



Newington CE Primary School



WELCOMING, FORGIVENESS, GENEROSITY, FLOURISHING

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**KINDNESS
PERSEVERANCE
RESPECT
HONESTY**

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers

We are at the end of another busy year at Newington! This summer the upgrades continue, with classrooms being decorated, old flooring replaced and further changes made to our computing area to allow more children to have individual access to the new, more powerful desktop computers that are needed for some elements of our computing curriculum. Behind the scenes we are moving fully into 'the cloud' during the holidays as our old on-site servers come to the end of their life. With most of our systems already cloud-based we are hoping for a seamless transition.

As we make our preparations for the next academic year, funding is at the forefront of our minds due to a combination of LA cuts to SEND funding and increased costs. Newington is somewhat shielded from the worst of the cuts by the deprivation funding we receive and the governors and I have worked carefully in the past 2 years to build up our reserves (savings) by reducing running costs wherever possible. For example, moving to electronic reports and permission slips. This is not only good for the environment, but also saves money. Our current level of savings means we should be able to weather the current funding storm with no immediate impact on the educational provision we provide for the children.

However, more important than any of the work in the background to keep the school finances and estate in good condition, is the work with the children and on our curriculum to ensure we continue to deliver a rich and varied experience in line with our vision. Our enrichment and personal development curriculum which complements the national curriculum is now very well established. The year 6 performances last week were a great example of this and the support shown by the pupils towards each other embodied the Newington School spirit.

Planning for next year is well underway with teachers across both schools getting excited about potential joint activities. The latest one I saw go into the calendar was a Viking battle against Lower Halstow Y4!

We are also looking forward to introducing the Federation Shield – to celebrate the sporting competitions we have between our sibling schools and increase participation across all year groups. The list of activities for each year group is steadily growing.

OPAL play has been a real success story this year, with the school awarded the Platinum Standard, which puts Newington in the top 1% nationally of OPAL providers. It was lovely to see so many families join us for the OPAL stay and play.

TastEd has also been a delicious addition to the Federation's enrichment and personal development curriculum. I have included some of the feedback from pupils below. More info can be found at [Primary School Resources | Taste Education](#)

- I definitely want to do it again!
- I like eating fruit as it is so healthy
- I like tasting food
- I like that we don't have to try things if we don't want to
- Sometimes my mum buys the food I like after TastEd
- I get to learn how things grow
- It's fun describing the foods and I like trying new foods
- We learn about senses and our taste buds, I love it!
- We get to explore the world of new foods
- I love it!
- I like the eating part
- I like the powerpoints
- It's good as you try new foods and it encourages you to eat different things
- We like using the blind folds
- We get free food!
- Can we do it more often?

As always, the staff, ably led by Mr Krafft, have gone above and beyond to provide exciting learning opportunities and continued support for the children in their care as befits our school vision. Hopefully the memorable moments captured in the reports helped communicate the palpable sense of joy your children bring to the school – there is always something to smile at every day and reading these always brings a smile to my face.

No round up would be complete without a mention of our successful Ofsted inspection, but external validation and data have never been what drives us. Our SATS results this year were stellar, but they represent just a small part of the journey the children go on with us. Our aim is to send the children off to secondary school, confident and able to thrive academically and socially. In a school our size, we can cherish and celebrate the success of each individual pupil, which makes saying goodbye a bittersweet time. I started on the same day as many of the year 6 cohort so have never been in the school without them!

Thank you for your ongoing support for the Newington team. We wish you a very restful summer. A well-being challenge has been sent out today with lists of activities you might like to try if you run out of things to fill the long summer days!

We look forward to seeing all of you on Wednesday 3rd September.

Kind regards

Mrs Deevooy

NOTE FROM CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

On behalf of the governors, I would like to say thank you to Mrs Deevoy and all the staff and leaders for their hard work this year in helping the children reach their full potential. This year we have continued our success with very positive feedback from Ofsted and achieving the Platinum Opal Award for the quality of playtime activity happening in school.



As ever, your role as parents is very important and looking at data it is clear that the children who attend regularly have continued to achieve well in school. Thank you for your support with ensuring your children are in school regularly. Our attendance is still broadly in line with national averages, despite a chicken pox outbreak across several year groups early in the year. This means even more pupils have benefitted from the great teaching going on in school and the progress outcomes for pupils this year reflect this.

Next year, I will have been a governor for 50 years and I have been a governor at Newington for the past decade since we created the Federation. In this time, I have seen the school transform - with excellent outcomes for pupils and a wonderful educational offer, ensuring all pupils are able to reach their God-given potential - a testament to the hard work of the staff, parents and community.

Have an enjoyable break and stay safe and well.

Peter Marshall

(Chair of Governors)

STAFFING

Goodbye We are saying goodbye to Mrs Tidy, who is taking her well-deserved retirement. Her smiley, cheery face and artistic skills will be sorely missed by everyone, including the OPAL play leadership team, where she has really helped transform playtimes. We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Davies our nursery teacher. She won't be very well-known by the main school children but has had a big impact on the nursery during her time with us. She is moving into a specialist setting closer to home.

We will be welcoming Mrs Kingman to the nursery who is joining us from Joy Lane Primary School. She has already been in several times this term to meet the team and the children.

Hello!
☺

PFA & VOLUNTEERS

They say it takes a village to raise a child and our volunteers, including our: dedicated PFA committee, readers, Newington History Group members and our vision day supporters all have a role to play in contributing towards the education of the children. We all benefit from them giving freely of their time. They deserve a special mention as they make a real difference to the children. Thanks also to all the parents who volunteered at events such as the leavers' summer party and at Christmas to ensure that the children had a great time.

CHARITY WEEK

Charity week is an important event within our personal development curriculum in school. This year the theme was, 'things everyone needs to thrive' - water, food and shelter and included, as always, an international charity, a national charity and a local charity.

We are incredibly proud of our pupils for their efforts in raising money for three very worthy causes this term. Through a variety of fun and engaging events including a really popular water fete (perfect on a hot day!) and a range of other activities, the children raised an impressive total for each charity. All in all, the pupils raised close to £500 for Centrepont, Wateraid and Swale Foodbank.

A big thank you to all families and friends who supported these events!

HOUSE POINT WINNERS



On sports day, Southwark topped the leaderboard with a clear victory.

1 st	Southwark	134
2 nd	Rochester	127
3 rd	Chichester	122
4 th	Canterbury	105



Southwark were clearly on a roll with an overall victory as well!

1 st	Southwark	3,049
2 nd	Rochester	2,972
3 rd	Chichester	2,956
4 th	Canterbury	2,922

House points are hotly contested and a great source of pride for houses. The system reflects our commitment to our values and vision as the children can earn house points in a range of ways, not just for academic success. Myself and Mr Krafft will need to up our game next year as members of Chichester and Canterbury!

SAFETY

Following a recent incident where a child at school tripped over their laces and hurt themselves, we are being stricter on allowing younger pupils to wear lace up shoes if they cannot tie their own laces. Staff repeatedly tying shoelaces, impacts on the supervision of the other children. Moving forwards, children without tied laces will not be allowed to continue playing and may have to wait until a suitable moment for an adult to tie them if they are unable to do this themselves. Staff are not always able to spot loose laces and intervene when the pupils are in a large group, so please be aware of this risk if you send your child in with laces they cannot manage themselves.

Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 3rd September



SEPTEMBER INFORMATION

GOODBYE PING, HELLO MCAS

Our contract with Ping will expire in August, so please feel free to delete the app during the holidays. All future communication will be via the MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) app which is free for us to use, automatically syncs with our data system in school and accepts permissions, payments and bookings for clubs too.

CLUBS

Extra-Curricular Clubs won't be running the first week of term. Please look out for notifications on MCAS of how to book.

MORNING AND AFTERSCHOOL CLUB

Morning Club is now by pre-booked places only and only bookable via MCAS app. All places booked will be charged due to the level of no-shows when we have waiting lists. After school care is now 'in-house' at Lower Halstow and being relaunched as Chestnut Tree Corner. If you are a tax-payer you can get tax-free childcare (the government pay £2 for every £8 you pay). You just need to set up an online account via <https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>

A flyer went out on ping with full details and timings etc.

ENTRY TO SCHOOL

Classrooms open at **8.30am** and pupils need to be in school by **8.45am** at the latest.

PICK UP FROM SCHOOL

3.15pm pick-up for everyone. Please can everyone remember to stand where the class teacher can see you to allow us to dismiss the children quickly. If you want your child to walk home please ensure you have emailed the office with permission for this.

SNACKS

Tuck shop for KS2 pupils will be starting from Monday 8th September run by Year 6. Everything is 20p. Details of what is on offer will be messaged via MCAS app at the start of term. Please provide a suitable break-time snack for the first week back – fruit, savoury crackers, breadsticks etc. EYFS & KS1 are provided with fruit by the school, so no break-time snack is needed. If you do send a snack, this needs to be a fruit or vegetable.

PACKED LUNCHES

Please save the chocolate and sweets for home. These will be removed from packed lunches as they adversely affect afternoon learning, so please do not put them in lunchboxes as this causes unnecessary upset. Please use common sense, for example, cereal bars containing a few chocolate drops & Fruit Winders are fine, but snacks such as chocolate covered raisins are not, as these always melt and cause a mess. Plain raisins are just as sweet.

WATER BOTTLES

All pupils need to bring their own clearly named water bottle – any bottles with juice will be emptied and replaced with water so please only send water in. Juice boxes etc. can be included in packed lunches.

BAGS

Book bags & drawstring bags only. Just a reminder about this rule. If your child brings a large rucksack the contents will be put in a named carrier bag which they can hang on their peg and the rucksack sent to the office to be collected by parents. As the school population has grown we are really pushed for corridor hanging space and this rule helps keep corridors safe and clear for everyone. Thank you for continuing to help with this. Overnight bags can be handed to the office who will look after them until pick up.

UNIFORM

www.forsterskent.co.uk

The 'active' uniform, which was introduced fully in Sept 2023, having been trialled in 2022, continues to work really well, saving both time -with children not getting changed for PE - and money. This has also enabled greater levels of other physical activity outside of PE lessons. We continue to ask pupils to wear their royal blue sweatshirts/cardigans/ fleece everyday including PE days. **No other sportswear is permitted.**



Our active uniform consists of the following:

- Footwear PLAIN black trainers / trainer style shoes. The children run EVERY DAY and need suitable footwear. NO LACES unless your child can tie their own shoes.
- Tops Plain/logoed white polo shirt
Plain/logoed royal blue sweatshirt/cardigan/fleece
(optional plain white round necked t-shirt on PE days if you wish)
- Bottoms PLAIN black, navy blue or dark grey leggings, shorts or jersey jogging bottoms
(optional royal blue shorts on PE days if you wish)

Summer dresses are still part of our uniform.

Children can still wear hand-me-down legacy grey items if you have siblings in school. But please do not purchase new traditional uniform items. Legacy items should not be worn in YR and Y1. Plain black school shoes are still permitted if you prefer, but they **should be suitable for active playtimes** and sporting activities, including PE lessons.

Our 'New to You' uniform is still available and offers a range of items in different sizes. If there are any items that you are interested in, please send an e-mail into the school office and Mrs Fox will prepare some items for your perusal.

Other Uniform Reminders

Only small **stud** earrings are permitted and pupils must be able to remove these themselves for PE. If your child arrives at school with hooped earrings, they will be asked to remove them.

Long hair should be tied back. Please help us keep everyone lice free! Bows in hair should be small. Save the giant neon JoJo bows for parties rather than the classroom please.

Please ensure your child has coat, hat, sunscreen as appropriate for the weather as we will continue to use the school grounds for outdoor learning and the British weather is notoriously changeable.

Wellies – please provide named wellies for your child to keep in school. We have welly racks to store these. In order for us to use the field all year as a learning and play space, we need the children to be wearing suitable footwear.