



Issue 1 14th September 2020

Christian Theme this half term: **Service**

Welcome back to another year at Newton Bluecoat C E Primary School. We know that things are rather different but what remains the same is the joy we have felt seeing all our children return to us after the summer break.

We are so proud of the children, they have been incredible and are calm and settled in school. They are listening to their teachers, working hard and having lots of fun times with their classmates. A huge thank you must also be extended to you as it is clear the vast majority of our community are reading the guidance we sent home and are working hard to follow it.

Morning Drop Off and Pick Up.

Thank you for ensuring that morning drop off is evolving into a safe organised system with families arriving at 8.35, 8.40 and 8.45. The pavements were much less crowded towards the end of the week than they were at the beginning and the staff waiting round the back of school are finding it easier to supervise hand cleansing as the children arrive in this staggered way. Well done the KS-2 children who are forming into their class bubbles on the pavement, before they even come into school.

Please ensure you arrive promptly to pick up your children at home time.



Little Blues Nursery children have settled in well. They are so calm and happy, and are growing in confidence every day. Thank you for all your help preparing the children so well and with super positivity in such difficult times.

School Places for 2021

Apply on line at www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools Closing dates: Secondary 31 October 2020 and Primary 15 January 2021 It is essential that you apply even if an older sibling is already attending your preferred school or academy.

We have places for 1 or 2 children in a couple of classes including Little Blues Nursery. We would be delighted to accept applications from your friends to take up places in this very good school.

We have vacancies in Breakfast Club and After School Club, both are non-profit making services provided for your benefit.

Extra base layers

As part of the Government guidance, we are required to keep windows open so that the room is well ventilated. Therefore, you may wish to make sure your child has an extra layer under their uniform on colder days to prevent them becoming chilly. I know the staff will be layering up too!
Children should bring coats every day.

Expectations of attendance

The DfE have now indicated to all schools that:

- From the start of the autumn term 2020 attendance in school is mandatory and the usual rules on attendance apply (see School Attendance Policy for clarification)
 - Schools should now record attendance and follow up absence in the usual way
 - There is a duty on all parents to ensure the regular attendance of their child/ren of compulsory school age.
- There are no longer any disapplications
- The ability to issue sanctions such as penalty notices is no longer disappplied

The recording of attendance

Attendance registers will be marked in line with the DfE statutory guidance and as detailed in our main whole school Attendance Policy. During this academic term, there will be the use of an additional code X. This will be used to record the following situations:

- When pupils are self-isolating
- Household isolation
- Quarantine
- Local lockdown arrangements
- pupils with medical evidence from a **consultant** advising against school attendance due to pre-existing health concerns

This code does not count as present or absent on the pupil's attendance record.

Pupils testing positive for Covid-19 will be marked as 'ILL' in the school attendance register. This is an authorised absence.

Pupils who should not attend:

1. Pupils who display any of the following symptoms of Covid-19:

- High temperature
- New continuous cough
- Loss or change of sense of smell and taste

should not attend school. A test must be arranged and the results communicated to school. School will ask to see a copy of the test results in order to confirm positive cases.

It is essential that school is made aware at the earliest opportunity that there is a potential Covid-19 case.

Pupils testing positive must isolate for 10 days from the onset of the symptoms.

Pupils testing negative should return to school at this point (any continued absence would be recorded as either an unauthorised or an authorised absence dependent on the evidence provided).

2. Pupils with underlying health conditions following recent medical advice

In most cases those pupils shielding or living with family members who are shielding should now return to school.

In a small number of cases, pupils may receive a letter from their **consultant** to inform them that they should not return to school. School will ask for a copy of this letter for their records.

We are aware that many children have caught colds since they have returned to school.

As we begin this new year filled with excitement, we would remind you that we are always here to answer any questions. I am sure the children will be coming home with lots to tell you of school life and learning. If there is anything that you need to check or clarify please ring or e-mail school. Please do be mindful that talking to the school office or the class teacher is undoubtedly more reliable than a Whatsapp group.

Finally, I would just ask that you are mindful of all the changes and challenges our team are dealing with. This is in no way business as usual. I would ask for your kindness and consideration when you talk to our team and we will continue to offer the same to you. The coming weeks we need to be a school family, understanding of each other, honest but also working together for the very best for our children.

Mr Bird and the Staff Team