

September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to what promises to be an exceptional new school year at Newton Leys Primary School. As we prepare to welcome all children back on Wednesday 3rd September, I am filled with excitement about the opportunities and experiences that lie ahead for our school community. Our dedicated teaching staff have invested considerable time and energy over the summer break in planning an engaging curriculum that will challenge, inspire and nurture every child in our care. You will receive detailed curriculum newsletters next week, providing you with valuable insights into the learning journey your children will embark upon this academic year.

Staffing update

I am delighted to introduce our new staff members who will be joining our Newton Leys family this September. We welcome Miss Richards and Mrs Ashpole, who will be bringing their expertise and enthusiasm to Year 2, ensuring our children continue to build strong foundations in their learning. Mrs Norris will be joining our Year 4 team, while Miss Levy will be working with our Year 5 children, both bringing fresh perspectives and innovative approaches to their year groups. Our teaching assistant team is strengthened by the addition of Miss Horn, Mrs Thorp and Miss Elsdon.

Miss Clerkson joins us as our new learning mentor, a role that is fundamental in supporting children's emotional wellbeing and personal development.

Additionally, our extended care provision is enhanced by the arrival of Miss Bryant, Miss Martyniuk and Miss McGill, who will serve as play workers, ensuring our children have enriching experiences beyond the traditional school day.

Site news:

We would like to say a big thank you to Mr Betts, Mrs Grauduza and Ms Byrne who have worked extremely hard over the summer to ensure that the school site is ready for staff and children. Their commitment to ensuring that every aspect of our learning environment is prepared to the highest standards reflects the professionalism and care that characterises our entire school community.

Wedding celebrations:

On a particularly joyous note, I am pleased to share that Miss Barnes-Austin celebrated her wedding during the summer break and will return to us as Mrs Oliver. We extend our warmest congratulations and wish her every happiness as she begins this exciting new chapter in her life.

Start of day procedures

As we start the new academic year, it is essential that all families are familiar with our arrival and departure procedures, which have been carefully designed to ensure the safety and smooth transition of all children.

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.

Y3/4/5/6 - 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.

End of school day procedures

I must emphasise the importance of our collection procedures, particularly for parents collecting children from the 4G pitch. It is essential that you collect your child directly from the staff member who is dismissing the children, as this ensures accountability and maintains our rigorous safeguarding standards.

At the end of the school day the children in Reception, Years 1& 2 are collected from the classroom door and Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 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 – Our password system remains a crucial element of our safeguarding procedures, designed to ensure that only authorised parents, carers and nominated adults can collect children from school. You should have established a password with our school office, and while we do not routinely request this information, there may be occasions when staff members need to verify your identity, particularly when different staff members are conducting dismissal duties. I encourage all parents to ensure they are familiar with their designated password and to contact our school office if any support is required.

Scooters/bicycles at busy times

For the safety and wellbeing of all members of our school community, I must request that children refrain from riding bicycles or scooters on school grounds during arrival and departure times. Additionally, children should not engage in football activities on the 4G pitch at the end of the school day. These restrictions are implemented following several concerning near-miss incidents where children racing each other have come dangerously close to colliding with other children and adults. Your cooperation with these safety measures is greatly appreciated and contributes to maintaining a secure environment for everyone.

Communication

Our commitment to maintaining strong relationships with parents and carers remains paramount, as we recognise that effective communication is fundamental to supporting children's educational journey. Our open-door policy ensures that parents of children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have regular opportunities to communicate with teaching staff during drop-off and collection times. While this direct access is more challenging for parents of children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 due to independent entry procedures, we have established clear communication pathways to ensure your needs are met. Should you require urgent communication with teachers in these year groups, you can speak with any member of our Senior Leadership Team who will be present at the gates and will be delighted to assist you. Alternatively, you may email teachers directly using the contact information provided in the curriculum newsletters or speak with our school office staff who can pass on messages or arrange appointments as appropriate.

When matters arise that require resolution, we have established a clear and supportive hierarchy to ensure concerns are addressed effectively and efficiently. Initially, parents should contact the class teacher directly, as our staff are committed to meeting with you or conducting telephone conversations to resolve queries promptly and professionally.

Should matters remain unresolved at this stage, the next point of contact would be our Phase Leaders: Mrs Villa and Mrs Moore (Year Lead) for Early Years, Mrs Forbes for Years 1 and 2, Mr Wilson for Years 3 and 4, and Mrs Hand for Years 5 and 6. Further escalation would involve our

Assistant Heads, Mrs Villa and Miss Edmonds, who is also our SENDCo, followed by Mr Mortimer-Fox, our Deputy Head, and ultimately myself. This structured approach ensures that every concern receives appropriate attention and expertise.

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.
- We ask that any accessories worn in children’s hair follow the school colours: purple, white, gold or black. Hairbands, bobbles and beads should be small, smooth and plain, rather than large, pointy or decorative, for safety reasons.

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 – 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:

The following classes will have PE on the first week back in September. Therefore, should attend school on those days in their school PE kit:

1A, 1B and 1C on Wednesday

5A, 5B, 5C, 6A, 6B and 6C on Thursday

2A, 2B, 2C, 3A, 3B and 3C on Friday.

From the second week back w/c Monday 8th September

Monday: Year 4, RA, RB

Tuesday: Year 3, RB, RC
Wednesday: Year 1, RC
Thursday: Year 5 and Year 6
Friday: Year 2 and Year 6

Attendance

Attendance is vital for us at Newton Leys Primary School. We know the impact that multiple absences can have on a child’s education and social development and want to work with our parents to ensure that your child receives the best education possible. We aim for the highest attendance possible however, know that there are sometimes circumstances that mean that the children can’t attend school. If this is the case, please keep us informed. As you will already be aware, holidays during term time will not be authorised and could lead to a fine or further prosecution if you have had 3 of these in a 3-year rolling period (beginning September 2024). Keep an eye out for our Attendance newsletter soon that will give more information about this.

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.

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.

Educational Visits Residential Programme 2025-2026

At Newton Leys we believe that learning outside the classroom through residential experiences equips our children with invaluable life and learning skills, whilst they are on their journey as responsible learners following the school SMART values.

“Young people of all ages benefit from real life ‘hands on’ experiences; when they can see, hear, touch and explore the world around them and have opportunities to experience challenge and adventure.” (Council for Learning Outside the Classroom)

Year 4 – The Frontier Centre, Irthlingborough – Wednesday 18th to Friday 20th March 2026

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 26th to Friday 30th January 2026

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, Isle of Wight - Monday 18th to Friday 22nd May 2026

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

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

Mr Wilson will be leading the following information evenings in the Autumn term to give you more details on these:

Tuesday 9th September - 3.15pm – Y5 Residential Information Evening

Tuesday 23rd September - 3.15pm – Y4 Residential Information Evening

Tuesday 7th October - 3.15pm - Y6 Residential Information Evening

Please see below the diary dates for the academic year 2025-26.

As we embark upon this new academic year together, I am confident that the combination of our experienced and dedicated staff, our high expectations, and our strong partnership with families will ensure that every child at Newton Leys Primary School thrives academically, socially and personally. I look forward to working with you all in supporting your children's continued growth and success.

Miss E Donoghue



Headteacher

Dates for Diaries

| | |
|--|--|
| Monday 1st September | INSET day |
| Tuesday 2nd September | INSET day |
| Wednesday 3rd September | Children return to school |
| Tuesday 9th September | 3.15pm – Y5 Residential Information Evening |
| Friday 19th September | Flu immunisations |
| Tuesday 23rd September | 3.15pm – Y4 Residential Information Evening |
| Wednesday 24th September | 2.00pm Reception Phonics learn alongside |
| Tuesday 7th October | 3.15pm - Y6 Residential Information Evening |
| Monday 13th October | 9.30am - Open morning – for new Reception starters Sept 2026 |
| Wednesday 22nd October | Parent/Carer consultation evening |
| Thursday 23rd October | Individual and siblings School Photos |

| | |
|---|---|
| | Parent/Carer consultation evening |
| Friday 24th October | Break up for half term |
| Monday 3rd November | Children return to school |
| Tuesday 4th November | 9.30am Open morning – for new Reception Sept 2026 |
| Monday 10th November | World Nursery Rhyme week |
| Wednesday 19th November | 9.30am Open morning – for new Reception Sept 2025 |
| Wednesday 26th – 28th November | Bikeability Y5 |
| Wednesday 10th December | 3.15pm Christmas Carols |
| Thursday 11th December | 2.00pm Y1 Christmas Singalong |
| Monday 15th December | 2.00pm EYFS Christmas Show to parents |
| Tuesday 16th December | 2.00pm Y2 Production to parents |
| Wednesday 17th December | 9.00am SMART Star award breakfast Christmas Lunch |
| Friday 20th December | Break up for Christmas holidays |
| Monday 5th January 2026 | INSET day |
| Tuesday 6th January 2026 | Children return to school |
| Wednesday 14th January | Y1-Y6 Maths learn alongside |
| Monday 26th January – Friday 30th | Y5 Residential Visit to Lake District |
| Wednesday 11th February | Parent/Carer Consultation Evening |
| Thursday 12th February | Parent/Carer Consultation Evening |
| Friday 13th February | Break up for half term |
| Monday 23rd February | Children return to school |
| Wednesday 25th February | Young Voices 2.15pm Reception- Reading for pleasure |
| Thursday 5th March | World Book Day |
| Monday 9th March | Science Week |
| Wednesday 18th March - Friday 20th March | Y4 Residential Visit to Irthlingborough |
| Wednesday 25th March | 9.00am SMART Star award breakfast |
| Friday 27th March | Break up for Easter holidays |
| Monday 13th April | Children return to school |
| Monday 4th May | Bank Holiday |
| W/c 11th May | Y6 SATs week |
| Monday 18th May – Friday 22nd May | Y6 Residential Visit Isle of Wight |
| Friday 22nd May | Break up for half term |
| Monday 1st June | INSET day |
| Tuesday 2nd June | Children return to school |
| Wednesday 10th June | EYFS & Y1 Sports Day |
| Thursday 11th June | Y2, Y3, Y4 Sports Day |
| Friday 12th June | Y5 & Y6 Sports Day |
| Wednesday 8th July | Transition afternoon 3.15 – 5.00pm Meet the Teacher |
| Wednesday 15th July | 9.00am SMART Star award breakfast |
| Thursday 16th July | Y6 Production |
| Friday 17th July | 9.00am Y6 Leavers Assembly 2.30pm Nursery Graduation |
| Friday 17th July | Break up for summer holidays |
| Monday 20th July | INSET day |