

2nd September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome to both you and your child to Newport School. I know that the first day of school is a big day, full of excitement for both parents and children! It has been a great morning full of lots of smiles and eager pupils awaiting to see their new classrooms. Long may this continue!

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.

School will start for all pupils **at 8:50am- 11:45am tomorrow**; the gates on Twickenham Road will be opened from 8:30am. Please meet your class teacher in the playground, where they will take them to class. From **Wednesday 4th September, all children will be in school from 8:50am- 3:15pm**. Please use the gates on Twickenham Road to drop-off/ collect your children.

We will be holding parent/ carer workshops next week to demonstrate how phonics/ reading and writing and Maths are taught. Please note the dates, times and venues (Newport School/ Dawlish School). It would be great to see you all there. Sessions should last for approximately 1 hour.

Topic	Where	When
Phonics and Reading	Hall at Newport School	Tuesday 17 th September 2019 @ 9.00am
Writing and Maths	Hall at Dawlish School	Tuesday 24 th September 201 @ 9.00am

Lunchtime at School:

From Wednesday 4th September- Friday 20th September, children will be able to choose between packed lunch or a free school meal. During this time, children should be encouraged to sample the school dinners, all of which are healthy, balanced and delicious. Following this, all children must choose a set meal pattern for the remainder of the term. More details will follow closer to the time.

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.

Parent Mail:

ParentMail is the main point of contact, which we use to ensure that you are kept updated with school events and important dates. During the first week, you will receive an email from ParentMail (via Newport School) asking to register an account for your child (ren). It is vital that you take time to complete this, as this is how you will receive weekly newsletters, sign up to school dinners, and book for Open Evenings etc. You can also download the ParentMail App, which is available for both Android and Apple. This will mean that you have all information at the touch of a button! **If you need help with the ParentMail, please see one of the members of staff in the playground before/ after school this week.**

Opossum Values:

As part of our work with the whole school community last year, we asked 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>.

Kind Regards,



Ashley Perridge,
Head of School



Lauren Claxton
Head of EYFS