



Newsberries

11.01.19

Headline News - Ms Peters & Mrs Traxon

Welcome back! We hope you all had a good break. Thank you once again for the kind words and gifts sent to staff at the end of last term.

This week's *Newsberries* has been sent home on paper as well as electronically to ensure that every parent accesses the Newsletter this week! Please make reading *Newsberries* each week one of your New Year's Resolutions if you do not do so already! Please remember:-

- We work hard to ensure that the newsletter has as much information as possible to best support parents, as well as celebrate our achievements. It remains our key source of information.
- If you do not usually receive our newsletter each Friday by email please take this opportunity to check that the school office has your most up to date contact details.
- We would also appreciate you checking that we have any updated information regarding addresses and contact details in case we need to get in touch with you urgently.
- The Newsletter is added to our website each Friday so you can access it from there too.

Ms Peters & Mrs Traxon

For Your Information...

School Clubs

Please make sure that your child is clear about collection arrangements if they attend a club after school. It is essential that you inform the club provider if your child is not attending for any reason.

The school and club providers take safeguarding extremely seriously and considerable time was spent last term with school and club staff ensuring that children who had not attended were safely home.

Diary Dates

24/01	Phonics Workshop for Parents – 9.00am	YR / Y1
08/02	Year 5 Class Assembly	Y5
13/02	PTA Quiz Night	
15/02	Last day of this half term	
18 - 22/02	Half Term	
25/02	Back to School	

School Closure Arrangements

School Closure – Severe Weather

In case of severe weather it may be necessary to close the school. Most usually, this applies to snow. The school will close if:

- There are not enough staff members able to travel safely to school to supervise pupils
- The school site is not safe
- Parents and pupils are not able to travel safely to school

We will endeavour to open wherever possible, however the majority of our staff live a considerable distance from school and we need to take in weather conditions local to them. If we are able to open, we would always advise parents to assess the safety of their own journey. There may be times when we operate a partial or late opening / early closing approach. Parents will be kept fully informed of this.

In order to ensure that parents are well informed, we will make decisions regarding closure as early as is possible. Sometimes this may not be until the day of the closure as conditions may change, particularly overnight. We would advise parents to be prepared with alternative arrangements if weather conditions look like a closure may be necessary.

Everbridge Alert System

In order to keep you well informed, we advise parents to sign up to the **Everbridge System**. This is the system we must use to ensure that County is aware of school closures. By signing up to this parents will get automatic alerts of school closures via their registered email or mobile numbers. Alongside this system we will also aim to use our own communication systems (School Gateway which allows email and text messaging) so that every parent has the best chance to gain access to the information. Apologies if you hear from us more than once!

Parents/ Carers are encouraged to sign up to ensure that they receive the vital correspondence if there is an emergency or should the school have to close in the event of severe weather.

The following link will direct you to the 'Sign Up' page for **Everbridge System**, where you can follow the instructions on screen to 'login' or 'create an account'. Please follow the instructions from there:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/at-school/emergency-school-closures/emergency-school-closures.aspx>

It should take no more than five minutes to register and you can edit your information at any time should you change mobile numbers or an email address. Each contact within the system can have two devices added for each communication type if you wish to – this means that in addition to adding your own mobile number and email address, you could include the mobile number and email address of a partner or a grandparent in your registration process. They too would then receive any messages in relation to the school's closure. Alternatively, interested parties could register themselves separately. If you have children at more than one

school you can register for those schools too in a single registration process by selecting all schools you have children at. Once signed up you will receive messages relating to the status of your child's school.

School Gateway will also be used to send messages in the event of any school closure. However, these notifications will not be as immediate as using the **Everbridge System** and we therefore strongly recommend that you register via the above link.

We will endeavour to keep the school website updated with information also: -

<http://newberries.herts.sch.uk/>

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Attendance

As a school we are expected to have an attendance figure of at least 96%. Last year our attendance figure for the whole school improved from 95% to 96%. We have continued to work closely with our Attendance Improvement Officer to improve attendance across the school.

This year we will continue to monitor attendance on a half termly basis. If your child's attendance now falls below 95% we will be writing to you to make you aware of this. Please remember that a day of absence from school counts as two sessions (morning and afternoon). Obviously, we understand there are reasons for individual children to be absent and at this point in the year this could be influenced by seasonal illness and/or religious observance. However, in order to maintain and improve upon our good attendance we are keen to keep parents informed. We thank you for your on-going support with this.

Letters will be sent out next week to parents whose child's attendance is below 95%.

PTA

Happy New Year!

Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and wish everyone the very best for 2019.

Quiz Night

To kick off this term, we can't wait to see you at our fantastic quiz night hosted at school on Wednesday 13 February from 8pm. Get together with your friends to enjoy a fun night of pizza and our ever popular quiz! You can bring a bottle, but drinks will also be available to purchase on the night in aid of the PTA. Please complete the attached slip and return with payment (£15 per ticket including pizza) to the white PTA post box or a member of the PTA.