

Headteacher  
Mrs H Causon



Deputy Headteacher  
Mrs J Brennan

## Newbold Verdon Primary School and Community Centre

Dear Parents/Carers,

A warm welcome back to you all. We hope that you had a good summer break. Things are starting to get back to normal in school, but our priority is to make the children feel safe and happy.

Children should arrive between 8.40am – 8.50am. Please can you arrive as promptly as possible. Year 2 have their own door through which to enter. No parents/carers are allowed to enter the school at this current time. If you need to get a message to us, the adult on the door will gladly pass on anything you need to inform us about, or you can send in a note. You may also contact us via the office. We thank you for your support with this. School will finish at 3.15pm and Year 2 will leave via the same door.

Water bottles – all children should bring in a named water bottle every day. We do ask that children bring water rather than juice – we have already had some spillages of juice which damage books and carpets.

Fruit – Toast is not on offer at the moment, but all Year 2 children will be offered a piece of fruit at afternoon playtime. There is no charge for this. Milk will be issued to those children who have paid for it. Please contact the office if you wish to sign up for milk.

**History** – Our main topic for the first half-term is 'Events Beyond Living Memory', focusing on the First Flight and exploring how people learnt to fly. In the second half-term, we will be looking at the lives of significant others - Amy Johnson, Amelia Earhart, Harriet Quimby, Hilda Hewlett and Bessie Coleman. We will be comparing these people and asking why are they still important today.

**English** – During the first few days we will be reading 'Emma Jane's Aeroplane'. We will be recapping the basics of full-stops and capital letters, before writing our own version of the story. Following this, we will be looking at story book Blown Away and the film 'Up'. Later on, we will be looking at instruction writing and will be writing information texts about the significant individuals in our History topic.

Handwriting will take place every day after lunch. During this time, the teacher will take out small groups to do Guided Reading. Children will also be heard individually whenever possible.

**Reading** Children will be asked to put their reading book and diary in the reading box each morning, so that we can see which books need to be changed. Please feel free to write any comments or questions you may have in here. We expect that all children should read at home daily if possible, as this really benefits their progress. Children will regularly read in a Guided Reading group to an adult.

**Phonics and Spellings** – We will begin the first half-term revising all the Year 1 phonics sounds, so that the children feel confident with what they learnt last year. Then after half-term, the government have decided that all Year 2 children will take the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check. This is nothing to worry about, as it will be done very informally on a one to one with the class teacher. If your child is struggling with any particular sound, then we may send home some practice words for you to do at home.

In Autumn 2, we will then start the Year 2 Song of Sounds Phonics programme. Spellings will be set weekly on Spelling Shed, to tie in with the words we are learning in class that week.

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**Maths** - We are starting the year by looking at Place value. Children will recap on their previous learning before being introduced to new learning. We will then cover the four operations: adding, subtracting, multiplication and division. This will take us up to the end of the Autumn term.

**Art** – Each year group studies a different artist, and our artist is Matisse, and we will be studying his life as well as his paintings. Children have already created a collage inspired by Matisse's style, and these are displayed on our classroom wall.

Then in Autumn 2, children will be experimenting with mixing colour to create Firework pictures and creating Mini-beast Art.

**Design Technology** We will be designing and creating our own kites, based on our Flight topic.

**Science** For the first half-term we will be studying Growth and Survival – this looks at what animals, including humans, need to survive. After half-term we will then move on to Living in Habitats. This gives us the opportunity for lots of practical science - to explore habitats and micro-habitats around us. We will visit the Sensory garden and gather evidence from our wooded areas around school.

**Music** The Year 2 focus composer is Mozart. Throughout the year, the children will be listening to his works and find out about his life. Every child will be taught the Ocarina, starting in the Autumn Term.

**RE** In the first half-term we will look at 'How we should care for others and why does it matter?' After half-term, we will cover 'How do we celebrate special and sacred times?'

**ICT** We will start with e-safety and then we will be looking at using the internet.

**PSHE** This will include a visit to the Life Education Bus, where we will be talking about our feelings and what makes a good friend. We will look at the process of democracy through selecting and voting for our school council members. There will be a special focus on charities and why we support them.

**PE** During the first half-term, we will be doing Yoga and Multi-skills. PE will be on a Tuesday and Friday, however, children should have both an indoor and outdoor PE kit in school every day, as this can change. Please ensure all clothing is named.

**Indoor:** white T-shirt, black shorts and plimsolls.

**Outdoor:** white T-shirt, warm jogging top, joggers and trainers

We would like to remind you that **no jewellery** should be worn for PE. Ears that are newly pierced may be **covered for the first 6 weeks** (we advise the use of micropore tape rather than plasters to cover ears). After this time, children must be able to remove earrings themselves or not wear them on PE days. This is part of our health and safety policy for all children.

**Homework** Children will be set homework on SeeSaw and Spelling Shed. The homework will be a spelling list each week which will be the phonics sounds they are learning that week. And there will also be one other task, such as English, Maths or a Topic related task.

It will be exactly the same logins as during lockdown, but we will resend the logins home just in case you need them. Homework will be set on a **Friday**, and needs to be completed by the following **Thursday** first thing, as this is when it will be checked and marked.

**SATS** – Year 2 SATS tests are planned to go ahead during the month of May as normal. We keep these very low-key and do not talk about 'SATS' in front of the children. We tend to call the tests a 'quiz' and they seem to really enjoy doing quizzes. We space out the timing of the 'quizzes' during the month, interspersed with lots of fun activities, and hopefully the children will not even realise they have done any tests. So if we can ask you to also avoid any talk of tests, then we feel this is better for the children to

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avoid any pressure. And finally, please can you avoid taking any family holidays during this time, then the children will not miss anything important.

**Beaumanor Residential** – We are hoping that the Year 2 residential trip can go ahead as normal. The dates are Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March to Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 for one night. Letters will be sent home shortly with more details of how to sign-up.

We are looking forward to an exciting half-term and we will keep in touch with you on SeeSaw announcements and on ParentMail.

We thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Marlow

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