

16<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Families,

Welcome back after the Easter half term break.

Last term was a very challenging term for us all but as always I was full of PRIDE and admiration for our whole school community. We hope that you all had a peaceful and restful two weeks and hope that, as restrictions have started to lift, you have been able to see more of loved ones and friends, and spend more time outside.

I hope that your children are enjoying returning to the routine of school life following the Easter holidays. I thought I would let you know about how well the children, overall, have settled back into school. We are bombarded with messages in the news and on social media about the impact of the pandemic on all of us, and particularly on children and young people. One of the most important things to us was to ensure that upon the return to school, children were welcomed back to somewhere familiar, friendly and as close to normal as we can provide, given the ongoing guidance on safe working. What we have found, with an overwhelming majority of children, is that they are really pleased and happy to be back at school. We are seeing children who are keen, inquisitive and curious and most definitely up for learning. There is a real buzz and thirst for learning across the school with the children motivated and enthusiastic and embracing our learning modes.

### **Parent Consultation Meetings**

We are fast approaching the time of year in which we would normally be holding our Parent Consultation Evenings, and inviting you in to share the wonderful things that your children are achieving. But I think we can safely say that this is no 'normal' year!

With this in mind, we have decided to postpone the event until closer to the end of the school year. This will give us an opportunity to reflect on the children's progress throughout the whole year and discuss their transition into their next class. We will be in touch over the coming term with finalised dates and more information.

As always, if there is anything that you feel you need to speak to your child's teacher about then please contact the school office at [office@newtonroadschool.co.uk](mailto:office@newtonroadschool.co.uk) and they will get back to you.

### **Breakfast Club**

We may be able to offer a Breakfast Club place to parents/carers for your child if this is an essential requirement as we transition out of lockdown restrictions. Breakfast club numbers will be limited, so we will only be able to offer a place if it is necessary. More details will follow next week.

### **Hot Dinners**

On **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April**, we will be offering children the option to have a hot dinner as well as the usual packed lunch option. Orders can now be made via ParentPay in the usual way. All orders must be made by **midnight on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April** to ensure your child receives a meal for that week. If you have already placed an order for packed lunches for this week and beyond, please could you check to make sure your order has been saved. You will also be able to order meals up to the end of the academic year.

### **Home testing – Lateral Flow Tests**

As you are aware, if you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of a household with school age children you can get a twice-weekly lateral flow test:

- by collecting a home test kit from a test site
- by ordering a home test kit online

About 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people without symptoms is important to help stop the virus spreading and protect your loved ones. As lockdown restrictions gradually ease we all need to play our part to help protect each other. This offer of testing **is not for primary age children**. (The instructions given do provide information regarding testing on children but this should not be used for primary children and is in place to support testing for secondary pupils) The guidance also states that, should a positive result be obtained, then the whole household will need to isolate and a confirmatory PCR test carried out on the adult who has tested positive. A negative result does not guarantee you do not have the virus and therefore does not lessen the need for face coverings, social distancing and other mitigating safety precautions. For further details, please visit the GOV.UK website.

Kind regards,

Kerry Mills