

September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year! We have had a fantastic start to the term, the atmosphere around school is lovely and calm. All of the children have settled in really well and behaviour across the school is amazing! The teachers have planned an exciting curriculum for the children which you will find out a bit more about next week, when you are sent the curriculum newsletters.

Staffing update

New staff:

We are really excited to welcome some new members of staff this year. Miss Plater has joined us as a teacher in Year 3 and Mrs Brammer is a teaching assistant in Year 2. Sadly, Mrs Darton, our catering assistant left us over the summer, but we are pleased to share that Miss Yusuf will be joining our catering team this term.

Site news:

We would like to say a big thank you to Mr Betts, Mr Cracknell, Mr Mckenna and Ms Byrne who have worked extremely hard over the summer to ensure that the school site was ready for staff and children.

Newton Leys Shed

Mr Betts has been holding a weekly community group: Newton Leys Shed and a big thank you needs to go to all of the volunteers who have helped to make improvements around the site and completed a new structure for the children to play on. If you are interested in joining the Newton Leys Shed – it takes place every Tuesday from 7-9pm at school (starting again on Tuesday 24th September).

Wedding celebrations:

Miss Knight is getting married this weekend and will return to school on Monday as Mrs Dall. We wish her much joy and happiness for the future!

Start of day

Nursery children – enter and exit through the Nursery entrance

Reception – children enter through the gate next to the Nursery building and are taken to the classroom doors where they will be met by their teacher. They will also be collected from here at the end of the day.

Y1/2 – children enter through the gate next to the Nursery building and you can walk them round to their new classrooms where they will be greeted by their class teachers. At the end of the day, parents enter the gates next to the Nursery building and collect children from their classroom doors.

Y3/4 - children enter through the gate next to the Nursery building, where they can be walked around the school building and dropped at the external door. At the end of the day, they are collected from the 4G pitch using the one-way system.

Y5/6 – children enter the 4G pitch and head into school independently. They exit via the pedestrian gate next to the staff car park.

End of school day collection reminder

Just a reminder that at the end of the school day the children in Reception, Years 1 & 2 are collected from the classroom door and Year 3 & 4 are collected from the 4G pitch. If you are a parent/carer collecting from the 4G pitch – please ensure that you collect from the member of staff dismissing the children. Passwords – you should have set a password with the school office, this is for safeguarding purposes, to ensure that only parents/carers/nominated adults with the passwords can collect their children. From time to time, we may need to ask you for the password, particularly if it is a different member of staff dismissing the children that day. Please make sure you know it and if you need any support, please speak to a member of staff in the school office.

Please could you ensure that your child is not riding their bike/scooter on school ground at the start and end of the day. It is very busy at these times of day, and we have had some near misses where children have been racing each other and nearly knocked down children and adults. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Communication

Our relationship with you as parents/carers is extremely important to us. We know that there will often be times where you need to communicate things directly to the class teacher. This is why we have an 'open door policy' and you will notice that in Nursery, Reception and Y1 & Y2 you will be greeted by the teaching staff when you drop off and collect your children. We appreciate that this is a little bit tricky when it comes to Y3/4/5/6 as they enter the building independently. However, if you do need to get a message to any of the teachers of these year groups urgently, you can either speak to any member of the Senior Leadership Team who will be on the gates and will be happy to help or you can email the teacher directly – the email addresses will be on the curriculum newsletters or please speak to the school office staff who can also pass on a message or arrange an appointment with them. The curriculum newsletters will be sent out next week. We are all here to support you and your children to ensure that they have the best possible experience at school.

On the occasion that you have a matter that may need addressing: In the first instance you should contact the class teacher, our staff are more than happy to meet with you or have a telephone call if that is more convenient to resolve any queries you might have. However, if you have not had a matter resolved at this stage then the next step would be to contact the Phase Leaders.

Early Years – Mrs Villa, Mrs Moore (Year Lead) Years 1 & 2 - Mrs Forbes, Year 3 & 4 – Mr Wilson, Years 5 & 6 Mrs Hand. The next step would be our Assistant Heads – Mrs Villa and Miss Edmonds (who is also our SENDCo) then, Mr Mortimer-Fox (Deputy Head) and then myself.

Edenred (Families with children entitled to Pupil premium funding)

A few families raised with us that they had only received one voucher over the summer break, where previously they would have had more. We appreciate how challenging this has been for families. We queried this with Milton Keynes City Council, and they have said that the funding for the supermarket vouchers comes from the Household Support Fund and due to them receiving limited funding from the Department of Work and Pensions, they were only able to support the schools in Milton Keynes by issuing one voucher over the school holidays. We do have a number of meal boxes available for families – provided by St Mark's Meals, please contact the school office if you need them, we are more than happy to support you.

Uniform – please see the following reminder of our uniform expectations:

- Newton Leys crew neck sweatshirt or cardigan with logo
- White polo shirt (nursery to year 5)
- White collared shirt with school tie (tie provided by the school, Year 6 only)
- Plain black trousers (not combat style), shorts, black pinafore dress/skirt.

- (Nursery and Reception children – jogging bottoms/shorts with comfortable black shoes, polo shirt and school jumper or cardigan.)
- After Easter – purple gingham summer dress or playsuit, white socks
- Black/Grey sock/tights
- Black shoes
- PE kit: plain white round neck t-shirt, plain black PE shorts, plain black sweatshirt/zip through, plain black jogging bottoms, plain black trainers.
- Newton Leys book bag with logo (a plain purple book bag without the logo is acceptable)
- On Health & Safety grounds children are not allowed to wear jewellery to school (except for small studs in pierced ears and watches) Small studs must be covered during PE.
- Plain black or white headwear is permitted on religious or medical grounds and may have to be removed during PE for safety reason.
- Extreme haircuts/hair colour are not permitted. The definition of what is extreme is at the discretion of the Headteacher.

Uniform with the school logo can be obtained from: Kedaph, Bletchley or Maisies, Wolverton. We also have a stock of pre-loved uniform that can be purchased through the school office.

Thank you for helping us maintain high standards of school uniform across the school. Maintaining high standards of uniform reflects the high standards that we have of all our children in all aspects of their work at our school.

Smart Watches – at the end of last year we noticed an increase in the number of children wearing Smart watches. Please note that due to safeguarding, we do not encourage children to be wearing watches which have photo taking capability or are data enabled.

PE Days

On their PE day the children can come into school wearing their PE kit. Please see below:

Monday: Year 1, RA

Tuesday: Year 2, RB

Wednesday: Nursery, Year 3, RC

Thursday: Year 4 and Year 6

Friday: Year 5

Attendance

There are some key changes that have come into effect for 1st September 2024 regarding holidays taken in term time and subsequent fixed penalty notices, this is in light of guidance released by the Department for Education. Please see the separate attendance newsletter that will be sent out next week for more detail. If you have any further questions regarding attendance, please contact the school office.

SMART Charter (for more detail please see our behaviour policy on the school website)

At Newton Leys Primary School and Nursery, **our** aim is to create a safe and happy environment where everyone, regardless of gender or ethnic origin, feels valued. We have very high expectations of behaviour and attitudes and aim to positively promote good relationships and behaviour. We ask all members of our Newton Leys family to follow our SMART Charter. We have made a small change to the wording of SMART this year and changed the S to Sensitive, This is because we feel that it links better to our focus on nurture and building relationships at every level.

As SMART learners we are:

Sensitive	Kind, gentle and helpful to others. Taking others' feelings into consideration, being fair to all and respectful. Careful with property and nature.
Motivated	Hard workers who have a go. Maximum effort, supporting others and ambitious.
Aspiring	Committed and ambitious, aiming high. To be the best we can and believe in ourselves.
Resilient	Always try our best and never give up. Thrive on challenging ourselves.
Truthful	Honest and always tell the truth. Taking responsibility for our actions and are trustworthy.

There will be many opportunities for us to celebrate with the children and with you as parents/carers, to reward positive behaviour.

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES

These will be weekly and will celebrate pupils of the week, SMART merit awards and outside achievements.

Star Award Assemblies

Each term we invite parents/carers in to join us with a special breakfast when their child has been chosen to receive a special SMART star award. These are given to children for significantly going 'above and beyond' and demonstrating the SMART values.

Upcoming events:

Westbury Young Artist of the Year – Children in Y4, Y5, Y6 – deadline 27th September

Last year we were very proud that 11 of our children were selected to have their art work on exhibition last weekend, as part of the Westbury Young Artist of the Year. They competed against other primary and secondary aged children. We have been invited to take part again this year. There is no theme and the competition is open to all the children in Year 4-6. A further letter will go out to parents with more detail The exhibition is on the 5th of October and will be open for viewing between 10am and 4pm. The presentation will take place at 12pm.

Macmillan Cake sale - Friday 27th September

We had some wonderful cakes donated last year and would like to raise money again for this fantastic charity. We welcome any donations that you may have for us – please hand your donations of cakes into the School Office ready for the sale at 3.00pm.

Donations for the Food Bank by 4th October

This year we will be supporting MK Food Bank and would welcome any donations for this charity. They are currently overstocked in baked beans, but would welcome donations of the following items:

Tinned meat, tinned fish, long life milk, juice or squash, cooing oil, spreads: jams, peanut butter, chocolate spread, tinned pasta, pasta sauce, tinned fruit, dried rice (500g), tinned veg, tinned soups, savoury snacks, cereal bars, toiletries.

Residentials

We are really excited that we are able to have the following residential this year. Mr Wilson will be leading information evenings in the Autumn term to give you more details on these.

Year 4 – The Frontier Centre, Irthlingborough – Wednesday 5th March - Friday 7th March 2025

A two-night residential that includes outdoor and adventurous activities at the centre which is situated on the banks of the River Nene in Northamptonshire.

[Frontier Centre - Rock UK](#)

Year 5 – Ghyll Head Centre, Windermere, Cumbria - Monday 27th January – Friday 31st 2025

A four-night residential that includes outdoor and adventurous activities in the beautiful surroundings of the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks.

<https://www.better.org.uk/leisure-centre/south-lakeland/ghyll-head>

Year 6 – The Isle of Wight Experience (Island Riding Centre), Newport, Isle of Wight - Monday 30th June – Friday 4th July

A four-night residential that includes cultural experiences, day trips and explorations around the beautiful island.

<http://www.isleofwightexperience.co.uk/>

Parents meetings for all visits will be held in year groups during the Autumn Term (see dates below)

Please see below the diary dates – new additions are in yellow.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and we are all looking forward to an extremely successful year ahead at Newton Leys.

Miss E Donoghue



Headteacher

Dates for Diaries

Tuesday 3rd September	INSET day
Wednesday 4th September	INSET day
Thursday 5th September	Children return to school
Tuesday 24th – Friday 27th September	Y2 Bikeability
Wednesday 25th September	2.00pm Reception Phonics learn alongside
Thursday 26th September	3.15pm – Y4 Residential Information Evening
Friday 27th September	Culture day 3.00pm Macmillan cake sale
Thursday 3rd October	Y6 Residential Information Evening
Saturday 5th October	Westbury Artists Competition Exhibition
Monday 14th October	9.30am - Open morning – for new Reception Sept 2025
Wednesday 23rd October	Parent/Carer consultation evening
Thursday 24th October	Individual and siblings School Photos Parent/Carer consultation evening
Friday 25th October	<i>Break up for half term</i>
Monday 4th November	<i>Children return to school</i>
Wednesday 6th November	2.00pm Y1 Phonics Learn alongside
Monday 11th November	World Nursery Rhyme week
Tuesday 12th November	9.30am Open morning – for new Reception Sept 2025
Thursday 21st November	3.15pm KS2 Writing Information Evening
Wednesday 27th November	9.30am Open morning – for new Reception Sept 2025
Wednesday 27th - Friday 29th November	Bikeability Y5

Wednesday 11th December	3.15pm Christmas Carols
Thursday 12th December	2.00pm Y1 Christmas Singalong
Monday 16th December	2.00pm EYFS Christmas Show to parents
Tuesday 17th December	2.00pm Y2 Production to parents
Wednesday 18th December	9.00am SMART Star award breakfast Christmas Lunch
<i>Friday 20th December</i>	<i>Break up for Christmas holidays</i>
<i>Monday 6th January 2025</i>	<i>INSET day</i>
<i>Tuesday 7th January 2025</i>	<i>Children return to school</i>
Wednesday 15th January	Y2-Y6 Reading learn alongside
Monday 27th January – Friday 31st	Y5 Residential Visit to Lake District
Tuesday 4th February	Young Voices
Wednesday 12th February	Parent/Carer Consultation Evening
Thursday 13th February	Parent/Carer Consultation Evening
<i>Friday 14th February</i>	<i>Break up for half term</i>
<i>Monday 24th February</i>	<i>Children return to school</i>
Wednesday 26th February	2.15pm Reception- Reading for pleasure
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day
Wednesday 5th March-Friday 7th	Y4 Residential Visit to Irthlingborough
Monday 10th March	Science Week
Wednesday 2nd April	9.00am SMART Star award breakfast
<i>Friday 4th April</i>	<i>Break up for Easter holidays</i>
<i>Monday 21st April</i>	<i>Bank Holiday</i>
<i>Tuesday 22nd April</i>	<i>Children return to school</i>
W/c 12th May	Y6 SATs week
<i>Friday 23rd May</i>	<i>Break up for half term</i>
<i>Monday 2nd June</i>	<i>INSET day</i>
<i>Tuesday 3rd June</i>	<i>Children return to school</i>
Wednesday 11th June	EYFS/KS1 Sports Day
Thursday 12th June	KS2 Sports Day
Friday 27th June	3.15 – 5.00 Summer Fayre
Monday 30th June – Friday 4th July	Y6 Residential Visit Isle of Wight
Wednesday 9th July	Transition afternoon 3.15 – 5.00pm Meet the Teacher
Thursday 17th July	Y6 Production
Wednesday 16th July	9.00am SMART Star award breakfast
Monday 21st July	9.00am Y6 Leavers Assembly 2.30pm Nursery Graduation
<i>Tuesday 22nd July</i>	<i>Break up for summer holidays</i>
<i>Wednesday 23rd July</i>	<i>INSET day</i>