



Newtown Linford Primary School

4th March Fortnightly Bulletin

Dear parents,

This has been a very busy week and the team and I thank you all for your patience around staffing, which may have been interrupted in some of your children's classes. I have been so impressed by how the team have pulled together to support in covering break duties and other classes to keep everything as smooth as possible for your children.

World Book Day was AMAZING! The outfits were incredible and there were so many wow moments throughout the day.

We also have lots of good news to share on the staffing front this week, please see below and the letter attached from BEP.

Mrs Kennedy

Staffing News

I am really pleased to tell you we will have a new Co-Headteacher joining us after Easter. Mrs Proudman is a very experienced senior leader, who has an excellent track record.

I am pleased for many reasons. Firstly, this will guarantee consistency and stability for the school during my maternity leave as Mrs Proudman will step up to full time during my absence.

Secondly, she will be a superb addition to the team. She not only has experience as a Deputy Head of a school's journey to outstanding, but is also a highly skilled upper Key Stage 2 teacher so will be able to support this class in maintaining the high standards we expect at Newtown Linford. I think I will learn a lot from her.

We will also welcome Miss Podgers to our team for the summer term, to teach in Old John Class. Miss Podgers was extremely impressive at interview and is keen to ensure the children do well in these important final months of the year. She will be closely supported by Mrs Proudman throughout the term based on Mrs Proudman's experience of the upper KS2 curriculum. I will be holding a short talk with parents in Old John after school on Wednesday to tell you more about how we will support our new teacher, manage the Y6 SATs and the rest of the summer term.

We will also be advertising for a permanent class teacher from September in the coming months. Mrs Cheetham has also joined us this week in Linford Class and has had a great start. Welcome to the school!

School Values

*Individuality
Excellence
Adventures*

This terms focus is –
Excellence

Attendance/Covid

If your child tests positive for Covid, the advice is still that they isolate for five full days and only return to school after two negative tests, twenty four hours apart, or following day ten of isolation.

We also ask that, as usual, if your child is unwell with another illness they do not attend school.

Apart from the above, we ask that your children are in school. We are working extremely hard to help them close gaps in their education and to be successful in their learning.

This also stands for lateness. We currently have several families late each day who miss the early morning tasks.

Please can all children arriving late be taken to the school office so this can be recorded.

Residential

A gentle reminder on residential payments as we are awaiting quite a number of next payments. If you do have any issues or concerns, please do get in touch. Mrs Bowden will send reminders this coming week.

Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day is on Friday 18th March. Children can wear non-uniform on this day and we will ask that a pound is donated to the Red Nose Day charity. The office will send a link nearer the time.

We are also awaiting noses that we can sell from the school office and will keep you posted.





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Reading Records

I think there may have been some confusion with Reading Records based on a few conversations with parents. We would like you to fill these in when you have read with your child. We would ask that you read at least three to four times a week and more if possible. Even in Key Stage 2, it is important to hear your child read aloud, for fluency and also discuss the book together.

If you think your child may need extra encouragement to read at home, please let us know and we will do our best to help get them motivated.



Key Stage 2 Places

When the new extension was built, the school increased its Pupil Admission Number (PAN) to 17. Since then we are regularly over subscribed on entry, which is something we are very proud of. However, as the PAN changed since our current Key Stage 2 joined, Year 3 to Year 6 are below this amount, on top of the fact these were often low birth years.

I am very keen to welcome more pupils into Key Stage 2, closer in line with our school PAN. Part of our school budget is dictated

by pupil numbers and currently we are ten children below our maximum number on roll.

I have been a village school head for a long time now and I know how important it is to retain the small school ethos here, this is why you chose us. So please rest assured we have no plans for a big expansion on numbers. There is no room even if we wanted to!

What I ask is that if you know of families interested in school places in Key Stage 2 or Year 1 or who are moving into the area, please do encourage them to contact me to arrange a tour. I have come to realise people presume we are full because we are such a well thought of school. Thank you for your support in this, it is very much appreciated.

World Book Day

As I mentioned in my introduction, World Book Day was so much fun. The staff went to great lengths to not only dress up (Miss Bunting, wow) but to plan activities the children would remember. Whenever the bell rang everyone had to stop and read, including staff. Old John checked on me twice! There were quizzes, staff reading favourite books to different classes and our Year sixes reading to Key Stage 1. They had them in the palm of their hands, we were very proud. Thank you for all the book donations, this will support us in keeping all of our children loving reading.



Upcoming events...

Science Week begins on Monday 14th March.

Key Stage 2 trip to the Curve Theatre on Thursday 17th March.

Parent's Evenings on Wednesday 23rd March and Thursday 24th March.