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Dear Parents/Carers

It has been fantastic to welcome your children back to school this morning. The new children in Hedgehogs class have also been welcomed by their Y5 and Y6 school 'buddies' today. I am looking forward to meeting you all outside in the mornings as our school year begins. We are privileged to have committed staff and wonderful children, and our relationship with parents is at the heart of the schools success. We have high expectations for all our children and continue to expect excellent behaviour and a positive attitude to learning. By working together we can ensure every child is successful !

We will be reminding the children of our three learning values: Respect, Resilience and Pride: we also have four Christian values: Love, Courage, Forgiveness and Hope. I am sure you will agree that these are important life skills and the children are encouraged to demonstrate these values on a daily basis. We also have a new outside spiritual area where children can reflect on their understanding of the world and discuss how they think they fit in in the bigger picture of the universe ! All ideas and thoughts are valued at Newton Tony Primary and we promote a safe environment that enables children to share their feelings.

We celebrate our forest school approach to outside learning. Children have access to school grounds that promote curiosity. I am delighted to inform you of our new 'Wilderness Warriors' base camp. Mrs Clarke (Y5/Y6 class teacher), will be running Forest school activities every Wednesday afternoon around the camp fire. Squirrels class are the first children to attend these base camp activities and parents have received a letter at the end of the Summer term explaining the sessions.

FONTS PTA

When you join our school you automatically become a member of our school PTA FONTS (Friends of Newton Tony School). You are welcome to join our meetings to learn more about how you can support the school's fund raising events. Mrs Laura Gowen is the Chair of FONTS and will soon be organising the first meeting of this academic year.

Home School Communication

Your child has a home school communication book in their book bag so please write any relevant information you would like your child's class teacher to know. Teachers may also write reminders in your child's book for you to read. We have a text messaging service which provides key

information to you on a daily basis. The majority of school letters will be emailed to parents, but if you would prefer a hard copy sent home with your child please let Mrs Paige know in the school office. Please visit our school website to access more information and copies of letters.

Medical needs

It is important that you let us know if your child has any allergies or intolerances. You will need to visit Mrs Paige in the school office to complete medical permissions if your child needs medication administered whilst at school.

Extra funding opportunities for your child

If you are on a low income or your income is supported with government benefits eg. universal credit, your child may be entitled to pupil premium. This entitlement gives the school extra funding, and we use it to pay for your child's school trips, swimming lessons, books and enrichment opportunities. It really makes a difference ! You could also be entitled to free school meals. Please visit the office or our website link to find out if you are entitled. Mrs Paige can explain the process and help you apply using a school laptop.

Military families

If you are due to be posted away from the family home, please let us know. Every military child has a military journey book, which helps us support emotional needs if mum or dad is posted away. Please contact the office if you need a journey book.

Morning drop off

We are delighted to be located in a rural village and like many of our neighbouring schools (urban and rural), car parking is important. Where possible, please try to car share or park further away from the school and bike/scoot/walk in. Please help us by ensuring children in the **Badgers and Squirrels classes are in school at 8.30am** and the **Hedgehogs and Foxes classes are in school at 9.00am**. With prompt drop off times this ensures there is a substantial gap between drop offs, allowing the car park to become less congested. Class teachers/Teaching assistants will greet your children at the start of the school day and take them to their classes. Please try not to worry if your child is unsettled as we have had a long Summer break.

Afternoon pick up

To help ease congestion please be respectful to all our families who are collecting children. Only Badgers and Squirrels children need collecting at 2.40pm. There is a free sibling squad which children can attend whilst waiting for younger children to finish school at 3.00pm. Please leave the carpark promptly and that will increase the availability of car parking for the Hedgehog and Foxes parents.

Late pick up

If you are more than 10 minutes late to collect your child, there will be a late charge of £4.50 per child. This is because your child will have to attend our after school club as there is no teaching staff member to supervise children after 10 minutes. Teachers are marking and attending meetings after the school day has finished.

Extended school day

Early Bird Breakfast Club starts at 7.30am and our Red kite After School Club finishes at 5.30pm. If you are from a current serving forces family or have left within the last 6 years, you are entitled to a free place at breakfast club. Please contact Mrs Paige in the office to indicate if you would like a space at either/both clubs. Please drop off and collect your children from the main entrance (at the front of the school). **If your child is finding the extended hours difficult to manage we will discuss our concerns with you.**

School Lunches

Children have the choice of a meat/fish meal or vegetarian meal every day. We also offer packed lunches from our school providers, there is a choice of ham, cheese or tuna.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/hc3s/education-catering/menu-primary>. Children usually choose which lunch they would prefer with their teachers in the morning. Children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school lunch. If your child is entitled to pupil premium they can also have a free lunch, see our website for details, it is definitely worth applying to see if you are eligible.

Water Bottles

Children need to have a water bottle which should be clearly labelled with their name. Please do not send children to school with juice in their bottle.

School uniform

Thank you for sending your children in school uniform, they all looked so smart on their first day! Our school uniform expectations and purchasing links are on the school website. Our school tie is optional and can be purchased for £3.00 at the school office. We know it takes a week or two to get used to settling back into school routines and uniform helps children have a sense of belonging to our school family. Please label everything, including school shoes!

PE Kit

Your child will not need a PE kit stored in school. Your teacher will explain when your child has PE and children will come to school dressed in PE kits, they will not need to wear uniform on these days.

Birthdays

When it is your child's birthday they can come to school in Mufti clothes. If their birthday is in August then they can come to school on the last day of July in Mufti.

Data information

We need to update the information we hold in school about your child. We try to keep the number of requests to a minimum however it is important for the safety of all children that we have up to date and accurate information. The school office will be contacting you shortly to update contact details.

Curriculum meetings for parents

During the first half term, we will hold a series of meetings after school for parents/carers, which will provide you with an understanding of the English and Maths curriculum and expectations of each year group. We will also be holding a Phonics 'support your child in the early stages of reading' meeting. More information will follow. There is also an Autumn term parent consultation in October where you have the opportunity to discuss how your child has settled in to the new school year.

We consider the care and happiness of your child to be prime importance and fundamental to all we do. If anything has happened over the Summer that you need to tell us about, please contact the school office or speak with the class teacher. Thank you for your support and please contact us if you have any questions.

Kind regards

S Priestley

Miss S Priestley
Head Teacher

