

# Welcome BACK TO SCHOOL

## Newlands Junior School – September 2024

### A Message from The Head Teacher

I would like to welcome everyone back to school and hope you have had a lovely Summer break. Welcome to our new pupils and families. We hope your time with us will be enjoyable. We are here to help make happy, confident, proud and respectful pupils. We pride ourselves in working closely with families. If you have any concerns, please speak to the class teacher/TA who work with your child daily. We hope you feel privileged and proud to be part of Newlands as I know we are.

As you are aware, we have had to extend our school day. We have tried to help parents/carers with children at John T Rice by starting earlier. It has worked well this week and children have been in class promptly. It would be helpful from next week if you could say bye to your children at the gate as it is difficult to get back up the path with so many people in one place. A member of staff will always be there to supervise and a TA meets the children in the hall.

### Hagg Farm

We would like to wish our Year 6 pupils a lovely time on their residential. Please ensure you are in school by 8:30, you have all your belongings and any necessary medication is handed in to Mrs Martin.

### Uniform

The children have returned to school looking very smart. Please ensure your child wears the correct uniform every day and remember our colours are red and grey, not black. Please do not purchase pencil skirts for school, or skirts that are too short, as they have to sit cross legged in assembly and they are so uncomfortable with their underwear on show. Please also ensure PE shorts are an appropriate length. Shoes with a strap or laces are the safest as children go out skipping and carry out active minutes daily. Please put names in uniform, particularly jumpers/cardigans as we already have a collection that have been lost.

### Communication

Thank you for your cooperation and patience as we transfer pupils onto the school system. This has crashed several times, making things difficult, but everyone should now have logins for Eduspot and texts to parents. All correspondence will be via text or email so please ensure we have your up-to-date email addresses and phone numbers.

Other ways we will communicate are via:

Marvellous Me (this will be communication from class teachers so please ensure you are logged on.

Facebook (please ensure you have joined our Newlands Junior School Parents/Carers page for all updates.

The school website (here you can find diary dates, newsletters and information on the year group pages).

All information will be sent on newsletters. Any necessary changes will be on Facebook and a text will be sent.

### Our school Values

Our school values are very important to us as they help to shape our pupils into caring, responsible young people. This is the most important thing we can do for our pupils as we prepare them for their future roles in society. We will be focusing on 4 main areas – PRIDE, RESPECT, KINDNESS and RESPONSIBILITY. Within these there will be weekly targets including the British Values and equality. We are proud of our pupils' attitude in school and want them to show this where ever they are.

### Mobile Phones

Last year, the government made restrictions on children having mobile phones in school. We understand, if your child walks to and from school, you may wish to be able to contact them. Any child needing a phone will hand it in at the gate in the morning. Please ensure phones are labelled. Children will then collect these from the office at the end of the day. Please remind children to hand phones in. We have had one instance where a child kept it in their bag which fell off their coat peg and was trodden on and smashed.

### Attendance

Last year our attendance was below our target at 94.97. We all know children need to be in school every day to make the best progress, socialise and take part in the many organised events. Please ensure school is informed before 8:30 if your child is too ill to attend. If it is just a sore throat or snuffle, send them in and we will contact you if they are too unwell to stay. We have a minimum target of 96% for each child. If the whole school achieves this minimum target a reward will be organised by the school governors. Also, please arrive on time. It is very uncomfortable for children to walk into lessons which have already started and learning does start straight away in the morning.

## *Vacancy for Governor*

We still have many vacancies on our Governing Body. One of these is for parents/carers. This is a worthwhile and rewarding role. If you are interested, please call in to school for a chat.

## *Our Expectations*

At Newlands, we have high expectations for all pupils. We always achieve exceptional SATs results and send our pupils off to secondary school well prepared. This comes as a result of positive partnerships between school and families. One of the biggest tools to success for our pupils is their reading ability. No child should leave Newlands unable to read and we place a big emphasis on this skill. This year we are asking that pupils read 5 or more times at home in a week. This can be 5 minutes before bed or a nice time snuggling on the sofa and sharing a book. Please remember to sign/initial the diary which needs to be in school every day. Please also sign the home/school agreement in the front of the diary.

*Thank you, Mrs Castledine*