

Wednesday 8th December 2021

Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome to our final newsletter of 2021 and thank you for your continued support throughout this busy period. I thought I would write out early, as there is so much to update you on!

Arrangements for the end of term

- **Thursday 9th December** – No Branching Out after school club due to Staff Training
- The school Pantomime will be in the school hall on the afternoon of **Friday 10th December**. Please return payment to the office as soon as possible if you have not done so already
- The **Infant Performance of 'Prickly Hay'** will take place on **Tuesday and Wednesday 14 / 15th December at 2pm**. Tickets have been distributed to parents and carers in to school to watch the nativity, but we still have to be mindful of Covid and the restrictions it brings. As you know, due to the new variant of Covid, the prime minister has re-instated some of the restrictions, to minimise the risk. With this in mind, when attending your allocated date that you have tickets for, we politely request:
 - ✓ All parents/carers, and visitors **MUST** wear a mask and keep it on for the duration of the nativity performance.
 - ✓ Bring proof of any exception for those who are unable to wear a mask. If there is no proof for your exemption, we will, unfortunately, be unable to admit you.
 - ✓ Maintain social distancing where possible.
 - ✓ We also strongly advise that any parents/carers attending the performance take an LFD test before coming on to the school premises. Should you receive a positive LFD, follow government guidelines for booking of a PCR and remain at home.



A gentle reminder that filming or taking photographs of the children is not allowed during the performance and no photographs or images should be shared on social media. Please understand that this is for the safe keeping of our children. The staff will, however, send all the children home with a photograph of the whole class in their full costumes (including only those children for whom we have permission).

If parents do attend the performance, you will be welcome to take your child home at the end of the performance once they have changed to save you waiting around, if this is helpful to you. Children will be released through the infant doors as normal.

Lead parts are given to Year Two children, this is something that the children anticipate and look forward to as they move through the school. We have looked into ways of making it easier for Year Two parents to see their children clearly in this special role. As a way of supporting families and helping you to celebrate your child's role in Year Two, we are once again giving priority seating to families of Year two children. The front 3 rows will be reserved for Year Two families.

It is important to us that you are able to hear the wonderful singing and speaking efforts of our children. Everybody who attends will need to show their ticket, including younger siblings.

- For those who receive school meals, or who have booked a dinner in advance, the Christmas Dinner at school will be served on **Thursday 16th December**.
- Our class **Christmas parties** are planned for **Monday 20th or Tuesday 21st December**. Please do not send children into school with toys on that day – the staff have arranged activities to occupy the children. Individual class teachers are organising classroom celebrations, and you will hear from them in due course, if you haven't done so already.

- **On the 21st December at 1.45- around 2.45pm**, our Junior pupils will be singing **Christmas Carols** in the Churchyard. Please pop along and give them your support (and enjoy the beautiful singing!). This activity is weather dependant. All children will return to school for the end of the school day.
- **Tuesday 21st December – Last day of school**
- **Monday 10th January** – First day of Spring Term 2022

Attendance

At Newbold Church School we are committed to promoting and modelling good attendance and behaviour – which is essential for pupils to achieve their potential. Lack of attendance is directly correlated to a pupil's deteriorating success and development in their education. As a parent or carer you have a legal requirement to ensure your child attends school on a regular basis. Therefore, you hold the responsibility to promote good attendance and behaviour. Any parent or carer who has not reported their child absent will be contacted by the school by a phonecall or an email. Failure to inform the school may result in a child receiving an unauthorised absence. I must also state the importance of punctuality with regards to the beginning of the school day. After the Christmas break we will be returning to our pre-covid policy for lateness. That means that **any child arriving after the school gates have closed at 8.55am will need to enter the school via the main office and will be marked as 'Late'. Anyone arriving after the close of registers at 9.15am will receive an 'Unauthorised absence' mark for the full morning session.**



We have restarted our pre-covid work to aim to improve the attendance rates of the children at NCS. The end of term 'traffic light' letters you will receive via email at the end of term (providing we have the correct information in school!) will give you an indication as to how your child's attendance is looking so far this year. Since September 2015 the Department for Education class any child who has an attendance rate of lower than 90% as a 'persistent absence' and the family may be contacted by one of our school Family Resource Workers to offer help and support in ensuring children are in school.

Having said that, I am aware that we have had an unusually high rate of absence due to winter illnesses this year, and am mindful that children can't help being ill! As such, please can I ask you to approach the traffic light letters with caution if your child has been hit by the cough / cold / tummy bug we seem to have been harbouring. It may be that at this point in the year this absence has caused them to be classed as Red, but once we reach the spring and summer terms their averages will improve by the nature of the fact that we will have been in school longer! However, if you receive a persistent absence letter then this does need to be treated seriously, and some consideration given to improving your child's attendance.

Severe weather

Please be assured that we will always do our best to keep the school open, but if closing school becomes unavoidable details will be given as below:

- As soon as any decisions are made, these will be posted on our website on the home page. www.newboldchurchschool.co.uk and on the School Jotter

Consideration for others

Over the past few months I seem to have been receiving an increased amount of complaints for parents and neighbours about the increased amount of thoughtlessness when parking outside our school at the beginning and end of the school day. Residents from the locality and the school have contacted the local traffic enforcement officer, and we are expecting spot checks over the coming weeks. The council are currently processing planning for renewed double yellow markings on the junctions around school.

When parking outside school, please be considerate of others. **DO NOT** block driveways of local residents, and avoid parking on pavements, as this means that those with buggies or using mobility scooters are forced to use the roadway in order to pass. Parking near to or on junctions puts your children at increased danger, as pedestrians cannot see to cross the road safely, and other drivers do not have a clear view of the roadway at the junction.

CHRISTMAS CARDS - IMPORTANT

This year, we have decided that we are going to have a giant Christmas card which will be available for children and staff to write a festive message in for a minimum donation of 50p. This will be instead of children handing out individual cards within school. By doing this, we are helping to reduce the spread of Covid-19 but also we are reducing the amount of paper waste within the school community. The card will be on display with the Christmas tree for all the children to see. All donations raised from this will go to our chosen charity which is 'Rainbow Trust'. Rainbow Trust support families with seriously ill children. This year, they are 'Bringing the colour back this Christmas' and helping families to spend lots of precious time together. Once we break up for Christmas, we will be sending the Christmas card up to St. John's Church for it to be on display over the festive period.



The Christmas card will be available to sign during the week commencing 13th December, we will bring the card round for each class on a specific day so that all children will get the chance to sign it if they wish to do so.

	Morning	Afternoon		Morning	Afternoon
Monday 13th Dec	Reception	Year 1	Wednesday 15th Dec	Year 4	Year 5
Tuesday 14th Dec	Year 2	Year 3	Thursday 16th Dec	Year 6	Last chance!

Dates for your Diary

January 2022		
10	First Day of Term	
10	Whitehall Parents meeting Y5/6	
31 - 2 Feb	Whitehall visit Y5/Y6	
February 2022		
9	Assembly in Church 2.30pm	
14	St. Valentine's day in School	
18	Last Day of Term	
28	First Day of Term	
March 2022		
14	SCHOOL CLOSED - INSET DAY	
22/24	Parents evening	
April 2022		
6	Mass in School 2pm	
8	Last day of term	
25	First Day of term	

In the meantime, all that remains is for me to wish you a very happy and restful Christmas and look forward to continuing to work closely with you in the New Year.

Mrs K Marsh , Headteacher