



Newton's Primary School

Lowen Road, Rainham, Essex RM13 8QR

Telephone 01708 558613 Fax: 01708 554650

Executive Headteacher - Mrs H McClenaghan

Headteacher - Mrs U Connolly

Email: office@newtons.havering.sch.uk Website: www.newtons.havering.sch.uk



Together we reach for our personal best

18.09.2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been a wonderful week in school with the children enjoying the beautiful weather, within both lesson time, as well as their break times. The teachers are getting to know the children well through class discussions and activities that allow the children to share their feelings. They have also been carrying out assessments this week to gauge what the children know and what their next steps in learning are. Year 5 children have really enjoyed the challenge of their Design Technology topic, where they have been researching, designing and building their own nature hide to spot wildlife in the area. Hopefully we can get photos uploaded to our website for you to see their finished product.

Some parents have been asking about homework and for the foreseeable future the expectation for homework is that children learn their spellings (which are posted on our website) and log on daily to TT Rockstars and practise their times table. We do not want to send books backwards and forwards to cut down on the possible transmission of the virus so would ask that you encourage your child to read at home, using online resources or books from the local library. We will review this after October Half Term.

The children appear to enjoy wearing their PE kits all day on their PE day and it certainly increases the amount of time they spend doing physical activity as there is no time wasted getting changed into and out of their kit. As the weather gets colder, please ensure they wear dark jogging bottoms and trainers rather than plimsolls as they will continue to have PE lesson outdoors due to Covid restrictions. Thank you for your cooperation. Can I remind you that earrings are not allowed to be worn on PE days and that school shoes must be plain black.

Thank you for continuing to work with us by following the procedures we have put in place to ensure the safety of everyone who use the school site. The staggered start and finish times are working well, because the vast majority of parents are keeping to the allocated time, although I am aware some parents are arriving earlier than their child's class dismissal time, which has led to some bottlenecks where social distancing has been difficult. Can I please ask that you treat all members of staff with respect; we are all trying to do our best to keep everyone safe and while I appreciate that for some people our one way entry and exit system is inconvenient it is there for a reason.

We would like to share with you some of the improvements we have made which you may not be aware of. We had a major refurbishment programme take place over the summer holidays whereby we closed in the classrooms in the open plan side of the school. This has resulted in a much quieter and calmer learning environment for all the children as well as ensuring no mixing

of class bubbles. We also installed a new 'fit for purpose' Food Technology Room which will allow us to deliver Food Technology across the school and the children will be taught how to store, prepare and cook food in small groups.

We are also widening our music curriculum as a result of securing funding for a class set of electronic keyboards and ukuleles and the loan of a set of drums, with Havering Music School providing specialist teachers to teach the children how to play these instruments. We are very grateful to Clarion Futures and Havering Music School for providing these instruments; they will enrich the children's music experience and hopefully inspire them to continue to learn a musical instrument at secondary school and beyond.

We will continue to source funding wherever we can in order to provide high quality resources and facilities for the children and if you know of companies that support local communities that we could approach, please let us know. We currently have a couple of bids submitted for specific projects that will benefit the children and we will keep you informed of how they progress.

Please be aware that we will not be planning any of our usual events such as Christmas parties and concerts because of the uncertain nature of the current situation. If things change, we will of course ensure we organise some sort of seasonal celebration. Information on how we will organise Parents' Evening will be sent out shortly.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs U Connolly
Mrs McClenaghan