



Newtown Linford Primary School

Half-termly newsletter: 13th October 2023

Dear parents,

Thank you all for attending our Harvest Festival yesterday and all the lovely comments to the children and staff. We are so proud that children feel confident enough to perform so clearly in front of a large audience. They were amazing!

It has been a very busy term and this is reflected in the newsletter, good luck if you make it to the end!

We have tried to provide some initial responses to the feedback we have received on Parent's Evening and the parent survey last term. There was lovely feedback but also areas for us to work on and improve.

Have a wonderful, restful half term in preparation for a nine weeker when we return!

Mrs Proudman and Mrs Ken-

School Values

Individuality

Excellence

Adventures

This term's focus is –
Excellence



Wine and Cheese Evening—Curriculum Launch and School Values

Wednesday November 22nd 6.30—7.30pm

We are really excited to announce our first Wine and Cheese Evening at the Village Hall. This will be an opportunity for us to formally announce our new curriculum offer and explain the overarching principles to you all. We will also revisit the school values for those who are newer to the school. This event will also be a chance to meet other parents and our staff team.

We would love to have as many families as possible attend, we know that childcare is a challenge so have tried to pick a time that will work although we know this will not be the case for everybody.

If you **are** going to attend please can you let the school office know by November 10th at the latest so we can plan effectively. The sooner the better will be really helpful.

Upcoming dates

- Monday 30th October—Pumpkin Entries to be brought into school
- Friday 3rd November—Old John Forest School (Four sessions on a Friday)
- Friday 3rd November—PTA Pumpkin Party @Village Hall 5.30—7pm
- Tuesday 7th November—Photos (Individual)
- Thursday 16th November—Tyburn—Beaumanor Iron Age Trip
- Friday 17th November—Children in Need—Non Uniform Day
- Monday 20th November—Flu Vaccine
- Wednesday 22nd November—Cheese and Wine Evening @ Village Hall
- Tuesday 28th November—Bhangra Dancing Day
- Tuesday 28th November—Non Uniform Day (Items for PTA raffle to be donated please)
- Tuesday 5th December—Leicester Sing Winter Festival (KS2 Choir)
- Thursday 7th December—Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children
- Thursday 7th December—Village Christmas Event (Year 6 and KS2 Choir)
- Wednesday 13th December—KS1 Curve Trip
- Wednesday 13th December—KS2 Carol Evening @Church 6pm
- Tuesday 19th December—KS1 Nativity @Church 6pm
- Friday 22nd December—Last Day of Term
- Monday 8th January—First Day of Spring Term





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House Winners

The house winners this half term are Oak House, well done everyone!

Linford Class

What a fantastic start we have had to the school year in Linford Class! Our new EYFS children have settled into school life so well - we are really proud of them! This half-term we have been enjoying activities based around the stories; Funny Bones, 5 Minutes Peace, and The Little Red Hen. Our Year 1s have been working really hard on their sentence writing using capital letters and full stops, as well as exploring numbers to 100 in maths. Year 1s have been working on mastering number with their new 'Rekenreks'.



In the afternoons we have been super busy - from learning about our bodies in science, to life in the past in history, to learning about parts of a computer and e-safety in computing! We are looking forward to another busy half-term where our theme will be based on our school and local environment, and of course we are excited to start thinking about our Christmas Play!



Old John End of August 1 Review

Wow, we're already at the end of August 1! Time flies when you're learning!

This term, we've been focused on our topic of **Revolution!** The children have been learning all about the reign of Queen Victoria and the Imperial era of the British Empire. They've focused on learning the geography of the empire and learnt about the contributions of different parts of the Empire. We also got to expand our learning by visiting the amazing **Black Country Museum**, which was a fantastic, immersive experience!

In our writing, the children have written a letter to their future selves (which is hopefully safe at home and secured away!) and written an 'escape' story themed around a Victorian Workhouse, and then done their own version with the theme of 'escape'. They have also produced their own 'Dragon's Den' style pitch about opening their own restaurant, in which our '90s Crazy Restaurant' managed to swing the win by one point! Well done to Seren, Frazer, Jonah and Charlie M for their well-fought victory.

Our new class has begun to mesh together very nicely and everybody has been making a really good effort to push their learning forward. Thank you for taking the time to speak to me at parents evening about your children's progress - it's always great to share their successes and work together.

Have a wonderful half-term, everybody!

- Mr Brierley

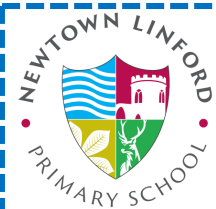


Football Team

On Wednesday afternoon, 9 of the year six and year 5 boys went to a football competition and we won one 5-0, 5-1, 1-0, 1-0 and 1-1. The teams in the competition consisted of Newtown Linford Primary School, Latimer, Saint Pauls, Redlands and 2 more. The boys that were in the team were Charles, Rupert, Tim, Jonah, Jack, Jacob, Harry, Rory and Elijah. If we carry on playing like this we might be at the top half of table so we could be in a higher level. We have two more competitions in November and if we do well we will play in the league above.

Written by Charles and Rupert P.S hope we win!





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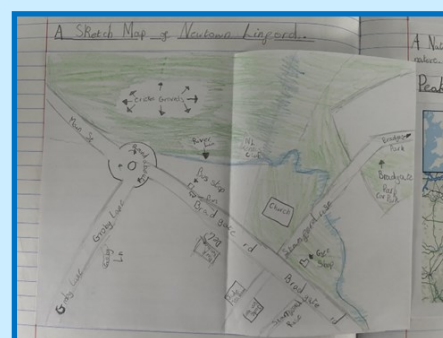


Tyburn Class

We have had the most amazing first half term, all of the children have settled into Tyburn quickly and have made a fantastic start to the year. This term we have been learning about National Parks, particularly focusing on the importance of them in protecting nature and promoting our cultural heritage. The children have also spent some time learning about our local environment and the importance of Bradgate Park and what makes it so special. In English this term, we have been writing narratives with a familiar setting. We looked carefully at description and how we can make our writing more exciting. The children were able to create some fantastic stories, using some

really powerful adjectives and expanded noun phrases.

In maths, we have been working on Place Value and Addition and Subtraction. The children have done some brilliant work representing, partitioning and comparing numbers to 1,000 and 10,000 (Year 4).



Finally, I would like to say a massive well done to Tyburn for their swimming this half term. You have all put in so much effort and your behaviour has been impeccable – you have done NLPS proud!

Bradgate Class

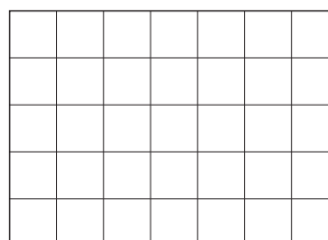
Bradgate class have had an amazing start to the year. We have been super busy learning all about Newtown Linford and how to find our way around it by making and using a map. We have loved getting stuck into some lovely books and have even written our own versions of *The Colour Monster* and *Can't You Sleep, Little Bear?* We double checked that our capital letters and full stops were correct too! We have been busy mathematicians learning our bonds to 5 and 10 and using them in so many ways. In science we have been exploring how we use all of our senses. We can't wait for next half term and our first author study!



Parent and Child Challenge

We are going to begin to add some challenges for you to try at home. These ones are pitched at our Year 6 cohort.

21 Adam has this rectangular piece of card. It is marked with grid lines.



1 mark

Adam makes two straight cuts along the grid lines.

The two cuts divide the rectangle into 3 shapes:

- 2 squares of **different** size, and
- 1 rectangle.

Using the grid lines, draw **two** lines that show where Adam could have made his cuts.

Use a ruler.

Fill in the missing numbers to make these number sentences true.

$$\square \times \square = 864$$

$$\square \times \square \times \square = 864$$

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Dark nights and Winter

As the weather gets colder, please make sure your child comes to school with suitable clothing such as a coat and gloves. Please ensure you are wearing reflective coats if you are out and about in the evenings as the nights are getting darker and that your child has lights and reflective clothing if they are riding their bikes to and from school. Did you know that the school office sell school woolly hats which incorporate reflective threads?



Playtime

We have recognised that children sometimes struggle with ideas for playtime.

Our amazing Learning Support Assistants have been putting on activities each day for the children to join if they choose. These include; building, chalk drawing, bubbles and gardening. This has really helped to make our lunchtimes even happier.



Phonics, Reading and Spelling Evening

We would like to invite parents of our Reception and Year 1 children to attend a phonics and reading workshop on Wednesday

1st November from 6.30pm to 7.30pm virtually. A link will be sent out the week before.

During this workshop, we will demonstrate how we teach phonics, activities, share resources and explain the reading book system used to teach phonics and reading. We will also give you some more information on spellings.

Stars in the making...

We are so proud of our children who excel in the arts.

There are too many to squeeze in here but I want to do a shout out to some of our Year sixes.

Georgina who is performing on stage this year in pantomime.

How exciting.

Spencer, who has just passed another dance exam.

Harry who is just performed in London in the theatre.

Wow!



Year 6 Secondary School Admission information

The closing date for secondary school admissions is 31st October 2022 and offers will be made available by 1 March 2023. Please ensure you meet the deadline and use your three choices. Any late or incomplete applications may not be successful. See the Council's webpages for more details: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place>



Police Visit

Last week the school were visited by local Leicestershire Police Officers. There have been complaints by locals regarding illegal parking, such as; parking on corners, double yellow lines and mounting pavements in front of the pub and houses. They will be completing spot checks in the coming months to monitor this. We also got them to speak with children about a career in the police. Old John's questions were exceptional.

PTA update

Pre-loved uniform - good quality donations welcome, please leave these in the PTA Donation Station near the office.

Pumpkin Carving Competition - labelled entries to be brought into school Monday 30th, suggested donation £1. Prizes for best carved/decorated pumpkins will be announced on Tuesday 31st October.

PTA Pumpkin Party - 3rd November 5.30pm-7.00pm at Newtown Linford Village Hall. £6 entry for 1st child, £4 for additional siblings. Information about payment to follow.

Save the date - Newtown Linford Village Christmas event 7th December. Details to follow.

Forest School

We are excited to announce that Forest School will be commencing again next term at Bradgate Park.

Old John will begin their four sessions on **Friday 3rd November**.

Children will need to wear clothes that can get muddy, no best outfits please.

Please contact the school office if you are able to volunteer and support.



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Parental Feedback

Below we wanted to summarise some of the key threads that have come through the parent survey last term and in Parent's Evening.

Greater Depth and Challenge

The most common thread for parents has been how do we ensure we provide challenge for children and how can parents support at home.

We have realised that perhaps we do not 'toot our own horn' as much as we should in regards to challenge. We wanted to tell you below some things you might not have known.

- Our Key Stage 1 greater depth results are in line with National for Mathematics, above for writing and significantly above for reading (44% of the cohort). In Year 6 a whopping 50% of children achieved greater depth in the SATs reading paper and 25% in Mathematics.
 - We are always challenging ourselves to improve on the above and our target this year is to increase the percentage of children achieving greater depth in writing.
 - Several of our children went to grammar schools last year following successful entry tests.
 - We run small group interventions to provide challenge in Key Stage 2, this could be a book club or a grammar group.
 - We purchase resources specifically for children who need extra challenge in lessons. Here are some problem solving cards we ordered last term.
 - Daily 'go deeper' challenge questions in maths.
- Secondly, we are always working to achieve more; even better results and increased engagement.



We are currently looking at how to improve our homework offer and organisations we can join that promote challenge. More to follow.

Supporting those children with Special Educational Needs

We have received much praise for our work getting it right for children with additional needs. Thank you. This is something we receive specific funding for and it is nice to hear that the areas we are spending it on are helping.

We are very proud that our school is so calm, inclusive and caring.

Communication

We have never worked at a school that has communication perfect, however we welcomed your feedback on how it can be ever better.

When I (Mrs K) arrived I introduced bulletins and newsletters. These have been a hit and it is nice to hear someone reads them! Our aim is to minimise the amount of emails you receive. We apologise that some things recently have been too short notice. We have fed this back and will work on this in the future.

We are currently exploring ways to improve parent and teacher communication and will keep you posted on this in due course.

We are also excited to introduce a new communication box. We try very hard to be approachable and on the gate each day but know sometimes it is still tricky. Here you can post us a note or a letter if something is a worry (or a success).

We would always rather parents tell us than worry alone or with other parents. We cannot help if we do not know. We will not always be able to solve every issue to everyone's preference but we can communicate our rationale which helps.

There was obviously more points in the feedback which we will digest and respond to next term. Thank you all.

Safeguarding

Youtube

Please can we remind parents, particularly with half term here, to check in on what your child is watching online.

We are having catchphrases creep into school that we know are from age inappropriate content on YouTube. Sometimes these videos look okay from a distance and child like but they are not. Keep a close eye.

Trusted Five Team

Ask your child who their trusted five team is. It should combine school and home and are the adults they would tell a worry to.

NSPCC

Our recent speakers from the NSPCC could not believe how much our children knew about how to keep themselves safe. They were ahead of the game and we were so pleased.

A reminder on Pantosaurus.

Superb online and book content on how to protect your child from sexual abuse.

Empower your child.

