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**Head Teacher: Mrs. Sue Ward B.Ed. (Hons) M.A.**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

May 2019

It was with great pride that I watched out Y6 pupils prepare for their SATS. They were calm, focussed and determined to do their very best. Year 6, I am very proud of you all. Have an amazing half term- you have earned it- come back to school ready to make the very most of your last term with your primary school family.

### **School News**

I am sad to have to tell you that Mrs Maybury will be leaving us at the end of the summer term as she has accepted a full time position at Swannington Primary School. Mrs Maybury has worked tirelessly over the last 10 years to support our school and our pupils- attending our residential and helping us to attain the Sainsbury gold award in PE. She is an excellent class teacher and will be missed.

For those of you about to move to class 2- Mrs Waddell will be returning and I will be seeking a fantastic teaching partner for her. Please be assured that I will find you a kind, caring teacher who will nurture your child and enable them to achieve all that they can.

### **Class 4 Beaumanor Residential Trip, 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June - reminder**

Please send all of your kit in one wheeled suitcase, see kit list on website. Don't forget coats, water bottles, sunhats and sun cream. Please hand medication in to the office when you drop your child at school.

### **Parent Survey**

Thank you for completing this, for your positive comments and your support with ideas about how we can make our school an even better place to grow and to learn. 38/63 families took part in the survey

### **You commented positively on:**

- Open mornings- valuing the opportunity to look at your child's work and talk informally with school adults
- Improvements in communication
- How happy your child is at school, their relationships with the adults in school and the kindness of the adults in school, especially in class one where the children are well supported at the start of their formal education.

### **Almost all of you were highly positive about:**

- The electronic parents evening system (100%)
- The electronic parent survey (100%)
- The new website (92%)
- Forest schools for year 3 and 5 (93% of those this was applicable to)
- Online payment (97% of those this was applicable to)

Some of you indicated that you did not like the electronic data form system – unfortunately, it is necessary for us to comply with General Data Protection Regulations. The Parent Lite system is provided by and endorsed by the Local Authority.

**You feel that we are doing well in the following areas (over 90% positive):**

- Provision of a safe, friendly and caring environment (95%)
- Provision of afterschool clubs (94%)
- Provision of a range of learning opportunities (97%)
- Enabling children to enjoy learning (92%)

A small percentage of parents feel that their child's needs are not being well met and that he or she is not making good progress- I do hope that you will make an appointment with your child's class teacher so that we can work with you to improve this for your child.

**With regard to the development of behaviour for learning you indicated that:**

- Children are keen to achieve and develop good levels of independence (100%)
- Children are caring towards one another, are proud of their school community, positive about difference, and feel safe in school (97%)
- Children are aware of the importance of reading, spelling and homework and are aware of how important mistakes are for learning (95%)
- Children are generally respectful to one another (92%), polite and well mannered (95%)

However, some of you felt that your child would not be confident asking a school adult for help - this is not our experience in school but if anyone would like to talk to me or their class teacher about this please do make an appointment.

**The following suggestions and comments were made:**

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Action we are taking/ have taken</b>
There is no adult on duty when it is raining at 8.40 (security concern)	The school has purchased an umbrella and there will be an adult on duty daily.
A number of forest school sessions have been cancelled.	We try to avoid cancelling and we have not been very good at letting you know why we have cancelled. Forest schools will be cancelled if it is extremely windy or children have insufficient kit for the weather conditions or the trained member of staff is absent. We will send a text message explaining why it is being cancelled.
Open mornings are always on a Friday	We do try to vary the timings of open mornings as we know that you all work on different days - we usually hold them on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday as we have PE at 9 on Monday and Friday. Do ask your child's class teacher if you can pop in to look at your child's books if you cannot make the open morning.
An afterschool dance / gymnastics club	There will be one in the autumn term but clubs are only able to run if they are viable.
Parents evening appointments are too short	If you need a longer appointment to discuss any concerns about learning please contact your class teacher. Please do try to keep to 10 minutes on the day as it can be frustrating for other parents to be kept waiting - if everyone take five minutes extra then the last person could be waiting for an hour.

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Action we are taking/ have taken</b>
Problems at playtime with conflicts between pupils not being addressed in a manner which solves them	All staff have been looking, this term, at conflict resolution strategies and we have a protocol to work through with pupils when they have had a conflict with others and need adult support. This is now in place for all playtimes and in class should it be need. Assemblies this term have highlighted how to avoid conflict by explaining feelings and talking through any issues that might arise. I know that your children will rise to the challenge of managing conflicts and hope that after practice they will be able to solve most problems without the support of adults, to everyone's satisfaction. Please do talk to your children about this and ask us for support if you need it.
Would prefer that it is outdoor play even when raining/ a greater range of activities available when it is necessary to be indoors.	Please make sure that all children have coats in school so they can go out, unless it is pouring with rain. Currently, not all pupils bring coats so we struggle to send pupils outdoor in the rain, especially at lunchtime, as we would need to have sufficient lunchtime staff for indoors and outdoors. However, I too would prefer that pupils were outdoors unless it was very wet or extremely cold. With respect to the range of activities available indoors - again we struggle, this time with space alongside supervision - we are looking at how we can better cater for all pupils' interests at playtime.
Issues with text message system	We are unable to pass on issues with the Teachers2Parents text and email system, you can send any queries or suggestions to <a href="mailto:support@teachers2parents.co.uk">support@teachers2parents.co.uk</a> For issues with the App please go to - <a href="https://eduspot.co.uk/article/teachers2parents-app-update/">https://eduspot.co.uk/article/teachers2parents-app-update/</a> or telephone the Support team on 0845 388 5505
Diary Dates	We have adjusted our system to include the current week in the covering email

## **Pupil survey year 2-6**

**It is clear from the electronic pupil survey that the vast majority of pupils love their school and really appreciate being a part of a happy, caring school family:**

### **The best thing about Newton Burgoland is.....**

All of the teachers

You don't have to worry about not fitting in you can be yourself.

How we are a small school but we thrive really well, we are collaborative and it is a very caring school.

How nice everyone is and how the teachers and teaching assistants know how to have a laugh and a joke, and they listen when you want them to.

Making new friends and learning whilst having fun. Seeing friendly faces every day.

## **Autumn Term Clubs- advance notice**

### **It is our intention to offer the following:**

Monday: rising stars (outdoor and adventure)

Tuesday: stay and play/ engineering and Science club

Wednesday: rising stars (Dart club-adventures with Nerf)

Thursday: rising stars (gymnastics then dance)

Friday: Onesie

## **PFA – Parents and Friends Association of Newton Burgoland Primary School**

Please see the latest minutes and newsletter on our website. See diary dates for future meetings and events.

Our Summer Fair will take place at 3.30 pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June, please join us on the Wraggy. See the notice board and emails for more information.

## **Forest Schools – up until 12/7/19**

**Class 1 and 2** will have Forest Schools on Friday afternoons with Mrs Hall, Mrs Maybury, Mrs Bates and Mr Lees.

**Other Years** – will be confirmed when we have availability to run any extra sessions

**Forest School dates can be found on our Diary Dates**

Please provide clothing suitable for our seasons; we are out in all weathers. We do not message for forgotten kit as we do not have the capacity to do this; anyone without appropriate kit will be unable to take part.

Please note: Forest Schools is sometimes cancelled for the following reasons -

- Trained staff are unavailable due to illness
- High winds , very poor weather or other unforeseen circumstances make the wooded area unsafe

If we need to cancel at the last minute we will send a text to explain the reason why.

## **School Dinners**

Please note that the current School Dinner menu will continue until our next school year in September.

You can find the menu on our website: [Newton Burgoland Primary School - School Meals & Milk](#)

## **Congratulations!**

Also to all those pupils who have worked hard for music, sports and dance exams or competitions this term. **Thank you for sharing your successes with us in our Friday assemblies.**

- Dance & Tap – Lucy who recently achieved a distinction in her dance & tap exams
- Gymnastics – Olivia who won a recent competition
- Taekwondo – Austin for being awarded student of the month
- Music – Well done to Will who passed his Grade 2 Trumpet exam
- Rugby – Finley who was awarded the Spirit of Rugby trophy
- Badminton – Jonty
- Swimming – May
- Football – Erin received a football trainer of the day award
- Trampolining – Oscar & May

## **Sports News**

### **Cross Country News from Mrs. Spencer**

Griffydham 18/5/19

Reception girls - Jesamine 10th, Harriet 4th

Year 1/2 girls - Charlotte 19th

Year 1/2 boys - Patrick 33rd, Austin 14th, Thomas 4th

Year 3/4 girls - Erin 19th, Anabel 10th

Year 3/4 boys - James 18th, Peter 17th

Year 5/6 girls - Olivia 15th

Well done to all of the runners and another big thank you to Mrs Spencer for volunteering to support our school at the cross-country events again this year. Races have all finished now but will start again in the autumn term. Unfortunately, school staff are unable to attend due to family commitments; our participation in cross county events is dependent on volunteers.

## **PE Lessons**

All Years – will have PE on Monday and Friday.

Please send your child to school in PE kit on these days. Please send a change of shoes so we can use the Wraggy.

## **Sports Day**

Our Sports Day will be on 20th June: -

- Classes 3 & 4 – 1 to 2pm
- Class 1 and 2 – 2 to 3pm

The PFA will be serving refreshments during this event. Unfortunately, if it rains the event will be held inside and we will be unable to accommodate parents due to space.

## **Maypole Event Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

Our May Pole event is taking place later today, school will close at the end of the event at approximately 3pm – please arrange for early collection of your children.

The PFA will be serving Teas and Coffees at this event – everyone is welcome to join us, please bring your picnic rugs/chairs and enjoy the dancing.

## **Thank you to: -**

- All of the PFA members for all of their support and hard work helping to raise money for our school.
- Mrs Tolton, Mrs Hart and Mrs Cockayne for all their help in school.
- Mrs Spencer for her continued support with Cross Country.
- Trip helpers: Thank you to all parents who have supported us with trips and events this half of the spring term: Parents of Year 1 girls – Mathematics event,

Yours sincerely,

Sue Ward  
Head Teacher