bringing your children in unless they are really poorly. Thank you.

**Restorative Justice and Behaviour** Over the coming year, the school is embarking on training in Restorative Justice. This is an approach to behaviour that encourages listening and conversations about problems. Often these problems may affect learning. It is therefore important that we find ways to hear the children's voices more. We are reviewing our Behavior Policy and have started to implement some changes.

Occasionally a child may struggle to behave and the class teacher will use a mixture of restorative conversations, reminders and simple sanctions to reinforce the rules and expectations. Should we have a significant concern about a child's behavior you will be contacted to discuss this.

We have also introduced Dragon Points which run like House Points. Today your child has been put into one of four houses which include **Wyvern, Phoenix, Pegasus and Griffin**. Your child will be given Dragon Points throughout the week and the winning house will be announced in our

Celebration Assembly. Dragon Houses and Points will also link to Dragon Days and special events in school. Dragon Wings will no longer be in use. Children will also have opportunities to be recognised for showing the new school values and may be awarded a Values Certificate. Children who show exemplary behavior all the time may also be awarded an Ambassador Fleece to wear for two weeks. They will take on roles of responsibility during this time and will be an ambassador for their class and the school. I look forward to seeing your child achieve in one or all of these rewards.

**Vision and Values** On Thursday 1 September at 5:30pm. we shall be launching our new Vision and Values for the school. Staff, pupils, parents and governors have been working hard to consider how we can best meet the needs of the children at Newbold Verdon Primary but also what our shared vision and values are. You are invited to join the Governors and myself to gather an understanding of the outcomes of the consultation and how we are going to move the school forward over the next three years.

**Financial difficulties** As the financial crisis increases, I know that many families will be finding it hard to make ends meet. We are very aware that this will be affecting many families. If you feel you are struggling to make ends meet and this is affecting your ability to manage any aspect of school for your child then please get in touch. We may not be able to solve all the problems but we can possibly give a little support along the way.

**Ipads** The school has launched our Digital Strategy and a key aspect of this is about giving children access to learning through Ipads in class. We have invested a great deal of time, money and training into supporting children in this way and hope that you can start to see the impact in your children's learning. SeeSaw and Tapestry are our on-line platforms and more information and pictures of your children's learning will become available. Please look out for this and ensure you have your log in details. Mr Wright is our Computer Co-ordinator and so if you have any queries he can be contacted on the school email address.

**On-line Safety** Please may I remind parents to ensure their children are using their devices at home safely. The school website has a section regarding on-line safety and this offers advice and guidance on how to best support your child.

**Parents' Evening** As a response to the Parent Survey, we shall be having face to face Parents' Evenings for the Autumn Term. We recognise it is important that you get to meet your class teacher at this point in the year and therefore Parents' Evening will take place in the classrooms on the evenings of 12 and 13 October. Invites will be going out shortly.

**Phonics Teaching Information Sessions** This year we have introduced Read Write Inc Phonics into the school to support reading. This is a really exciting initiative for both staff and pupils and as a school we have invested in a huge amount of training and books to get this right. Mrs Dewis is running RWI sessions for parents on Tuesdays for the next six weeks at either 2.45pm or 6.00pm. You are welcome to attend any and find out more. A letter with more details will be sent out shortly to those parents of EYFS/Key Stage 1 children.

**I hope you have had a lovely holiday and I'm sure you are pleased the children are back at school. In the next couple of weeks, we shall send out information about diary dates for the year and homework. Please ask your children about Dragon Points and the Houses they are in. It would be great if you could support us in ensuring your children are in school with a positive start to their learning.**