



# Newstead Academy 2023-2024 Weekly Newsletter

## Spring 1 Week 5 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

I'm dreaming of a white February? I'm not sure that is how the song is supposed to go! The children did however enjoy watching the snow fall yesterday and seeing it settle and it was a great enhancement to our topic of 'Winter'. Thankyou for your support with ensuring that all children and staff were able to get home safely when the roads began to get a little busier and potentially more dangerous and we had to make the always difficult decision of needing to close the building.

### Ofsted Material Change

I am delighted to announce that following the inspection in December, we have now had confirmation this week from the DfE that our request to make the material change, of changing our age range to 5-11, has been approved. My favourite quote from the report was, 'The school has a calm and purposeful atmosphere. Despite the school being newly opened, staff have quickly formed positive relationships with pupils. Strong transition arrangements are in place to help pupils to settle quickly. Leaders have thought carefully about how to use the space in school effectively to be of maximum benefit to the pupils.'

### Menu Change – 19.2.24

Hopefully you will have all seen the information from Tina about the menu change for the first day back on the 19<sup>th</sup> February. Owing to Athersley South, who provide our lunches, having an inset day they are only able to provide the option of a packed lunch or a jacket potato for this day.



**Safeguarding Signposting – Ipad Safety guide** - This free online safety guide looks at iPads, the world's most popular tablet computers. It highlights possible hazards including the risk of age-inappropriate content, physical damage to the device and potential screen addiction  
<https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety/status/1633388347401060354/photo/1>

# What have our Busy Bee's been learning this week?

We have loved learning about and exploring Chinese New Year this week.

## Hive 1 - Theresa

This week, in Hive 1 we have enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year 2024 - the year of the dragon. We have learnt how to dance like a dragon while exploring new materials, used our fine motor skills to paint over secret writing and made Chinese lanterns. In Maths we have been exploring prepositions (on, in and under) through song and games.

## Hive 2 - Vic

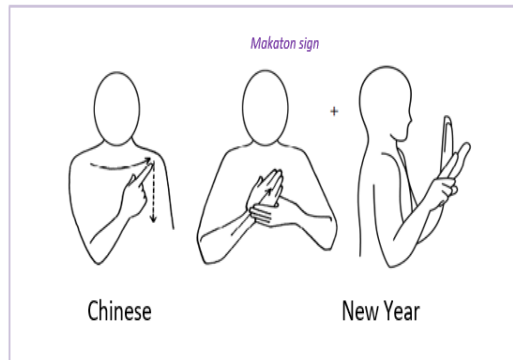
We have been exploring Chinese New Year this week. We have had fun getting creative making Chinese Lanterns and Dragon Masks. We also tasted some new foods including Fortune Cookies, prawn crackers and noodles. In Maths we have been making patterns using shapes and colours. Our Grown Up's think Hive 2 have worked very hard this half-term and can see lots of progress. Happy Holidays for next week.

## Hive 3 - Craig

In hive three we have been learning the story of Chinese New Year and how the animals raced for the emperor. We made dragon masks, found out what animal sign we were born under and tasted some yummy foods including noodles, fortune cookies and prawn crackers.

## Sign of the Week

This week our sign has been 'Chinese New Year'



## Diary Dates

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

**World Book day** – 7<sup>th</sup> March – 'What's in the box?' competition, no fancy dress.

**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



*"In a world where so many are throwing bricks on others, be the one who builds bridges with them." – Emma Xu*

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