

Headteacher  
Mrs H Causon



Deputy Headteacher  
Mrs J Brennan

## Newbold Verdon Primary School and Community Centre

Dear Parents/Carers,

A warm welcome back to you all. We hope that you had a good summer break. We realise that these are difficult times, and that school will feel different, but we will do our best to make the children feel safe and happy in school.

The morning will start at 8.40am. Please can you arrive as promptly as possible. Year 2 have their own door through which to enter. No parents/carers are allowed to enter the school at this current time. If you need to get a message to us, the adult on the door will gladly pass on anything you need to inform us about, or you can send in a note. You may also contact us via SeeSaw and we will message back or phone you. We thank you for your support with this. Year 2 will finish school at 3.05pm and will leave via the same door.

Water bottles – all children should bring in a named water bottle every day, which they will be allowed to keep on their desks during this time for hygiene reasons.

Fruit – Toast is not on offer at the moment, but all Year 2 children will be offered a piece of fruit at morning playtime. There is no charge for this.

Milk - ??????

**Geography** - We will start the year with a Geography focus week. The topic for Year 2 is 'High and Low'. The children will discuss their knowledge of high and low landscapes, such as mountains and valleys, together with the contrast of high and low buildings, such as skyscrapers and cottages.

**History** – Our main topic for the whole of the Autumn Term is 'Events Beyond Living Memory', and most specifically looking at The Great Fire of London. The children love learning about how the fire started, how it spread, and what London was like in 1666. We try and incorporate our History topic in as many of our other subjects as possible. In November we will also be finding out about Remembrance Day, and we will study Guy Fawkes.

**English** – During the first few days we will be reading Julia Donaldson's 'The Smartest Giant in Town'. We will be talking about High and Low in terms of the size of the characters.

Following this, we will be looking at story books and non-fiction texts regarding the Great Fire of London. The children will be writing their own stories, and they will write fact files and instructions. We will also do some whole class reading about Guy Fawkes.

Handwriting will take place every day after lunch. During this time, the teacher will take out small groups to do Guided Reading. Children will also be heard individually whenever possible.

**Phonics and Spellings** – We will begin the first half-term revising all the Year 1 phonics sounds, so that the children feel confident with what they learnt last year. Then after half-term, the government have decided that all Year 2 children will take the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check. This is nothing to worry about, as it will be done very informally on a one to one with the class teacher. If your child is struggling with any particular sound, then we may send home some practice words for you to do at home.

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In Autumn 2, we will then start the Year 2 Song of Sounds Phonics programme. Spellings will be set weekly on Spelling Shed, to tie in with the words we are learning in class that week.

### **Maths** -

**Art** – Each year group studies a different artist, and our artist is Matisse, and we will be studying his life as well as his paintings.

Children will start the term following our High-Low theme. They will create a collage of mountains, with high and low types of buildings. These will go on our display boards.

Then in Autumn 2, children will be experimenting with mixing colour to create Firework pictures.

**Science** For the first half-term we will be studying Growth and Survival – this looks at what animals, including humans, need to survive. After half-term we will then move on to Living in Habitats. This gives us the opportunity for lots of practical science - to explore habitats and micro-habitats around us. We will visit the Sensory garden and gather evidence from our wooded areas around school.

**Reading** Children will be asked to put their reading book and diary in the reading box each morning, so that we can see which books need to be changed. Please feel free to write any comments or questions you may have in here. We expect that all children should read at home daily if possible, as this really benefits their progress. Children will regularly read in a Guided Reading group to an adult.

**Music** The Year 2 focus composer is Mozart. Throughout the year, the children will be listening to his works and finding out about his life. Then hopefully, every child will be taught the Ocarina, starting in the Autumn Term. This will be followed by a unit 'How long is that sound?' Children will make and control long and short sounds using instruments. We are unable to do full and proper singing at the moment according to government guidelines.

**RE** In the first half-term we will look at 'How we should care for others and why does it matter?' After half-term, we will cover 'How do we celebrate special and sacred times?'

**ICT** We will start with e-safety and then we will be looking at using the internet.

**PSHE** This will include a visit to the Life Education Bus, where we will be talking about our feelings and what makes a good friend. We will look at the process of democracy through selecting and voting for our school council members. There will be a special focus on charities and why we support them.

**DT** We will be looking designing and creating our own moving pictures for the Great Fire of London, using pulleys and levers.

**PE** During the first half-term, we will be doing Yoga and Multi-skills. PE will be on a Tuesday and Thursday, however, children should have both an indoor and outdoor PE kit in school every day, as this can change.

**Indoor:** white T-shirt, black shorts and plimsolls.

**Outdoor:** white T-shirt, warm jogging top, joggers and trainers

We would like to remind you that **no jewellery** should be worn for PE. Ears that are newly pierced may be **covered for the first 6 weeks** (we advise the use of micropore tape rather than plasters to cover ears). After this time, children must be able to remove earrings themselves or not wear them on PE days. This is part of our health and safety policy for all children.

**Homework** Children will be set homework on SeeSaw and Spelling Shed. The homework will be a spelling list each week which will be the phonics sounds they are learning that week. And there will also be one other task, such as English, Maths or a Topic related task.

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It will be exactly the same logins as during lockdown, but we will resend the logins home just in case you need them. Homework will be set on a **Tuesday**, and needs to be completed by the following **Monday** first thing, as this is when it will be checked and marked.

**SATS** – Year 2 SATS tests are planned to go ahead during the month of May as normal. We keep these very low-key and do not talk about 'SATS' in front of the children. We tend to call the tests a 'quiz' and they seem to really enjoy doing quizzes. We space out the timing of the 'quizzes' during the month, interspersed with lots of fun activities, and hopefully the children will not even realise they have done any tests. So if we can ask you to also avoid any talk of tests, then we feel this is better for the children to avoid any pressure. And finally, please can you avoid taking any family holidays during this time, then the children will not miss anything important.

We are looking forward to an exciting half-term and we will keep in touch with you on SeeSaw announcements and on ParentMail.

We thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Marlow and Mrs Brennan

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