

Dear Parents and Friends,

Having already sent out my final newsletter this year, I have just a few pieces of information to update you on before we close our doors on Tuesday for a well-earned break.

I'm sure that many of you know that two long standing members of the teaching assistant team, Mrs Offler and Miss Shanahan, have recently moved on from the school to undertake new adventures elsewhere. Miss Shanahan has taken up a post in another school, and Mrs Offler has moved to work within the care industry. They will both be missed, and we wish them every success in their new roles.

This of course has meant that we have a few gaps in our staffing team. Rather than employ new teaching assistants, we have taken the decision to rearrange some of the expertise that we already have in school, to ensure that all children are receive a fair and proportionate amount of support. This means that in January there will be some Teaching Assistants working in different classes across school. For your information, the plan is as follows:

Nursery	Miss M Smith	Mrs Gautrey, Miss Green, Miss Sawyer
EYFS	Mrs J Meakin	Miss Shannon, Mrs Walsh, Miss Clarke
Year 1	Miss L Hickton	Mrs Church (am), Miss Tromans (am), Mrs Rowland (pm), Miss Sawyer (pm)
Year 2	Miss K Smith / Mrs L Rowland	Miss Gabbitas, Mrs Jacques (pm)
Year 3	Mrs K Passarelli / Mrs K Hopper	Miss Sargeant, Ms Worsencroft
Year 4	Mr A Bradshaw	Mrs Mason, Mrs Wilbourn, Mrs McGirr
Year 5	Mrs C Riley	Mrs Kirk, Mrs James, Mrs Taylor, Miss Tromans (pm)
Year 6	Mrs H Burn	Mrs Jacques, Miss Maskrey

You will have noticed that over the past few weeks we have suffered from staff absence (as is the case across a vast majority of schools). On multiple occasions I have had to rearrange staff at short notice to ensure that all classes are covered and that year groups can remain open. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff – teachers and teaching assistants – for their flexibility and support during this time. It has been a difficult few weeks for us all, and we sincerely hope to be back to 'full strength' after the Christmas break.

Having said that – I am aware of a planned change later in the academic year. Miss Hickton has recently shared her exciting news with us that she is expecting her first child, who we will be delighted to welcome sometime around Summer half term. I'm sure that you will join us in sending our congratulations!!! We hope that Miss Hickton will be able to remain working at school until at least Easter (restrictions permitting), and will be working on planning for her maternity cover during the Spring term of 2022. We will of course keep you updated with our plans. In the meantime I need to ask for your cooperation in keeping Miss Hickton safe and well, by making sure all contact with her is done so via email or telephone.

Attendance – REPEAT INFORMATION FROM NEWSLETTER

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.

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