

Dear Families,

To anyone in our school family currently ill with Covid, we really hope you feel better soon and send very best wishes for a speedy recovery. I'd like to take the opportunity to say thank you to every single member of staff for all their hard work, resilience and adaptability over this last term as we have juggled duties and cover to keep everything running as smoothly as possible. I know the staff remain incredibly thankful for your positivity, messages of thanks and support during this half term. It has been a very challenging half term for everyone in our school community. We know that this has been challenging for families at home as well as children and staff in school. It is at times like these when positivity and unity of our school community really shines through. We remain hopeful that our challenges will lessen as we move into the second half of the spring term, especially as it looks set to be another busy term.

Have a lovely half term and well-deserved rest.

Stay safe and take care

Miss Mills

Information Sessions for Parents

Below are some key information sessions for parents that we would love to see the parents of the children in the relevant year groups attend. Our working partnership is key to ensuring the children achieve the very best they can.

Y6 SATS Meeting – Wednesday 23rd February at 8:05am

Year 6 children will be taking their SATs in May. It is really important that you know about how the SATs will be implemented in school as well as ways to prepare and support the children so they are SATs ready. The meeting will be held at **8:05am** on **Wednesday 23rd February**. Please arrive at the office for 8:00am in time for a prompt start at 8:05am.

Y2 SATS Meeting – Wednesday 23rd February at 2:20pm

Year 2 children will be taking their SATs in May. It is really important that you know about how the SATs will be implemented in school as well as ways to prepare and support the children so they are SATs ready. The meeting will be held at **2:20pm** on **Wednesday 23rd February**. Please arrive at the office for 2:15pm in time for a prompt start at 2:20pm.

Y4 Multiplication Test Meeting – Wednesday 2nd March at 2:20pm

In June, the Year 4 children will be completing the statutory multiplication check. It is really important that you know about how the multiplication checks will be implemented in school as well as ways to prepare and support the children so they are ready. The meeting will be held at **2:20pm** on **Wednesday 2nd March**. Please arrive at the office for 2:15pm in time for a prompt start at 2:20pm.

Y1 Phonics Screener Meeting – Wednesday 9th March at 2:20pm

In June, the Year 1 children will be completing the statutory phonics screening check. It is really important that you know about how the phonics screening check will be implemented in school as well as ways to prepare and support the children so they are ready. The meeting will be held at **2:20pm** on **Wednesday 9th March**. Please arrive at the office for 2:15pm in time for a prompt start at 2:20pm.

Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 8th February, schools and youth organisations across the UK celebrated Safer Internet Day 2022. Safer Internet Day is a global campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology, which calls on young people, parents, carers, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, companies, policymakers and more, to join in helping to create a better internet.

Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote at Newton Road and celebrating Safer Internet Day 2022 was a great opportunity for us to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year.

We would be delighted if you could carry on celebrating this event by continuing the conversations at home.

To help you with this, you may be interested in downloading the free Safer Internet Day Resources for Parents and Carers which is available at: www.saferinternet.org.uk/sid-parents

There are top tips, quizzes, and films which you can use at home with your child. Some other resources which you may find helpful in supporting your child online are:

- Tips, advice and guides for parents and carers from the UK Safer Internet Centre www.saferinternet.org.uk/parents
- Advice for parents and carers from Childnet www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers
- Reviews and information about games, apps, TV shows and websites from Common Sense Media www.common sense.org
- Help on using parental controls and privacy settings from Internet Matters www.internetmatters.org./controls
- Information and reporting of online grooming or sexual abuse from CEOP www.ceop.police.uk

Online safety is an important issue which as a school we're committed to teaching our pupils about. If you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe online, please do get in touch with your child's class teacher, Mrs Robinson, Mr Bosworth, Mrs Coleman, or Miss Mills.

Children's Mental Health Week

Supporting our children mental health is always at the forefront of our minds, in fact 'Wellness' is one of our key curriculum drivers but this week we have been championing it even more as we took part in Children's Mental Health Week. The theme of this year's Children's Mental Health Week was Growing Together.

Growing Together is about growing emotionally and finding ways to help each other grow. Challenges and setbacks can help us to grow and adapt and trying new things can help us to move beyond our comfort zone into a new realm of possibility and potential. However, emotional growth is often a gradual process that happens over time, and sometimes we might feel a bit 'stuck'. As parents and carers, you play an important role in your child's mental health. Check out the **free resources** for families at [Parents and Carers - Children's Mental Health Week \(childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk\)](http://Parents and Carers - Children's Mental Health Week (childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk))

During the week we explored the book 'Bottled' by Tom and Joe Brassington. The book emphasises that it is important to share our feelings rather than bottling them up inside. The book explores why and how we should all express our emotions in a healthy way. The level of discussion and maturity from our children was amazing and it would be a great book to share with your child to open up conversations about how we feel and manage our emotions.

World Book Day – Thursday 3rd March

We will be joining in with the 25 year celebration of World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March. On this day, the children will be invited to dress as their favourite book character. We will have a parade of all the costumes in assembly and the children will hear the teachers discussing their favourite authors. During the day, we are also planning on organising paired reading sessions across the school so older children can read with our younger pupils.

On the day, there will be a competition, which all children are invited to join in with. During the half term holiday, we are asking the children to create a 'story in a jar' for their homework. Children can bring in their story jars on World Book Day to share with the class and there will be a prize for 1 winner in each class on the day (there are some pictures below to give you some ideas).

We are also asking for your help. We would love for you to take part in our World Book Day celebrations! Due to the current restrictions, we can't have secret story tellers in school, but we would love for you to record yourself reading a story to the children. These stories will then be shared with the children across the school during World Book Week. You can either read a whole story (picture books) or a chapter from a chapter book and you can be as creative as you like! Please send your stories to the school office at office@newtonroadschool.co.uk by **Monday 28th February 2022**.

Story in a Jar Ideas



Key Dates for your Diary

- Friday 11th February – School closes for half term.
- Monday 21st February – School re-opens for Spring Term 2
- Wednesday 23rd February – Year 6 SATs Meeting – 8.05am
- Wednesday 23rd February – Year 2 SATs Meeting – 2.20pm
- Wednesday 2nd March – Year 4 Multiplication Meeting – 2.20pm
- Wednesday 9th March –Year 1 Phonics Meeting – 2.20pm
- Thursday 3rd March – World Book Day
- Friday 1st April – Last day of term