

We are an ambitious school where everyone works well together and feels part of the Newmains Team



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Via seesaw app



Newsletter 5

March 2023

We had a great start to our new term with our Scottish Celebration where the poem finalists performed to the whole school. Well done to everyone for taking the time to learn the poems and for wearing tartan on the day!

Parental engagement - Learning Conversations

On Thursday 2nd February we were delighted to welcome all parents/carers in for Learning Conversations. Thank you to everyone that provided feedback to the school through the digital survey and parent response sheets. It was a positive experience for all and great to hear the pupils leading the conversations around their successes and targets they are working towards.

Leadership in Newmains

Masterclasses

We have a huge range of Masterclasses running this term where pupils have the opportunity to learn a new skill or participate in an activity, they might not normally have access to or something they particularly enjoy. All teaching and support staff are involved to ensure we were offering as many options as possible. Thank you to Mrs Pickering for co-ordinating everyone, spaces in the school and resources required.

Mindfulness Monday

Several of the House Captains are running a lunchtime club called Mindfulness Monday where teachers can nominate pupils to come and participate in calming and mindful tasks, it has been very popular so far!

Digital Club

The Digital Leaders are starting a Digital Club for P3 and P4 pupils in March where they will learn different skills and uses for a range of devices. Information for signing up to the club has already been sent out by Miss Gillon.

Rubik's Cube Club

A number of P7 pupils are starting a Rubik's Cube club where anyone interested can come along with their cube and learn different skills and tricks with it.

Fairtrade Tuck Shop

A group of P76pupils will be running the tuck shop during Fairtrade fortnight this year providing everyone with the opportunity to buy fairtrade products and raising awareness of supporting fairtrade farmers across the world

We are caring

We are kind

We are fair

We strive for success

School Priorities 2022-23 – SIP priority 4

In my last newsletter I updated everyone on the improvements in relation to priorities 2 and 3 which are linked to raising attainment in literacy through a wide variety of reading and writing strategies and initiatives.

This month I am sharing the significant digital developments across the school. As you will know we are working towards the Digital Schools Award with the aim of improving the digital literacy skills of all pupils, creating leadership opportunities with our digital leaders, and providing additional digital experiences such as use of Spheros and Micro:bits. During the learning conversations several of our digital resources were on show and provided parents the opportunity to experience these for themselves.

On 7th February we celebrated Safer Internet Day where all pupils participated in a range of class-based activities and an assembly highlighting the importance of being safe and making positive choices online. The older pupils received a presentation from our local Police Officers regarding negative online behaviours and potential consequences.

Miss Gillon regularly shares information, guides and links regarding online safety via Seesaw and our Social media outlets. Thank you to those parents and carers who attended the evening session led by the Police and Miss Gillon who shared many hints, tips and guidance about online safety.

We often have social issues in school that stem from negative online interactions across various platforms and devices such as online gaming (X-box and PlayStation), WhatsApp, Snapchat, and Instagram. I would like to draw your attention to the pupil questionnaire results shared on Seesaw about their use of digital devices and apps etc. Please ensure you check your child's device to ensure they are using these correctly, if you allow them to have them, and consider limiting time on devices especially in the evening and age limits on games/apps. Contact us at school if we can help with any aspect of this and we will be able to signpost you to potential support.

School safety

In Newmains the safety of all our pupils is paramount. We have had another near miss recently and I am very concerned that there could be an accident. I regularly ask parents to park out with the school carpark and surrounding area. Manoeuvring and parking on Lang Avenue can create a hazard for all pedestrians and I would ask that you park on Broadloan, Sandy Road, in Tesco Carpark or walk/scoot/cycle to school. Thank you to everyone who tries their best to follow this ensuring the area is safer for everyone. Please pass this message to anyone who may collect your child on your behalf such as childminders or grandparents.

While it has been great to be back to normal and having parents/carers in school following the pandemic restrictions, please ensure you access the school only via the main office. Parents and carers are not permitted to enter classrooms or via other doors. Similarly, any late lunchboxes or additional information to be passed on should be done via the office and not directly at class doors. I am sure you understand the need for these rules to keep everyone safe and maximise learning time for all our pupils.

Important Dates: including holidays, school events and parental engagement opportunities

13 th -17 th March 2023	Science week
17 th March 2023	Open afternoon for parents and carers from 2-3pm
17 th March 2023	Parent and Carer questionnaire issued via Seesaw - completed by 24 th March
23 rd March 2023	P6-7 Science Centre Trip
30 th March 2023	Parent Council Disco
31 st March 2023	School closes for Spring Holiday at 2.30pm
17 th April 2023	School Reopens at 9am
1 st May 2023	Public Holiday
2-5 th May 2023	Primary 7 residential trip to Ardentenny
8 th May 2023	Additional holiday - King Charles III coronation
11 th May 2023	Parent Council Summer Fayre
1 st June 2023	Sports Day
26 th & 29 th May 2023	Holidays
30 th May 2023	Inservice Day - school closed to pupils
31 st May 2023	Pupils return
22 nd June 2023	Primary 7 Leavers' Dance - Normandy Hotel
26 th June 2023	Primary 7 Valedictory Service - Renfrew North church
27 th June 2023	School closes for summer holiday at 1pm

School Success

Please continue to follow our social media platforms where we share all the amazing and exciting developments in Newmains - most recently the selection as a finalist for the Pocket Garden competition, Glasgow Science Centre trips, Walk of fame success and World Book Day!

Thank you for the ongoing support to the school and staff team. As always, contact us via the school office or Newmains enquiries if we can be of any help.

Roune Dunn

Head Teacher