

Friday 1st October, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We have now completed four weeks of a new year, and a fresh start. With high attention to all of the organisation that has been required to get the school back on its feet following the turbulent course of events over 18 months, I feel we are in a good place to drive forward with all aspects of school development. You may know that we achieved a successful Ofsted outcome in January 2020, just before the pandemic struck. Although many actions have taken place since then, they have not been in line with all that we would have achieved under usual circumstances. Here is a brief overview of our school development plan for this year:

The curriculum is reviewed and further developed. In line with the Ofsted report in 2020, we want to review the progression of skills across subjects, such as geography and history. We will also look at how the revised Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum fits with that of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Our curriculum enquiries will be reviewed, to ensure they are aligned with the needs and interests of the pupils.

The quality of teaching and learning is at least good. This is not to say that the quality of teaching and learning is not good, but due to the inaccessibility to monitoring activities and assessments, due to the pandemic, we want to ensure that all monitoring is in place to recognise good and outstanding practice and to support ongoing professional development.

The teaching of phonics and spelling is improved. We wish to further improve teaching and learning in both phonics and spelling, with a review of the policy and ongoing professional development. With this, we will consider any additional resources that will need to be purchased.

Maths initiatives are reviewed to present more challenge in pupils' learning. In line with the Ofsted report in 2020, we will review the use of interventions, associated policies and embed the revised scheme of work, so that all pupils are challenged in their learning.

Pupils will read widely and often, with fluency and comprehension. We very much promoted a love of reading prior to the pandemic and wish to ignite this again, to ensure it is a priority. With this, the Reading Policy, strategies and assessment will be reviewed, and necessary materials will be purchased.

IT hardware is upgraded. We want to improve our IT resources, with particular emphasis on increasing access to mobile devices and appropriate software.

The curriculum and wider opportunities promote a healthy lifestyle. We are keen to increase access to, and participation in, a wide range of extra-curricular activities, particularly as access has been so limited over the past 18 months. We will also access training in mental health for relevant staff and increase awareness of staff responsibilities regarding mental health. With this, additional support and resources will be implemented to support SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health) needs. The statutory RSHE (Relationships, Sex and Health Education) Policy and scheme of work will be fully embedded, having been written and consulted on last year.

The school site is improved, with more play opportunities. If you have attended recent NPSA meetings, you will know that we wish to work together to raise funds to improve play equipment and areas around the site. We know this is a long term goal, but are keen to see what we can achieve this year. Lower school classes were redecorated last year and we now want to focus on redecoration of the upper school.

Thank you, Oscar

Oscar, in Year 3, sold some of his own toys and books. In doing this, he raised £7.88 and has chosen to donate it to the NPSA. Isn't this a kind, thoughtful and generous thing to do?

Thank you, Oscar, we are all very proud of you – what a responsible citizen you are.

Tuesday 05/10/21

- Y2 Forest School for **2T**

Wednesday 06/10/21

- Y4 Forest School for **4KR**
- Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud

Tuesday 12/10/21

- Y2 Forest School for **2A**
- Parents' Evening via SchoolCloud

Wednesday 13/10/21

- Y4 Forest School for **4B**

Monday 18/10/21

- Harvest Festival (Pupils only)

Tuesday 19/10/21

- Y2 Forest School for **2T**

Wednesday 20/10/21

- Y4 Forest School for **4KR**

Friday 22nd October

- End of Term 1



Our Newbridge Sign

We are incredibly grateful to Tom, Emma and Lucy Hewson, an ex-Newbridge family, who gave up their time at the weekend to repair our Welcome to Newbridge art work sign. Beautiful paintings, which replace some of the broken clay tiles, have made the sign dazzle again, and offer a very warm welcome to our school.

Extra-Curricular activities

Many, many children have taken part in a vast range of extra-curricular activities this week. It has been heartening to see the children accessing these again and I hope they have been thoroughly enjoyed, despite some soggy weather. I wish to thank members of staff who are leading activities and for providing wider opportunities for our pupils beyond the school day.

Our NPSA

What a brilliant turn out there was on Monday evening for our first face-to-face NPSA meeting for over 18 months. We were delighted that so many Reception and Year 1 parents came along to offer support and be involved. Thank you to the parents who have stepped into class representatives roles – being the voice of the NPSA within the school community to rally support and promote messages. A range of exciting events and activities are in the pipe line, with the first being a cake sale next Friday.

Maths and Reading Meeting for parents

Thank you to those parents who attended the Maths and Reading meetings held this week; we very much appreciate you wanting to work in partnership with us. I am sure that the presentations led by the staff will have offered many useful tips for practising key skills at home. If you were unable to attend the meeting, the slides used are now available on the website at <https://www.newbridge.bathnes.sch.uk/classes/maths-reading-meeting-information-for-parents-september-2021>

Parent Consultation Meetings

Thank you for booking your child's online Parent Teacher Consultation. If your appointment is on Wednesday 6th October, and your child is in Year 1 to 6, they will today bring home their English and Maths book for you to look through prior to the appointment. Importantly, please return these books to school on Monday morning.

Volunteers in school

Many parents have come forward to offer their support for volunteering roles across the school, which we are most grateful for. Please know that a Newbridge Primary School DBS will need to be issued and this can be completed by contacting Mrs Hill in the school office. We are currently compiling a list of aspects volunteers can support with, with our aim to commence in Term 2.

Doodle – Home Learning

Teachers from Year 2 to Year 6 will today have set the 'extras' for home learning on the Doodle platform. Children are expected to complete these tasks each week.

The children will also be expected to practise spellings, times tables, number bonds and reading, as detailed by their year group. Details of these can be found on the Back to School documents on the Class pages at <https://www.newbridge.bathnes.sch.uk/classes>

Google Classroom Stream

We are no longer publishing a wide range of images in the newsletter, representing school life. To see what your child's class has been up to this week, please remember to see your child's Google Classroom Stream for an outline of completed activities and accompanying photographs.

Supplies shortage

Please know that currently the school kitchen catering supplies are being impacted. The team are working hard to overcome this and on occasion are having to use similar alternatives when following the menu.

Parking in our neighbouring roads

Please can I ask parents and carers who drive to school to park responsibly and keep all of our families safe. The community police officer has visited the area with concerns raised about parking.

Guidance for your reference

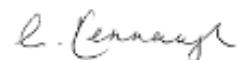
For reference, please see the full government guidance about the return to schools.

[Schools COVID-19 operational guidance](#) (updated 27th September, 2021)

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during COVID-19](#) (updated 27th September, 2021).

I hope you have a good weekend.

With best wishes



Gill Kennaugh

STARS OF THE WEEK



Bee Whole Class

1EO April B & Ben T

2T Carla L & Jem C

3OG Reuben J & Clara W

4B Greta H & Bertie O

5G Henry J & Mina M

6B Emma R & Phoebe B

Ladybird Whole Class

1R Matilda S & Stanley M

2A Audrey E & Iben G

3C Sonny M & Grace A

4KR Shahan S & Julia F-C

5HT William R & Florence G

6H Charlie M-C & Ritvik G



CURRICULUM CORNER

Super Spellings

How many times can you write each of your spelling words in **30** seconds?

I wrote the word 'century' **8 times**... can you beat my score for your spelling words?

Remember neat handwriting and finger spaces!

WELCOME TO NEWBRIDGE SIGN

