

Newstead Academy

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Weekly Newsletter Autumn 2 Week 1

Welcome back, we hope you had a lovely half term break and had fun celebrating Halloween and Bonfire night if you chose to. This week we have welcomed some new people to the Newstead family. We have welcomed George, Billy and Henley who have joined our classes brilliantly and we have also welcomed Fiona and Katie to our staff team. Everyone has had a fantastic week and settled in very well.

Newstead Hives

Next week we will be changing the classes slightly; Theresa is now one of our class teachers alongside Vic, Craig and Robyn and this adds extra capacity for us to make the classes even more tailor made to the needs of the children. As such from next week we will be gradually transitioning to having three classes rather than two.

Our classes are going to be referred to as our Hives and we will have Hive 1 which we will led by Theresa, Hive 2 which will be led by Vic and Hive 3 which will be led by Craig. Information around which Hive the children will be in will be in the communication books today and for most children there will be minimal changes as their room or teacher will not change, we have tried to keep any changes to an absolute minimum.

The main change will be that Hive 3 will be using the upstairs classroom, this will mean that all of their learning activities will take place upstairs, they will have access to the same provision and resources but will access this upstairs.

Transition to the hives will be gradual with children being introduced to the new groups gradually as the week progresses with a view that by Friday they are in their new hive.

Remembrance Wreath and Harvest Collection

Next Wednesday we plan to take the donations brought in for the Harvest celebration to Co-op and we will also take our wreath that all of the children have created to the War Memorial by Poundstretcher to pay our respects to those who have served and still serve and represent our country in the armed forces.

Reading Books

Every child will have brought home their very first reading book this week. We ask that their reading books are kept in their bags and returned to school daily as we need to be able to read them in school and have an incredibly limited supply of books – we only have 2 copies of some of the books at present.

There is an information pack included with information and guidance for parents regarding our phonics programme and how we are approaching reading as well as a simple home reading log. As it says in the pack if you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch.

PE

From next week Friday will be our PE day. Children will need to come to school in their PE kit, the kit list from our uniform policy is below for your reference. Children will need to come prepared for outdoor PE unless advised otherwise ahead of time.

P.E. Kit
White plain t-shirt or White polo top
Black shorts
Navy tracksuit bottoms/joggers
Navy hoodie or hooded jacket
Navy sweatshirt (no logos)
Trainers for outdoor P.E.
Black indoor plimsoles/pumps for indoor P.E.

Sign of the Week

This week our sign has been Fireworks.



What have we been learning this week?

Vic's Hive - This week we have started a new Learning Theme looking at celebrations and festivals. We made Bonfire and Firework pictures using paint and collage materials. In our Maths we have been matching and ordering numbers. Our letter of the week has been t and we have practised tracing this letter and making it with playdough.

Craig's Hive - This week in Craig's class we have been working hard on our pencil control skills, learning to use our pencils with more precision to produce pictures and writing that looked amazing!

Snack-time

School offer children snack twice a day at 10am and 2pm. Children are offered the choice of a simple biscuit (digestive or rich tea), a cracker or a breadstick; on a Friday we are looking to introduce 'Fruity Fridays' with a different fruit or vegetable snack for children to try in addition to the usual choices. Snack-time is a real social time for us and is integral in supporting children in the development of their communication and interaction skills.

From this half term on-wards we would like to ask for a voluntary contribution of £2 per week towards the cost of providing the snacks for the children. As we are an independent school rather than a state funded school, we receive no funding from external sources and so we would like to try to ensure that we are maximising our budget to its fullest potential and by asking for a contribution towards snack this will really help us try to do this even more effectively.

If you would rather send your child in with a snack this is also fine but we ask that it is a piece of fruit or a digestive biscuit, rich tea, plain cracker or breadstick to match what is provided to the rest of the children and to ensure that the offer is fair and equitable to all. It will need to be in a named container and sufficient will need to be provided daily for morning and afternoon snack each day as unfortunately we do not have facilities to store individual snacks for multiple children

Time Capsule

We still have a few more time capsule information pages outstanding, we are going to be looking to bury this over the next week or so – weather dependent – so please get them in as soon as possible if you would like it to be included!

Many thanks,

Lauren Norton,
Head of School