

**Newstead Academy**

Newstead Road,  
Barnsley,  
S71 3NA

Miss Lauren Norton  
Head of School



Tel: (01226) 395983  
Email: [lnorton@watertonacademytrust.org](mailto:lnorton@watertonacademytrust.org)  
Office email: [theaton@watertonacademytrust.org](mailto:theaton@watertonacademytrust.org)

8<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Weekly Newsletter Autumn 2 Week 5**

#### **Christmas activities/arrangements**

On Wednesday we will be enjoying **Christmas dinner** in school, staff will be joining the children to share the meal and to mark the occasion children are invited to wear a **Christmas jumper** if they would like to. They will need to wear the rest of their uniform as usual.

Tina will be getting in touch next week to confirm that you are happy for your child to be involved in our **Christmas recordings** and for them to be shared with the rest of the families. The children are enjoying learning the songs and are looking forward to sharing these with you in the last week of term.

We have been asked about a **Christmas card list** and so we will send this early next week with the children, there is absolutely no expectation that cards are sent, we have just been asked by a couple of parents for this information so thought it made sense to send to all in case others wanted it as well.

#### **Parent Voice**

I would love to invite you to share your views and opinions of school with us via the parent voice function on the Ofsted parent view website - <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/parent-view-results/survey/result/5001596/14> - We have had some really incredible feedback from parents so far which has been amazing and so capturing this here would be brilliant for school if you could spare a few minutes to fill the survey in please. We know that, as a brand-new setting, we will have an inspection at some point this academic year and so it would be great to be able to capture and share some of the positive things you have shared with us here ahead of any potential inspection happening.

#### **Adverse Weather Arrangements/School Closure**

With the adverse weather at the start of last week, I thought it would be worthwhile sharing information about school procedures in the event of the need to close. If school was unable to open, we would notify parents as early as possible (and before 8am) via text message and then follow up with a phone call to between 9am and 10am from the class teacher to discuss activities

to be completed and suggest different strategies and techniques which may be implemented to help complete these. The activities would be simple, could be completed at home and may link directly to your child's EHCP.

### **Names in Clothes**

Could we please ask that you check that all of your children's clothes have their names in, including hats, scarves and gloves. We are getting quite a bit of lost property which is unnamed. If you are missing anything please let staff know and we will try to get it back to you.

### **Milk**

We have been researching how to provide milk for the children in school as part of our healthy school offer. From January if your child receives pupil premium funding they will be entitled to daily milk as part of this. For those children who are not in receipt of pupil premium funding there will be the option to register to have this as an option as well. The cost we have managed to secure is incredibly low at 28p per day (£1.40 per week). Tina will be sending further details and information about this next week.

### **Reminder of term dates**

**Christmas Holidays** – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2023 to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**INSET Day** – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Return to school** – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**February Half Term** – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Easter Holidays** – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**Early May bank holiday** – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024

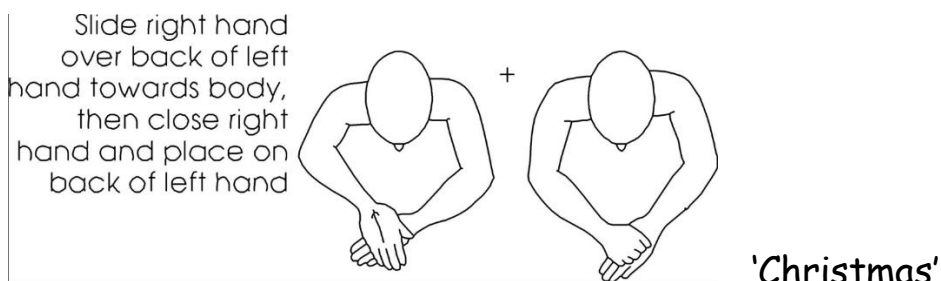
**May Spring Bank Half Term** – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024 to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024

**Finish for the Summer holidays** – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024

**INSET day** - Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

### **Sign of the Week**

This week our sign has been 'Christmas'.



**What have we been learning this week?**

**Theresa's Hive** - Hive 1 have done some fantastic work in maths, understanding the value of one and are continuing to embed a culture that love books and reading. We have enjoyed learning about Christmas and the Christmas story and exploring different sensory resources linked to this.

**Vic's Hive** - This week we have enjoyed some seasonal craft activities. We have used our cutting, sticking and printing skills to produce some beautiful Christmas trees. In Phonics we have been working on the m sound and we were fantastic at naming and drawing some objects beginning with the sound.

**Craig's Hive** - In Craigs hive this week we have been looking at 2D and 3D shapes and have searched the classroom for examples of the shapes we were learning. We have read the Christmas Story and produced our own versions of it.

Many thanks,

Lauren Norton,  
Head of School

---