

# Newtonhill News

August 2023



## Term 1

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Term 1 and I hope all our pupils have had a good first week back in school.

Welcome to our new Primary 1 pupils, new pupils across the school and their families.

The school has had a lovely, vibrant buzz about it and the classrooms are looking fabulous. A huge thank you to the teachers who have been in during the holidays preparing their rooms and shared spaces.

Our school values, which were developed last year, will continue to be a focus for our school ethos.

At Newtonhill we S.H.I.N.E.

Self belief – be determined and persevere, you can do it!  
Honest- be truthful, genuine and trustworthy  
Integrity – be responsible, accountable, do the right thing  
Nurture – be inclusive, be encouraging, be supportive  
Empathy – compassionate, helpful, kind and caring

We will also continue to promote positive relationships. At assembly today we will be discussing expectations for behaviour towards one another, both in class and outside. In most behaviour incidents, we will start by using restorative approaches. Occasionally due to the nature of the incident it may need a more direct intervention. Not all behaviour incidents will be reported back to parents. As you can imagine with over 320 pupils in school there are many disagreements and occasionally this can involve hitting or kicking. There is not a set rule, criteria or condition where we will contact parents but generally this will happen if a child is very upset, if the incident has been quite serious, or if it is ongoing. We appreciate that sometimes your child will come home and say they were hurt but please trust that we never ignore incidents and that we deal with them as appropriately as possible. This also applies to inappropriate language – the use of offensive language is unacceptable in class and in the playground.

Article 3 Best Interests of the Child

Article 17 Access to Information

Article 28 Right to Education

Article 29 Goals of Education

Article 31 Right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities

## School Improvement Plan 23/24



We have three main action priorities in the year ahead.

Along with most schools in Aberdeenshire we will be developing our inclusion practice through 'Inclusive Learning and Collaborative Working'.

In response to pupil consultation we will be looking to develop attainment by reviewing, developing and improving feedback to pupils.

We will also continue the development work on our reading curriculum we started last academic session. Our reading and library mascot, created through the work of our P6 School working Party, 'Reading is for Everyone' is pictured above. We hope to develop and improve some of our current reading resources.

Running through all priorities are the themes of Rights Respecting Schools, GIRFEC, Digital Literacy and Learning, Teaching and Assessment.

### General Issues

Can I remind parents of some of the general issues that come up every session.

- Please be respectful to school neighbours when dropping off pupils and do not park cars across driveways. If at all possible, encourage pupils to walk, cycle or scoot to school (this will earn the pupils a WOW badge).
- Please do not park in the school playground. We have over 40 staff as well as visiting staff and we do not have enough spaces for all. Some staff members such as Pupil Support Assistants start at 9am and they are unable to park at this time as parents have parked to drop off.
- Please ensure pupils have appropriate outdoor clothing every day, especially a coat or jacket, as we will be outside in all weathers. All clothing should be named.
- Please inform the office of any absences or appointments.
- If you wish to speak to a teacher, please email the school or call as they will be unable to speak to you when you are bringing pupils in first thing in the morning.

• We have several children with severe food allergies in school. We kindly request that no peanuts or peanut butter is used in any packed lunch. We cannot issue birthday sweets etc in school, and these should not be brought in for children to distribute themselves.

*Lesley Tullock*  
Head Teacher