

Welcome BACK TO SCHOOL

Newlands Junior School – September 2023

A Message from The Head Teacher

I would like to welcome everyone back 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 are currently full and have a waiting list which is testament to our achievements and efforts. We hope you feel privileged and proud to be part of Newlands as I know we are.

Uniform

The children have returned to school looking very smart. I apologise that the ties didn't arrive (these were ordered in May), but it was probably a little warm for them anyway. If the weather continues to be as hot this week, children can leave their ties off. Hopefully they will have arrived by then. 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. Also try to ensure shoes have a strap or laces for safety 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.

Marvellous Me

If you are not signed up for Marvellous Me, you will be receiving a letter this week to join. This is a form of communication between the class teacher and parents/carers. If PE days change, teachers will inform you here. If you are on Facebook, please join our group as Mrs Smith puts on regular reminders. Also keep a copy of the diary dates or look on the calendar on the school website as all events are listed.

Staffing

There have been a few staffing changes over the Summer. We would like to welcome Miss Wells to Year 4. She will be working Tuesdays and Wednesdays during September and will then be full time. Miss Walters will cover in the meantime. We also welcome Miss Coupe back to year 3 after her maternity leave. She has been greatly missed. We have a new site manager, Mr Wilson, starting next Monday and also a new cleaner Ms Leach. Mrs Whittham is currently absent in the office. We are using supply staff to cover this and Mrs Underwood is doing an amazing job overseeing this role as well as her own. We are very blessed to have a stable staff with regards to teachers and teaching assistants which is important for your child. Should a member of staff be absent through illness or training, Mr Emmerson is able to step in, ensuring continuity and a familiar face.

Our school Values

This year, we have reviewed our school values. These 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

We are having a huge number of mobile phones brought in to school. We understand, if your child walks to and from school, you may wish to be able to contact them. Otherwise, children cannot use their phones in school so they are not needed. From tomorrow, all phones will be collected on the gate. 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 fell to as low as 94.5%. 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 8:45 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. Two of these are for parents/carers. This is a worthwhile and rewarding role. If you are interested, please call in to school for a chat. If you are a parent/carer in year 3, Mr Herrington, our chair of governors, will be in school during the dinner time so feel free to have 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. Pupils who do not achieve this will have the opportunity to read in school during break times. 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