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Newton Tony Primary School CE VC
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20th May 2024



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to your new school family

Our school motto is 'Everyone Cares and Everyone Counts' and you will see this written on our uniform logo. You have chosen a small nurturing school that takes pride in our pastoral care, which helps children settle into school. Please do not worry if there are a few tears (from both of you!), this is quite natural, the children soon enjoy their new routines. Our school values are Hope, Courage, Forgiveness and Love. Whether you are a Christian, follow another faith or have no faith: these values are important life skills. Your child will be cared for by our school family and soon they will learn to care for others within this family.

Stay and Play sessions

Your child is invited to join their new friends on Wednesday 19th June and Thursday 27th June 2024. We hope your child can attend both sessions. Please come to the front entrance of the school at 10.00am and collect your child at 11.00am. Mrs Paige will take a contact number, and allergy information from you at the front door. They will meet their new teachers and peer buddies on these days. They will also receive a 'welcome' pack to help the transition to primary school. Contact Mrs Paige to let us know if your child will attend one or both of these sessions : 01980 629232 or admin@newtontony.wilts.sch.uk

Parent/Carer Meeting

On Tuesday 18th June at 6.00pm, you are welcome to join us for our parent/carers new starter meeting. This will be a chance for you to meet our EYFS staffing team and ask questions. The meeting will last for about one hour, unfortunately we cannot offer a crèche. Please contact Mrs Paige in the school office to confirm your attendance.

Morning routine

- **First week: your child's first school day is on Wednesday 4th September and just for this week the school day starts at 9.00am.**
- **From the second week: from Monday 9th September the school day starts at 8.30am. We ask that all children are in school for 8.25am as the register is taken at 8.30am.**

Please come to the side entrance of the school where a member of the Hedgehog staff team will be there to greet you and your child. All children enter school without their parents. You will be surprised at how quickly children settle and enjoy the independence of entering school with their new friends.

New guidance from the DfE relating to lateness

The DfE take our attendance register information at 8.30am, this is a new change that the government have introduced. If your child arrives at school between 8.30am-8.40am, they will receive a 'late' mark on the register. If your child arrives after 8.40am they receive an unauthorised absence mark for the whole morning. Any 'late' marks effect our overall attendance data, which the government and Wiltshire LA monitor. Please ensure your child is at school at 8.25am.

Drop off Zone

From Week 2, you have the option of dropping your child off in the 'drop off zone' from 8.15am - 8.25am. Three members of staff will be there to greet your child. Only use this zone if your child can get in and out of a car quickly, if they take a little longer or you want to speak to a member of our team, please park in the carpark. The zone is a quick drop and go area.

End of the school day

The school day finishes at 3.00pm. You will need to collect your child from the side gate and hear all the wonderful things they have done that day. In the fine weather, the children are collected from the field gate, we will send a text message to keep you informed of pick up arrangements. Late pick up information: please note that if you are more than 10 minutes late when collecting your child, we will automatically send your child to after school club and this is a chargeable club (£5.00 per child). This is to keep your child safe and enables them to be supervised rather than left in the atrium unattended.

Teaching Team

Our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) class teachers are Mrs Jordan who will teach your child on Monday – Wednesday and Mrs Parr will teach your child on Thursday and Friday. Both teachers are highly experienced and well known to all our school family. The class Teaching Assistant is Mrs Taylor, she is an experienced full-time member of our team who supports learning indoors and outdoors. Please email Mrs Jordan or Mrs Parr if you have any questions regarding the school day:

njordan@newtontony.wilts.sch.uk kparr@newtontony.wilts.sch.uk

Full time or Part-time attendance

Your child is invited to attend school full-time from Wednesday 4th September. **Important** : If your child is finding full-time attendance difficult then they may benefit from part-time attendance or a reduced timetable. We work in partnership with the Wiltshire LA Early Years team and parents/carers: we will always discuss the benefits of part-time attendance and review attendance every two weeks. We trust that you trust our judgement when a decision is made. Your child may be asked to attend part-time until they are ready to attend full-time. We appreciate this can be difficult if you work full time but your child's emotional well-being is at the centre of all our decisions. Children have to start full-time education the term after they are five years old. If your child is born in the Summer term they have the option of starting school the following September. Follow the link for more information <https://www.gov.uk/schools-admissions/school-starting-age>

Early Bird Breakfast Club

If your child needs before school care, Mrs Tooke and Mrs Taylor, lead our Early Bird Breakfast school club which opens at 7.30am. Breakfast is served until 8.00am, but children can still access the club after this time. If your child is finding this extension to their school day too difficult to manage we will speak to you. Your child's emotional well-being is as important to us as their academic progress. Please contact Mrs Paige in the school office to book a place at this club.

Red Kite After School Club

If you need after school care, Mrs Leatham and Mrs Sweeney organise our Red Kite after school club which finishes at 5.30pm (Friday 4.25pm). There are two sessions and your child can attend one or both. For more details visit <http://newtontony.wilts.sch.uk/after-school-club/> Please contact the school office for booking and costing details. We will contact you if your child is finding the extended end to the day difficult to manage and review their attendance at the club. Please note that there is a late pick up charge of £5 per child, for every 5 minutes after 5.30pm (4.25pm on Friday).

Additional Needs

We have an established support network for children with additional needs. We work closely with the EYFS inclusion team before your child starts school. Please follow this link for more information on SEND in Wiltshire <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/local-offer> . We also have specialist ELSA (Emotional Learning Support Assistants) staff and work closely with other external agencies. Our SEND Lead will happily arrange a meeting with you to discuss your child's needs further. Please contact Miss Priestley (Head Teacher and SEND Lead)

Travelling to school

If you live within the designated catchment area for the school, you may be entitled to free taxi transport from Wiltshire Council. See: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-transport-eligible or email: educationtransport@wiltshire.gov.uk or call: 01225 712852. We ask that you consider ways to improve congestion: Could you park away from the car park at an alternative point in the village and walk/scoot the last 5 minutes? Or could you arrange to car share with other parents for one day a week? We are delighted to have joined the HomeRun App - an innovative app that strengthens our school community and promotes sustainable car share journeys. Please contact the school office for registration details.

Parking

All the roads around the school are public parking areas and 20 is plenty is an ethos we support when driving through the village.

Snack time

Your child will receive free fruit every day which they will eat at playtime. If you would rather they bring a snack from home then please only send fruit, not fruit winders or snack bars. **Often children also need an afternoon snack, and you are welcome to send your child to school with a healthy snack to eat at school. Please note that we are a nut free school, due to allergies.**

Water bottle

Your child must bring a named water bottle to school every day, please do not send your child to school with juice in their bottles. If your child does not drink water at home please note that when all their friends are drinking water they follow their example and will also drink water. We are a partnership and we are both responsible for teaching healthy life choices.

Lunch time

Your child can choose to bring a packed lunch from home: please note that we are a nut free school so please check ingredients labelling for nuts. We encourage healthy lunch choices and your child needs to bring a water bottle to school every day. Your child is entitled to a free school meal when they are in EYFS. Year 1 and Year 2 so please see our school lunch letter for more information – a great way to save money!

School uniform

Your welcome pack will have a school uniform letter which provides information to help you order the correct uniform. You can choose to buy our logo uniform or purchase plain purple uniform

form a range of high street brands eg. Next, Asda, Tesco. You need to label everything, even socks and shoes as you would be surprised at how many shoes are the same design and size. Our school socks are either white, black, grey or purple, with no patterns or stripes.

New2U

We have a lot of spare logo uniform that has been donated to the school by parents: please ask if you would like to view our stock as we are happy to give you our spare uniform. It can make a difference especially as uniform is expensive.

Backpacks

We appreciate there are some fantastic backpacks that can be purchased for school. Please do not send your child to school with a backpack. Each child has a locker and the backpacks are too large to fit in the lockers. They only need a book bag and if they need spare clothes they can be brought in a smaller carrier bag. Thank you for your support.

Book bags

Your child will need a purple book bag to carry their book bag and communication book. We sell school logo book bags but your child can bring a plain purple book bag if you would prefer.

Amazon sell a range of plain purple book bags or you can choose to buy a personalised bag with your child's name. You can visit these websites to order a school logo book bag:

<https://myclothing.com/> or

<https://www.schooltrends.co.uk/uniform/NewtonTonyCEVCPrimarySchoolSP40HF>

PE kits

Your child will be take part in PE lessons and on those occasions your child will come to school dressed in their PE kits not school uniform. Your class teacher will let you know which days PE is timetabled. Please note that our PE kit is black shorts or tracksuit/leggings and a purple tshirt/polo shirt. Your child will need trainers for outside PE.

Jewellery

Your child can wear one flat pair of studs to school. They will be surgically taped for PE to prevent earrings being accidentally pulled. We will not remove the tape from your child's ears in case of injury. When your child gets older we ask that they remove their earrings for PE. Please do not wear any other jewellery unless it is for religious reasons.

Birthdays

When it is your child's birthday they can come to school in weekend clothes (mufti), on a day closest to their birthday. Some children bring in cupcakes or sweets for their friends but please check the packets for nut-free options.

Rainy days and Sunshine

Your child will be going out to play in all weather, unless it is torrential rain! Please make sure your child has a raincoat and a pair of wellies in school for rainy plays. Many children bring all in ones for wet play, we do have spare all in ones your child can borrow. Our uniform supplies sell logo coats which do look very smart but you can wear any colour coat to school. Likewise please send your child to school with a sunhat and suncream in hot weather: and gloves, scarf and a hat in the winter.

Positive behaviour : Love one another as I have loved you (John 13:34: bible verse)

We pride ourselves in our approach to positive behaviour management and follow the principles of Restorative Justice <https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Restorative-practice.pdf>

Sometimes our younger children lack spatial awareness and can accidentally bump into each other especially when running around at playtime. We will always endeavour to let you know if your child has a first aid incident, but sometimes there may be occasions where your child does not let us know they have been bumped – despite being supervised. Please let us know as soon

as possible if you think your child has had an accident we have missed – in case it is a bullying incident. We monitor bullying very carefully and we need to know that your child is safe at playtime. We rarely have bullying incidents due to our Restorative Justice practice where children are responsible for others emotional well-being.

Appointments

Please try to book all dentist/doctors/optician appointments outside of school hours or during school holidays to reduce the impact on your child's learning.

Illness or absence

As soon as you are aware of your child's sickness or an absence due to another reason, please notify the school office on 01980 629232 leaving a message including your child's name, their illness and the likely return date.

Holidays

Please avoid booking holidays in term-time. You will need to complete a holiday request form if your child is attending a family event or holiday and will not be at school. Contact Mrs Paige in the office for more information.

Attendance and lateness

We take pride in our high attendance. If your child has one day off school this accounts for two sessions (morning and afternoon). Every absence and late arrival is registered with the Local Authority. If your child's attendance is less than 95% at the end of each half term (6 weeks), you will receive a letter highlighting this and further recommended actions. If your child's attendance is below 90%, our Educational Welfare Officer is contacted for advice and you may be asked to attend a meeting to discuss the reasons for your child's absence. These meetings are supportive and the aim is to help your child improve their attendance through working in partnership with you.

Wiltshire LA Attendance Letters (statutory requirement)

You will receive attendance letters at the end of each half term if your child's attendance is below 97%. The format of these letters is directly from Wiltshire LA. They are sent in a supportive manner, so please do not be offended. Please contact Miss Priestley if you have any questions.

Medicine

If your child needs prescribed medicine at school then you will be asked to complete a permission slip so that two members of staff can administer medication. Please contact Mrs Paige for more information.

Communication

Your child will come home with a school communication book which they need to bring to school every day in their book bag. This is a vital communication tool for parents and teachers. We also use teachers2parents text message service and will send you information via email. There is a 'noticeboard' section on our school website and a 'letters' section where you can access copies of letters. <http://newtontony.wilts.sch.uk/> It is well worth spending some time exploring our school website for extra information and to access the 'Hedgehogs class' school page.

FONTS

Our PTA FONTS (Friends of Newton Tony) will also be there to support you on your child's first day at school, and our Chair of PTA, Laura Gowen, will greet you with your survival welcome pack! You are welcome to attend PTA meetings and make a difference to your child's enrichment opportunities. If you like to find our more information email fonts2017@hotmail.com.

Facebook

There is a 'new starter' Facebook page for Hedgehog class parents and another general school Facebook page if you would like to get to know other parents, but please remember to be respectful

to our school when commenting on social media. We ask that you never post photographs of other children or members of staff on social media without asking permission. Please contact the school office if you need support to access these pages.

Social Media

We encourage positive use of all social media. In most classes, parents have set up 'WhatsApp' which provides an opportunity to check information and arrange play dates with other parents/carers. Please remember to use social media responsibly. If there is a problem or you are not happy about something linked to the school, please pop in or phone the school to speak to our team.

Parent Governors

If you are interested in becoming a parent governor please contact Miss Priestley (Head Teacher), we meet three times a year and it is a perfect opportunity for you to become involved in your child's future education.

School website

<https://newtontony.wilts.sch.uk/>

Remember to check our school website for letters and information. There is a Hedgehogs class website page which is updated regularly with photos showing the children's learning through play. There is also an EYFS section and curriculum newsletters that provide useful information, it is really worth exploring our website !

We offer an open door policy and welcome your questions. We look forward to meeting you all soon.

Kind regards

S Priestley

Miss S Priestley
Head Teacher

'Love One Another As I Have Loved You' (John 15:12)

