



# Newtonhill News



## February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Following our mid-term break I hope you and your families are well, and that you have managed to enjoy some family-time over the past week. We are already well into a busy third term at Newtonhill. You should have received your child's class newsletter detailing information specific to learning and routines in each class.

There are lots of interesting and active learning experiences taking place this term and we are delighted to advise that we are in a position to be able to share our learning with you at an **open evening on March 12<sup>th</sup>**.

### Nursery Inspection

Our school nursery recently had an unannounced inspection from the Care Inspectorate. We were delighted to receive very positive feedback from the Care Inspectorate in the areas of care, nurture, play, learning, our setting and staff team.

We received an adequate grade in the area of leadership where the focus for improvement was within quality assurance and planning.

The Care Inspectorate outlined the actions below and we are working hard to address these.

- a) regular, effective and focused monitoring is carried out across the setting.
- b) robust and effective quality assurances processes are implemented with involvement from the staff team.
- c) clear and effective plans are in place for maintaining and improving the service.
- d) robust evaluations and audits are developed and implemented, with any actions addressed promptly.

The detailed evaluation grades are as stated and should you wish to read the full report you can do so by the following link

<https://careinspectorate.com/berengCareservices/html/reports/getPdfBlob.php?id=318243>

How good is our care, play and learning?	4 - Good
1.1 Nurturing care and support	4 - Good
1.3 Play and learning	5 - Very Good
How good is our setting?	5 - Very Good
2.2 Children experience high quality facilities	5 - Very Good
How good is our leadership?	3 - Adequate
3.1 Quality assurance and improvement are led well	3 - Adequate
How good is our staff team?	5 - Very Good
4.3 Staff deployment	5 - Very Good

### **Weather/clothing**

Whilst we are hoping for drier days and brighter evenings we still have to cope with the wet and muddy playing fields within the school. Please can you ensure your child has a change of clothes, especially underwear, socks and joggers or leggings just in case they have a fall.

### **Parking/Traffic Cones**

This appears to be a standing item for every newsletter. We are very aware of the parking challenges in and around the school. Please do not park in the school car park. All the spaces are required as we have over 40 staff members at Newtonhill and often have visiting colleagues from health, social work etc. Whilst most teaching and nursery staff are here before 8am the pupil support team require the spaces nearer to 9am.

Do **Not Park** in the bus lane or behind the disabled parking zone. We have had to resort to marking this area with traffic cones and these have been hit by cars on several occasions.

We do encourage 'Park and Stride' and we kindly request that all families that drive to drop off and pick up pupils are considerate to the school neighbours. Thank you for your help, support and understanding with this matter.

### **Important Reminders**

Please ensure that pets are not brought to the school playground or at any drop-off/pick-up locations around the school. We have recently had a number of dogs brought into the playground before and after school. Please keep dogs at home at this time or out with the school grounds.

All parents/carers please ensure that your child(ren) do not bring any of the following food items to school as they can present serious hazards to themselves and/or others:

- Lollipops with stick attached.
- Nuts of any kind (we have a growing number of children with nut allergies and any contact can have extremely serious consequences)
- Any form of Nutella products (as they contain nuts)
- Cereal bars - Please be mindful if these are brought to school: as they can contain nuts (please check the nutrition information)
- Please ensure that no fizzy juice is given for packed lunch and please have water only in class water bottles. PRIME is not allowed as a drink in school.

Chewing gum is becoming an issue with senior pupils. Chewing gum is not allowed as a snack and must not be chewed in class.

In addition to the above can we kindly request that toys from home are not brought to school. These are often precious or valuable and we do not want any personal items to go missing or get broken. This includes soft toys, dolls, i-pads etc.

We kindly request that pupils do not wear dangling earrings. These are a safety hazard. Small earrings may be worn but must be removed or taped for P.E.

### **Informal Curriculum Meetings – Coffee-Chat-Curriculum**

I would like to reinstate an informal get together for parents and myself with other staff if available. Prior to Covid we held Coffee-Chat-Curriculum sessions just to discuss and/or explain about current policy, developments or changes in education and how it is supported and delivered at Newtonhill.

In the past evening events have been poorly attended with only a handful of parents able to attend. The coffee mornings or afternoons allowed parents to pop in after dropping off or before picking up their child/ren. To see if there is interest in this I am proposing an initial 'chat' with coffee on the morning of **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March** just after 9am until 9.45/10am and in Hall 2.

This first chat will be around additional needs, support and inclusion. All parents are welcome to attend but an indication of numbers would be greatly appreciated. Please can you complete this form **only** if you would like to attend.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BpPZ\\_i1NCUSVndDttzBKC0YrQCSHz1ZGjgpukQICYnpUQUI0TFhTNFNUVvk9TVTBUWDBQOTVINIdQTi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BpPZ_i1NCUSVndDttzBKC0YrQCSHz1ZGjgpukQICYnpUQUI0TFhTNFNUVvk9TVTBUWDBQOTVINIdQTi4u)

### **Assemblies**

Here is a reminder of the dates of the class assemblies for the rest of this year.

Usually there are 2 assemblies, one at 1.30pm, and one around 2/2.15pm. Families of the children involved should feel free to attend either one of those. The classes will give more details on Teams nearer the time and will also confirm exact timings.

23/02/24	P7
01/03/24	P6/7
08/03/24	P3/4
15/03/24	P4
22/03/24	P4/5
03/05/24	P2A
10/05/24	P5
17/05/24	P3
24/05/24	P1A
31/05/24	P1B
07/06/24	P2B

### **FON Disco**

Our next FON School Disco is Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February. We kindly ask that each child brings a minimum donation of £2.00 with them on the evening as a donation for FON. The timings are:

**6.15pm - 7.00pm Primary 1-3**

**7.15pm - 8.15pm Primary 4-7**

Children in P1-3 should be brought to the disco by a parent/carer and should enter by the main school entrance. All P1-3 children must be collected by a parent/carer at the end of the disco. When collecting your P1-3 child please wait at the main door/entrance until you are let into the hall to collect your child. Please exit the school via the hall door closest to the kitchen and the P4/5 door into the playground. P1-3 children and parents are kindly requested not to leave via the main door as P4-7 will be arriving for the next disco. Having a one-way system on exit for P1-3 ensures safety for all.

Children in P4-7 should wait outside the main school entrance and will be allowed to enter the school once all the P1-3 children have been collected from their disco. P4-7 children must be collected by a parent/carer and will exit from the main school entrance.

Phones should not be brought to the disco.

We request that water bottles be brought for the discos - no fizzy juice or energy drinks are permitted.

### **Christmas Jumper Fundraising**

The total raised/donated during Christmas Jumper week was £376.70. This has been split between two charities - Charlie House (£188.70) and AberNecessities (£188.00). The charities were chosen by the pupils.

### **World Book Day**

World Book Day is on the 7<sup>th</sup> March. Children can swap their £1/€1.50 token (sent home in school bags) for any of the £1 books or get £1 off a full price title, any full price book or audiobook (as long as the book or audiobook costs at least £2.99 at participating booksellers. We will not be dressing up but we will be celebrating World Book Day with activities in school and Primary 6 (Reading S.W.P.) will be in touch with more information.

### **P7 Transition**

Transition planning is underway for P7. We have a Rotary Quiz event on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March at Portlethen Academy and we are very grateful to the Rotary Club for funding transport to this event.

### **Reporting to parents**

Please remember to check Teams for regular updates of class activities.

As stated at the beginning of this newsletter we have an open evening on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March** where your child/children can share their work with you. The school will be open from **6pm to 7pm** and we look forward to seeing you then.

Parents consultations will be held the week of **27<sup>th</sup> May**. More details will follow but the meetings will be for 15 minutes to give more time for discussion and a summary report will be issued at this time.

### **Staffing**

Unfortunately, Mrs Braidwood is still absent due to illness. Mrs Niven returns from maternity leave after the Easter break and Mrs Mungavin and Mrs Simpson have joined us temporarily.

### **Medication/Health**

Please remember that medication **must not** be sent in your child's bag. It must be handed to an adult in school and medical forms must be completed before we can administer any medicine etc.

**Measles** is on the increase. Please contact your GP practice or the vaccination team (01224 555333) with any queries. Further information on vaccinations can be found at:

[Vaccines - Immunisations in Scotland | NHS inform](#)

NHS Inform have advised that they have a QR code to access their website for **Head Lice** information.



### **In-service Days**

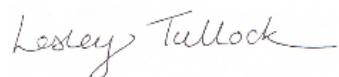
Our staff in-service days were very busy and successful. We worked on our inclusion priority, including LGBTQ as well as discussing Formative Assessment with Feedback being the main focus. We would like parents' views on marking and feedback of pupils work and hope you will support us on this improvement journey in the months ahead.

### **Parent involvement**

Parental Involvement is always valued and is very important to us. Thank you to the parents that regularly volunteer and if others are interested in doing so, please let us know.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us at school with any queries about the content of the newsletter, or indeed any other matter.

Yours sincerely



Lesley Tullock  
Head Teacher



**S.H.I.N.E.**

## **Self-belief – Honesty – Integrity – Nurture – Empathy**

Article 2 You have the right to protection against discrimination.

Article 12 You have the right to an opinion and for it to be listened to and taken seriously.

Article 28 You have the right to education.

Article 29 You have the right to education which tries to develop your personality and abilities as much as possible and encourages you to respect other people's rights and values and to respect the environment.