

# Newnham Croft Primary School

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Interim Headteacher: Mr E Ferguson

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5 January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your family have had an enjoyable winter break. Our new topic for this term is Rainforests. You will find a breakdown of the skills and areas of the curriculum the children will be covering on the topic overview that can be found on the school's website from early next week. If you are an expert in this area and would like to come into school and share your knowledge we would be very grateful. Please either email me or speak to me after school if this is something you would be interested in doing. I would also appreciate any books or resources you may have to help us enrich the topic.

## **Start and End of the School Day**

The children will continue to arrive in the school playground between 8.40am and 8.45am. The bell for the start of the day will be rung at 8.45am when the parents/carers will leave the playground while the children will be asked to line up and be taken into the class by their class teacher. The children will be collected from the playground at 3.15pm. We would appreciate it if you could ensure that your child arrives promptly for the start of the school day as this avoids disruption. If your child is late, please sign them in at the office.

## **School Dinners / Packed Lunch**

Payment for school dinners is made through the school office if you decide to select this option for your child. The school dinner menu is displayed in the school kitchen window and emailed with the weekly newsletter. You may prefer instead to send your child in with a packed lunch which needs to be placed on the trolleys in the playground at the start of the school day.

## **Snacks and Water Bottles**

Healthy snacks can be supplied from home if you wish your child to have one. We would be grateful if you could continue to send your child's labelled water bottle to school each day. Drinking water regularly during the day helps to keep them fully hydrated.

## **PE times and Active Wear**

Our PE slots for this term are Wednesday afternoons and Thursday mornings. Please ensure that your child has suitable clothing and footwear (in line with the school's active wear policy) not just on these days but for the whole of the week as PE times may change due to unforeseen circumstances. Active wear means: clothes and footwear comfortable and appropriate for physical activity (not sandals).

## **PPA Cover**

PPA will be covered on Wednesday afternoons by Mrs Onatskaia (Music) and Mr Friday (Premier Sports, P.E) in order for me to be able to carry out planning, preparation and assessment activities.

On Tuesday mornings, Mrs Palmer will be covering the class to enable me to have my ECT (Early Career Teacher) release time for me to undertake training and other professional development.

### **Forest School and Outdoor Classroom**

The children will be using the areas outside the classroom to extend their learning as well as Forest School sessions. Our Forest School date for the spring term is Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. We ask that you provide a waterproof coat, trousers and wellies on these days but also ensure that your child is suitably dressed on other school days so that we can enjoy the outside space around the school, whatever the weather.

### **Reading**

I hope you have enjoyed reading with your child over the winter break. It is so important to spark a love of reading at this age and to enable them to discuss what they have read. It is highly recommended that you listen to your child read every day for about 10-15 minutes and then to talk about what they have read with them. The children are able to change their books during independent reading time in the mornings or on Thursdays when we visit the library as a class. Children will also have the opportunity to select a reading book they wish to take home for the week. It is encouraged that the children choose a variety of books across different genres.

### **Times tables**

We continue to practise our times tables on a daily basis at school but any extra practice your child can do at home will be very helpful. Putting times tables on display somewhere your child can see supports their learning, while testing their memory of times tables facts improves their long-term retention. Times Tables Rock Stars is a useful resource for children practising their tables in an enjoyable way. Regular practice in short bursts of around five minutes is most effective.

### **Communication**

If you would like to talk to me about any aspect of your child's schooling, please feel free to speak to me briefly at the start or end of the school day or email the school office and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

### **Performance**

In the second half of the term, Year 3 and 4 will be doing a joint performance for parents and carers. We will inform you of the arrangements in due course.

### **Parent Consultations**

There will be an open afternoon for all parents/carers on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January from 3.15 pm. Parent consultations will be held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February (3:30-6:00) and Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February (1:30-4:00). You will be able to book a slot nearer the time.

I am very much looking forward to the start of an exciting new term with the class

Warm regards,

Mrs Kivisild