

2nd September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year, we trust you have had a happy and relaxing holiday and are ready for a busy autumn term ahead. I am excited for the year that lies ahead; for the new things which will be learnt, the friendships which will be developed- old and new; for the determination which we will learn through the challenges we face; the fun which we will have along the learning journey, and most of all, the character which will be developed in each and every one of our Newport children.

We especially want to welcome into our Newport family, the Reception children who have had their first day at school today. It was wonderful to see all the children eagerly bound through the school gates this morning. It has been a great day full of lots of smiles and eager pupils awaiting to start the term with their new teacher. Long may this continue! We also want to welcome some new members of staff to Newport and know they will be a great addition to the existing team. We welcome: Michael Mann, Safa Butt, Marion Llacer, Munirun Nessa, Jasmine Gillespie Read and Adrian Pilbeam. Please do take time to say hello and give them a warm Newport welcome.

During the summer holidays, a number of works were carried out at Newport School in preparation for the new academic year. Some corridors have had a revamp with a fresh coat of paint; emergency lighting has been replaced; replacement of the boiler and some classrooms have been repainted. I am sure you will agree that the school is looking wonderful, ready for a new term full of learning.

We received some wonderful news during the summer holidays- Newport School is now a 'Gold' Rights Respecting school. The accreditation visit took place on Tuesday 11th July, where Mr. Harris, spent the whole day talking with children, staff, governors and parents. During the summer, a panel met to look at all the evidence and we received the news that we are 'Gold'! A special thanks to Ms. Begum and Ms. Lovett for all their hard work, before and during the visit, the pupils and the parents/ carers who gave up their time to speak with Mr. Harris on the day. Below are some quotes from the report. To read the full report, please click [here](#).

'The school's deep commitment to its pupils and community cohesion is very evident. The headteacher explained, "life is hard, and we want our children to be successful learners" and alongside this to become good communicators and respectful citizens.'

'Newport's culture of respect and inclusivity promotes a very positive learning environment for pupils, and this was evident throughout the accreditation visit. Mutual respect is a hallmark of the school's ethos and underpinned by rights respecting actions.'

'Pupil voice' is a strength of the school with children's views listened to and taken seriously.'

'Newport is aspirational for its pupils and the role they can play in society in the years ahead. Through an understanding of rights and the Convention, it is clear children are being empowered to become active, responsible citizens.'

Parent Mail:

ParentMail is still the main point of contact. Please ensure that your account is still activated and that you have one account per child. **If you need help with the ParentMail, please see one of the members of staff in the playground before/ after school this week.**

School Meal Patterns:

You will receive a letter today, via ParentMail, asking you to sign up for your meal patterns for the rest of the term; please ensure this is complete by Thursday 5th September. You will be asked to sign up for either School Dinners or Packed Lunch for the duration of the term. Year 1 and 2 receive Universal Free School Meals, however pupils in Y3-6 must pay for their School Dinners, which cost £2.20 per day.

School Uniform:

The school uniform policy must be adhered to at all times, please see the school website for more information. Long hair should be tied back with a small bobble. Hair accessories (ornate hairbands/ bows etc.) should not be worn in school. Please keep these for weekends and special occasions. PE uniform should only be worn on PE days, your class teacher will notify you during the course of this week.

Pencil Cases/ School Bags:

All children are given the appropriate equipment in school, therefore pencil cases should be kept at home and not brought into school. We have very limited storage facilities in school, therefore back packs are not permitted. Book bags should be used to carry home learning to and from school. I would appreciate your assistance and support with this matter.

Entering/ exiting the building:

The school gates open at 8:30am. Reception- Y5 children should enter school via the Twickenham Road gates and Y6, via the Francis Road gates. Y6 breakfast club will commence from tomorrow (Tuesday 3rd September 2019) starting at 8am and is open to all Y6 pupils. Pupils should enter via the gates on Francis Road. Please ensure that your child lines up in a straight line. I would kindly ask that all adults ensure that they are not blocking the line, this allows for a smooth transition at the beginning of the day.

From **Monday 9th September**, class teachers will begin to take children into school from 8:40; this should ease congestion on the school playground. If your child comes to school after this time, they are to walk straight to class; members of the staff team will be positioned around the school to ensure all children reach their classrooms safely. I would ask that once you leave your child in their line, that you exit the playground as soon as possible. No parents/ carers are permitted into the school building during this time, all entrance doors must be kept clear so that the children can enter the school calmly and safely.

School Clubs:

School clubs will commence on Monday 16th September and will run for twelve weeks until Thursday 12th December. Letters outlining the clubs and how to book will be sent via email on Thursday 5th September. Bookings will open on ParentMail on Friday 6th September from 7pm.

Parent/ Carer workshops:

We will be holding parent/ carer workshops this week for all year groups. This is an opportunity to hear key information regarding the academic year (curriculum, home learning, educational visits etc.) and meet the teachers. We look forward to seeing you all there. The dates and times are as follows:

Wednesday 4th September, 5pm: Y5 and 6

Thursday 5th September, 5pm: Y1 and 2

Tuesday 10th September, 5pm: Y3 and 4

Please **enter the school via the Twickenham Road gates at 4.45pm**, where a member of staff will greet you. Where possible, please refrain from bringing younger children to these sessions, as it can get very loud and vital information can be missed.

Opossum Values:

As part of our feedback last year, we asked the whole school community- pupils, parents/ carers, staff and governors, what they think are important as the values which make 'Opossum' unique. They are as follows: Aspirational, Caring, Respectful, Creative, Integrity and Community Minded. During the next half term, we will be focusing on these. Please spend some time, as a family, discussing what these mean for you as a family and us as a community. We will be discussing these further during our coffee morning on Thursday 19th September, please see below for more details.

Dates for your diary: September

The first **Reading Supper** of the academic year will take place on **Wednesday 11th September 2019 at 5pm**, in the Great Hall. We would love to see as many of our families join us, an opportunity to meet the team and to celebrate the new academic year. Please enter the school via the Twickenham Road gates.

To further develop our family rambles, we will be holding our first 2019-20 **Family Ramble** on **Tuesday 17th September at 5pm**. We will be walking to Hollow Ponds, playing some family games and returning to school no later than 7pm. Please meet in the playground at Twickenham Road at 4:50pm, where you will be joined by members of the staff team. Please bring a healthy snack to share with your family. All children must be accompanied by parents and are the responsibility of their parent/ carer throughout the ramble.

Our first **coffee morning** will take place on **Thursday 19th September at 9am** at Newport School. This is a good opportunity to come and meet with me and other members of the leadership team. Our half-termly focus will be 'Opossum Values'. I do hope that you will be able to join us.

Open Evening will take place on **Thursday 26th September 2019**. School will be closed to all children at 1:30pm. You will be sent an invitation email via ParentMail within the next few weeks so that you can book an appointment with your class teacher. Please ensure that you take the opportunity to meet your new class teacher and find out how your child has settled.

School will be closed to all children on **Friday 27th September** due to staff INSET.

We look forward to working in partnership with you this year to ensure the best possible outcomes for your children. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any queries, there will be information stations set up in the playground before and after school for the rest of the week. Please also visit the school website for more information: <http://www.newport.waltham.sch.uk>. The Parent handbook has also been attached to this email for your reference.

Kind Regards,

A. Perridge

Ashley Perridge,
Head of School