

10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we fast approach the end of term, nobody wanted this year to end this way. Although it has been lovely to have some of our children in school, it is not the same as having our whole school community together. We look forward to September when we can hopefully return to something like normal, but of course we will not be seeing our Y6 children again as they move on to their secondary schools. Y6 we will miss you. You have been wonderful ambassadors for Newton Road School and for your families. We were so excited to see what you would have achieved in SATS – we felt this was going to be the best year yet! We know your secondary schools will benefit from all the hard work you have done in school and out. We are so proud of you.

Sadly, we also say farewell to Mrs Donald, Mrs Young and Mrs Riches. These wonderful ladies have given so much to this school, they have been valuable assets to Newton Road School. They leave with happy memories and we wish them all the very best in the future.

### Classes in September 2020

Phase	Year Groups	Class Name	Teacher	Teaching Assistant
Early Years	Foundation	Saplings	Miss Mawby and Mrs Ainge	Miss Cowley
Phase One	Y1/2	Maple	Miss Webber	Mrs Stephens
	Y1/2	Cherry	Miss Owens	Mrs Joyce
	Y2	Hawthorn	Ms Beveridge	Mrs Tomlin-Barfoot
Phase Two	Y3	Sycamore	Miss Flavin	Mrs Oughton
	Y3/4	Elm	Mr Bosworth	Miss Love
	Y4	Willow	Miss Miller and Miss Cumley	Mrs Martin
Phase Three	Y5	Oak	Miss Collett	Mrs Jones
	Y5/6	Ash	Mrs Ash	Mrs Liverton and Mrs Moden
	Y6	Beech	Miss Harris	Mrs Ellis

We will also have Mr Butler, Mr Biddle and Miss Masters teaching across the school.

### Summer Opening

As Chris Hill shared with you last week, there are no plans for us to open the school over the summer holidays.

## Plans for September

We are putting together plans and risk assessments together to enable all children to return to school in September. There are inevitably going to be changes to the daily organisation of the school day. Phase groups will become 'bubbles' while also keeping classes separate as far as possible. Following the government guidance, this will also mean classroom set ups will change with desks facing forwards where there is space to avoid any risk from children working face to face.

We will look to have staggered start/finish times, playtimes, lunchtimes and have additional opportunities for children to go to the toilet and wash hands during the day.

School lunches will need to be eaten in classrooms. We are working with Chartwells, our catering contractors, to provide a variety of packed lunches that can be served easily in the rooms. This will initially be until October half term. No hot meals will be provided until further notice.

## Start of the Day

The biggest difficulty for us will be trying to get all our children in and out of school without creating bottlenecks of children down our corridors and on the playground. Our proposal at this point is for a staggered school opening time of 8:30am – 8:50am. Our normal phased entry means there is not a large influx of parents/carers and children at the same time. We will ask parent/carers wherever possible to walk to school with their children and no scooters or bikes will be permitted. Entrance to the school site will be from entrances on Newton Road and exits will be from the Cromwell/Hayden gate and Hove Road gate. Please be aware that we will ask you to **keep moving** and keep a distance from others when dropping off. We also would request that only one adult per child comes onto school grounds for this.

## End of the Day

To help at the end of the day, parents/carers will once again be asked to enter the site via the Newton Road entrances and leave via Hove and Cromwell/Hayden road. This will help families with multiple children in different year groups, we are looking into developing a system where collection times are by forest groups. We will have the children ready on the playground to ensure a smooth transition. There will not be the opportunity to stop to talk to staff at the beginning and end of days. Any messages can be e-mailed to [office@newtonroadschool.co.uk](mailto:office@newtonroadschool.co.uk) This is so important if we are to continue with parents/carers coming on to the school grounds whilst collecting/dropping off children. We also ask that parents refrain from gathering on Newton Road or on the school grounds. We ask that you please come and stand on the playground at a sensible distance from others. Further details of exact timings will come out in August, but we envisage it will be between 2:45 and 3:15pm.

## Attendance

Please remember that attendance will be compulsory again in September and normal attendance procedures will recommence. The government have said the following:

- *It is vital that children and young people return to school and college - for their educational progress, for their wellbeing, and for their wider development. School and college attendance will again be mandatory from the beginning of the new academic year. For parents and carers of children of compulsory school age, this means that the legal duty on you as a parent to send your child to school regularly will apply.*
- *A small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating and have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves, or because they are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19). If your child is unable to attend school or college for this reason, you need to talk to us about what support is in place in terms of remote education.*
- *Shielding advice for all adults and children will pause on 1 August, subject to a continued decline in the rates of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). This means, that the small number of pupils who will remain on the shielded patient list can also return to school, as can those who have family members who are shielding. See the [guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable](#) for the current advice.*

- Some pupils no longer required to shield but who generally remain under the care of a specialist health professional may need to discuss their care with their health professional before returning to school in September (usually at their next planned clinical appointment).
- Where children are not able to attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, the absence will not be penalised. However, we may ask for evidence of this.
- Local authorities and schools have a range of [legal powers to enforce attendance](#) if a child or young person misses school without a valid reason.

If you have concerns about your child returning to school or college, because you consider they may have other risk factors, you should discuss with us the measures we are putting in place to reduce risks in line with government guidance.

Many families may want to take a holiday over the summer period, which may involve travelling abroad. As ever, parents should plan their holidays within school holidays and avoid seeking permission to take their children out of school during term time as you are at risk of a fixed penalty notice.

### **Breakfast Club**

There will not be breakfast club provision on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September. We will however, ensure breakfast club is running from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. Further information on this will follow in the holidays.

### **Uniform**

We will be back to normal with school uniform so can I put my yearly plea out for everything to be named. I have detailed our school uniform expectations below:

#### **Boys**

- Navy blue round neck sweatshirt (with or without school logo)
- Grey tailored trousers/shorts
- White Shirt/white logo polo shirt or plain non logo polo shirt
- Plain white or black socks
- Plain black shoes or pure black trainers without markings
- Coloured forest t-Shirt
- Black PE shorts
- Suitable trainers

#### **Girls**

- Navy blue round neck sweatshirt or navy blue cardigan (with or without school logo)
- Grey trousers/shorts/skirt/pinafore dress - NB tights must not be worn with shorts
- Blue and white gingham dress
- White logo polo shirt or plain non logo polo shirt or plain white blouse
- Plain white or black socks or black tights
- Plain black shoes or pure black trainers without markings
- Black low heeled boots are permitted in the winter but not in the summer term.
- Coloured forest t-Shirt
- Black PE shorts
- Suitable trainers

School uniform with a logo can be purchased direct from Rockit! Promotions on the following link:

<https://www.rock-itpromotions.co.uk/products/school--shops/newton-road-school>

**We do not keep any school uniform stock in school.**

## **PE**

In order to ensure that we maintain the integrity of our phase bubbles and maximise teaching time we have organised our curriculum so that the children will have a dedicated day set aside for PE. On this day, the children will come to school in their PE kit, avoiding the necessity of having additional bags in school and reducing the need for children to get changed within a school day.

PE kits should be a white or school forest coloured T shirt, black shorts and plimsolls/trainers as we will be going outside where possible. Children will need tracksuits on to go over PE kit. We do see a variety of clothes being worn for PE and they are not always appropriate for the activities being done. No football shirts should be worn and children's tracksuit should be dark in colour (Black or blue).

## **Equipment**

Children **cannot** bring in their own equipment from September. We will provide them with everything they need including a water bottle, which will come home every night and you will be expected to wash and clean it out and ensure the it is brought back into school the following day.

## **Thank you**

Finally, thank you all for your patience and understanding especially over the last few months. This has been a difficult time for everyone and we hope that we are on the way to a bit more normality for next year. Thank you to all the key workers who have worked tirelessly for the benefit of others. Can I thank all the staff at Newton Road who have been so amazing, working so conscientiously at home and at school to help support our wonderful children. I am immensely proud of everyone associated with our school. Everyone has gone above and beyond and I know that this will continue as we help support the children on their return. Please do let us know if your child is struggling or if there have been particularly difficult times, so we can find the best way to help them and you. Mental health and well-being for all is going to be especially important going forward and we will be sending out a questionnaire to help identify needs in September.

We wish you all a lovely, relaxing summer after all the stress of the last few months. We look forward to seeing everyone back on **Thursday 3rd September** for the start of 2020-21 – let's make it a great year!

Take care and stay safe.



Miss Kerry Mills  
Principal