



# Newsberries

06.09.19

## Headline News - Ms Peters & Mrs Traxon

Welcome back! We hope you all had a good break. It was fantastic to see so many smiling faces returning this week, ready for the new school year! If you took part in Mrs Baxter's Summer Reading Challenge please bring your photographs in by next Friday.

A great deal has happened in school over the Summer Holidays with Mr Hill being especially busy! He has:

- *Decorated our school dining room*
- *Decorated the Year Four classroom and redesigned their cloakroom*
- *Fitted lockers (funded by the PTA) in the Year 6 classroom*
- *Supervised the installation of a new Wi-Fi system across the school*
- *Worked alongside some parents to collect and utilise some recycled school furniture!*

These have all made a big difference to our learning environment and have further improved the school. We look forward to the installation of our new play equipment, which will be installed in the coming weeks. This has been funded by a substantial donation from the PTA. More details of this will follow shortly. **Ms Peters & Mrs Traxon**

## Welcome Back!

Please make reading *Newsberries* each week part of your Friday routine, if you do not do so already! At the beginning of each term we will be sending out a newsletter to give parents some general information for their reference.

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 that you can access it from there too. Class Blogs are also updated at the end of each week.

**Please may we remind you that further details can also be found on the school's website at:**

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

## Open Door Policy

If you have any questions or queries relating to your child, we are always happy to speak with you. Please make contact with your child's Class Teacher about this. A quick word at the door is always available. If you feel you need more time, we would be grateful if you would make an appointment with the teacher directly or via the School Office.

Formal Parent Consultation Evenings are set up in the Autumn and Spring Term with a written summative report sent home in the Summer Term.

## Meet the Teacher

We invite all parents and carers to attend our Meet the Teacher sessions. These sessions give parents and carers an opportunity to meet their child's new class teacher and gain general information about their child's new year group. All Meet the Teacher sessions will be held in classrooms (with the exception of Reception which will be held in the school hall). Please enter the school via the School Office.

Date	Class	Time
17/09/19	Year 4	9.00am
19/09/19	Year 5	9.00am
20/09/19	Year 6	9.00am
24/09/19	Year 1	9.00am
25/09/19	Reception	9.00am
26/9/19	Year 2	9.00am
27/09/19	Year 3	9.00am

## Drop Off and Pick-up

The doors open at 8.50am. Infant children should be accompanied to the classroom door. Junior pupils may wait on the playground until the whistle is blown at 8.50am. Children should not arrive for school before 8.45am. Please make sure you collect KS1 pupils from their classroom at the end of the day and that you have a clear plan in place if meeting a KS2 child.

## School Office

### Office Opening Times

May we remind you that the School Office is open for parents from **8:50am to 9:30am** and again between **2:45pm and 3:45pm**.

We urge you to make visits to the office during these times, although understand that parents will be collecting children or returning from appointments throughout the day. You may, of course, contact the office by telephone at any time if you have an urgent matter or request. Non urgent messages can be emailed to: [admin@newberries.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@newberries.herts.sch.uk)

## School Gateway

School Gateway is a key way in which we are able to communicate with you from school. Downloading the app means that you are able to receive text messages from us (which do not incur us any costs) as well as allowing you easy access to pay for milk, dinner, school trips or any other payment you may need to make to the school. Please follow the link to find out more; log in or download the app. <https://login.schoolgateway.com/0/auth/login>

## School Meals

If you would like your child to have a school meal, please contact the School Office for further information. All pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are currently able to have school meals free of charge. In Key Stage Two (Years 3-6) the cost is £2.60 a day. Payment for these can be made through the School Gateway. The menu is carefully balanced to offer a variety of choice with plenty of healthy options. The kitchen is also able to cater well for special dietary requirements and those pupils who have allergies. Please see the Herts Catering Website for more information : [www.hcl.co.uk](http://www.hcl.co.uk)

If you prefer, your child may bring a packed lunch. Please may we remind you that we encourage you to send in a healthy packed lunch. Please make sure that you do not include items such as fizzy drinks or chocolate (confectionary) bars. Please may we remind you not to send any nut based products into school, including any spreads.

## Absence from School

If your child is unwell please call the school on the first morning of illness to inform them that your child will not be attending. We have the facility for you to leave a message on our absence line so this call can be made at any time before the school day begins. Along with sickness, any absence for appointments or religious observance will be authorised if they overlap with school days. We request that you still inform the school of these in writing. Absence for any other reason must be requested. There are some exceptional circumstances where absence will be granted, however we strongly discourage families from taking holidays during term time.

## 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.

## Travelling to School

### Parking Outside School

We are aware that traffic can become quite dense at the beginning and end of the school day. From time to time we have had concerns raised by parents and neighbours about the way in which parents are both driving and parking outside school. Please:

- Use the one-way system and remind others who collect or drop off your child to do the same
- Park and drive responsibly

**We want all of our children to feel safe when travelling to and from school!**

## WhatsApp Groups

We are more than aware of how valuable class 'WhatsApp' groups can be in sharing information and 'filling in the gaps' for someone who is unsure about something. However it has come to our attention that, at times, misinformation is also being circulated within these groups which is causing some confusion. If you are sharing information, please be sure that this is correct. We try to include as much information in Newsberries as possible, but if you are unsure the School Office is happy to answer any queries you may have.

May we also take this opportunity to remind parents that strict guidelines surround the sharing of information relating to individual pupils. Such information should only be shared by the school with the relevant parties, unless the parents or carers themselves are choosing to share information.

# School Uniform

At Newberries we believe that wearing a uniform is an important part of school life. Children are expected to be neatly dressed for school at all times. As a school we feel that wearing a uniform should be clearly re-enforced and we count on your support in this. Our uniform is detailed below. Pupils may wear summer uniform at the beginning of this term if they prefer.

Winter Uniform	Summer Uniform
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grey skirt, pinafore dress or trousers</li><li>• White shirt and school tie</li><li>• Red Newberries Jumper</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grey shorts</li><li>• Red and white gingham dress</li><li>• Red and white gingham or plain white short-sleeved shirt</li><li>• Red Newberries jumper</li></ul> <p><i>Alternatively winter uniform can be worn without a tie</i></p>
<b>Optional – School coats and fleeces. These are for outdoor wear only.</b>	

## PE Kits

For PE lessons pupils will need the following kit in a named bag - black shorts, red Newberries polo shirt (with school logo); plimsolls for indoor and trainers for outdoor lesson. Jogging bottoms may also be provided during colder weather for outdoor lessons.

## Shoes

Indoor shoes should be black. Outdoor shoes should be appropriate for your child to wear at playtimes. Socks or tights should be in keeping with our uniform (either grey or white socks / grey, white or red tights).

## Jewellery

Jewellery should not be worn, with the exception of small studded earrings. Nail varnish should not be worn.

## Hairstyles

We expect all children to have sensible and appropriate hair styles for school – long hair should be tied back for health and safety reasons. Only small hair bands in a school colour should be worn.

**Our uniform suppliers are MAPAC. Orders can be made online or by telephone.**

**<https://www.mapac.com/education/parents/uniform/newberriesprimaryWD7>**

**We also have 'nearly new' uniform available.**

**Please contact the School Office if you would like more details of this.**

## Term Dates

### Academic Year 2019/20

Dates	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<b>Term Start /End</b>	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2019 to Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2019 <b><u>school finishes at 1.30pm</u></b>	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 to Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2020 <b><u>school finishes at 1.30pm</u></b>	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2020 to Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2020 <b><u>school finishes at 1.30pm</u></b>
<b>Children Back to School</b>	<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Sept</b>	<b>Tuesday 7th January</b>	<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b>
<b>School Holidays Half Term</b>	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2019 to Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2019	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2020 to Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2020	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2020 to Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
<b>Children Back to School</b>	<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019</b>	<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020</b>	<b>Monday 1st June 2020</b>
<b>School Holidays End of Term Break</b>	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December to Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2020	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2020 to Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2020 to Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2020
<b>INSET Days</b>	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> May 2020 (Polling Day)
<b>Occasional Days</b>	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2019		