

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



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@NewmainsPS

Via seesaw app



## Newsletter 4

21<sup>st</sup> December 2022

This has been a very busy term for everyone in Newmains where we have enjoyed many different activities and celebrations from the Hallowe'en Disco and Newmains Book Week in October, Anti-bullying week in November and all the recent Christmas events with parties and the sing along taking place in the final days. It has been wonderful to be back to normal and a pleasure to share all of these with the whole school community.

### Staffing update

Mrs Tracey Millar will be leaving us on Wednesday, for a period of time, to take up an Acting Principal Teacher role in Langbank Primary School. We wish her every success in her new role and welcome Miss Holly Campbell who is well known to Newmains, to take up Mrs Millar's class teacher job.

### Communication

We continue to share all successes of the school via our Social Media platforms. Class and School information is shared via Seesaw and it is important that you check these regularly for updates. Please ensure important information is relayed through the school office.

### School Priorities 2022-23 – SIP priority 2 and 3

In my last newsletter I updated everyone on the improvements in relation to priority 1 which was Health and Wellbeing and our restorative approaches to behaviour and inclusion.

This month I am sharing the developments and strategies to raise reading and writing attainment. Mrs Pickering has taken on the role of Reading Ambassador for the school where she is leading the implementation of Accelerated Reading (AR) for all children P3-7.

Accelerated Reader is a reading system where the pupils select and read books at their level and then complete a short comprehension quiz online. Individual progress can then be made through the levels and personalised targets are set. This process is motivating for pupils and encourages independent reading. AR reading books run alongside the structured class reading books and novels which develop particular reading skills.

Progress is tracked and we can already see quite a difference in reading scores following the introduction of AR in August.

Our new library area continues to be improved with more reading books and resources available for the children. Commission from the book fair reached an amazing £600 and we will use the money to buy books by various authors and featuring a wide range of genres, selected by the pupils. If you have any books you are finished with at home, we would be grateful for donations to the library to provide as much choice as possible.

*We are caring*

*We are kind*

*We are fair*

*We strive for success*

All staff are trained in the use of *Talk for Writing* which is a new framework to support the teaching of both fiction and non-fiction writing. Talk for Writing is a very structured approach based on three clear stages - imitation, innovation and invention where pupils become familiar with a text, then retell the story, co-create new parts to the story and finally write their own.

Mrs Hall is our Writing Ambassador and leading the implementation of this throughout the school. Pupils have been motivated by the recent projects and evidence of writing in classes is improving through use of this new strategy.

We are delighted with the impact both of these approaches are having on attainment and pupil progress.

### **School Awards**

We are currently working towards three different awards within Newmains. The Gold Sports Scotland Award where pupils can participate in different sporting activities, and you will have seen many of those on Twitter and Facebook already this year.

As a Silver Accredited Rights Respecting School, we are able to undertake working towards our Gold award this session where we are aiming for all pupils to have clear understanding of and be able to display the rights throughout their daily life.

We have been working on our Digital Schools award for a period of time now as we recognise the significant impact digital technologies can make to learning. Classes regularly use digital technology through use of Chrome books, Ipads, Spheros, Microbits and online resources to enhance their learning experience. A number of ASN tools are used to support any learner that requires it and to ensure they can fully access the curriculum. Our digital leaders are a great support to the younger pupils and they plan to run extra-curricular sessions after the Christmas break.

### **Winter weather**

Please ensure pupils are dressed for the weather at this time of year with warm coats and suitable footwear. Just a reminder about parking near the school as the weather is poorer it is tempting to be as close to the school as possible. Please try to park and walk a short distance rather than causing congestion outside the school. There have been a number of recent complaints from parents and residents regarding manoeuvring in front of the school where pupils and adults are crossing. The school car park should only be accessed by staff cars and those using the disabled parking spaces.

### **Christmas Events**

Thank you to everyone involved in the Christmas Fair which raised a huge sum of money for the school and is used to enhance the experiences for all. We raised over £100 on Christmas Jumper day for charity - thank you to everyone who was able to support it.

Our Christmas shows really are a whole team event from the ladies in the office who organise all the tickets and programmes, janitors who set up the staging and chairs in the hall and teaching and support staff who ensure the pupils are ready to perform the nativity and Christmas songs. Our Parent Council did a great job this year with refreshments before the events and as ever we are grateful for their support.

The biggest thanks is to yourselves for sending in costumes, jumpers and headbands etc and to the pupils for performing so well. Their enthusiasm and excitement was evident throughout and they should all be so proud of themselves.

This week the Christmas parties were enjoyed by all classes and we finish with a Christmas sing-along in the hall on the last day.

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

21 <sup>st</sup> December 2022	Christmas Song along - all pupils to wear Christmas jumpers, hats etc
21 <sup>st</sup> December 2022	School closes for Winter holiday at <b>2.30pm</b>
5 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	School reopens for pupils at 9am
23-27 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	Scottish Week
26 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	Scottish Celebration - all pupils wear something tartan
2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2023	Parent Interviews - more information will be sent out nearer the time
7 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Internet Safety Day - parent workshop will be running
13 and 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Holidays
15 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Inservice day for school staff - school closed to pupils
16 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Pupils return
2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2023	World book day - pupils may dress up
13 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Science week
17 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Open afternoon for parents and carers
31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	School closes for Spring Holiday
17 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	School Reopens at 9am
1 <sup>st</sup> May 2023	Public Holiday
2-5 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Primary 7 residential trip to Ardentenny
1 <sup>st</sup> June 2023	Sports Day* Please note change of date due to a RHS transition event for P7
26 <sup>th</sup> and 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Holidays
30 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Inservice Day - school closed to pupils
31 <sup>st</sup> May 2023	Pupils return
22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2023	Primary 7 Leavers' Dance - Normandy Hotel
26 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Primary 7 Valedictory Service - Renfrew North church
27 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	School closes for Summer holiday

Thank you for the ongoing support to the school and staff team. I would like to wish all our families and school community a restful and enjoyable winter break and look forward to welcoming you back in on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

Louise Dunn

Head Teacher