



Newington CE Primary School



**KINDNESS
PERSEVERENCE
RESPECT
HONESTY**

WELCOMING, FORGIVING, GENEROUS, FLOURISHING

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Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

We are at the end of another busy year at Newington! This summer, site improvements will continue with redecoration and new flooring in some areas and the finishing touches to the nursery /wraparound care extension.

As we prepare for the new academic year, funding remains a key focus. We have worked with the LA to have solar panels installed, so we are now generating a lot of our own electricity, particularly during the recent sunny weather. In addition, moving to online permissions and electronic reporting last year saved the school over £2,000 in printing costs, allowing us to redirect funds towards resources and experiences for the children. Thank you for your support and perseverance in using our various communication and booking systems - we know school administration can feel overwhelming, so do try to minimise the number of messages!

We are also extremely grateful for all your other contributions. This has meant visitors and trips have continued at the same level despite rising costs. The PTA have done a fantastic job; raising funds, buying leavers' hoodies and enriching school life through events the children can look forward to throughout the year.

You may have seen the Department for Education has released new enrichment benchmarks for schools. Enrichment has always been central to the Newington offer, but we will need to align and re-label some activities. However, all the children's favourite experiences will remain, and after-school enrichment clubs will continue.

As always, the staff, led by Mr Krafft, have gone above and beyond to provide these exciting and memorable learning opportunities. Class Dojo posts and the memorable moments on the end-of-year reports highlighted the joy the children bring to school every day. Despite the challenges we all face, there is always something to celebrate and smile about.

As we come to the end of our 175th anniversary celebrations it is lovely to see the memorial kit being worn so regularly in school with pride and it has been a pleasure to celebrate the school this year.

Thank you for your continued support of the Newington team. We wish you a restful summer and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Wednesday 2nd September.

Kind regards

Mrs Deevooy

NOTE FROM CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

On behalf of the governors, I would like to say thank you to Mrs Deevooy 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 the Local Authority and winning both the boys and girls football leagues along with sustaining a high level of sport and physical activity happening in school. We also hit a high note with a visit to the Royal Opera House!



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. As a result of your support, attendance is still broadly in line with national averages. This means even more pupils have benefitted from the great teaching going on in school and the progress outcomes for pupils reflect this.

This year marks my 50th year as a school governor and celebrating the 175th anniversary of the school has been lovely. I think past headteachers would be proud of everything the community has achieved together.

Have an enjoyable break and stay safe and well.

Peter Marshall
(Chair of Governors)

HOME SCHOOL AGREEMENT and COMMUNICATION AGREEMENT

Last week the DfE released new guidance stating that they expect parents to

- value daily attendance
- be supportive of school policies
- be willing and active participants in their children's learning
- be respectful towards school staff

They also reference schools having home school agreements. Further to issues earlier in the year leaders and governors had already written agreements for use in September. For the vast majority of parents, these documents won't even need consideration as you always go above and beyond what is expected in our partnership and conduct yourselves impeccably. The aim is to ensure that those who do not currently meet these expectations have a reference point and clear guidance. These will be circulated via MCAS.

STAFFING

Goodbye We are saying goodbye to Miss Jacobs and Mrs Ford, who have been working with us temporarily to provide 1:1 support. We wish them all the best and thank them for their contribution to the school in the short time they have been with us. Miss Brincat is leaving her Y2 class teacher role but will still be around providing lesson cover from a familiar face when needed.

We will be welcoming Miss Telford to the nursery who is joining us as an apprentice and Mrs Williams (Laura to our nursery children) will join the permanent nursery team having successfully completed her qualification.



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 the team from St Mary's Church 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 'mind, body and soul' and the children chose charities linked to this.

Mind – Mid-Kent Mind (mental health charity)

Body – National Deaf Children's Society

Soul – Book Aid International

They then planned and delivered events themselves and we are incredibly proud their fund-raising efforts, raising over £800 in all. A particular highlight was the Acorn class danceathon!

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	139
2 nd	Rochester	129
3 rd	Canterbury	123
4 th	Chichester	119

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

1 st	Chichester	4,500
2 nd	Rochester	4,437
3 rd	Southwark	4,416
4 th	Canterbury	4,364

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.

**Have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you all on
Wednesday 2nd September**



SEPTEMBER INFORMATION

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

A flyer went out on MCAS 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 & TUCKSHOP

Tuck shop for KS2 pupils will be starting from Monday 7th September run by Year 6. Therefore, please provide a piece of fruit or veg for a break-time snack for the first few days back. Please note that from September there will only be ***boxes of raisins and plain rice cakes*** for sale daily as we are limited by the new school food standards. There will also be some fruit and veg subject to availability. Everything will still be 20p. 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, continues to work really well, saving both time - with children not getting changed for PE - and money. This also enables greater levels of other physical activity outside of PE lessons.

We continue to ask pupils to wear their royal blue sweatshirts/cardigans/fleece/150th sports zip-up 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/175th anniversary football 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

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 or KS1 as they undertake daily physical activities. Plain black school shoes are still permitted if you prefer, but they ***should be suitable for active playtimes*** and sporting activities, including PE lessons.

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 hearings, 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.