

We say a warm welcome back to all our existing pupils and to the new families who have joined us over the summer break, you are equally welcome!

Teachers will keep in touch with updates through Class Dojo and Google Classroom so please make sure you provide school with a current and up to date email address, especially if you have recently changed it.

Please make sure all your child's clothes and belongings are clearly marked with their name and class.

This year, the staff have received training in the Paths Programme. This is a whole school programme that teaches the children pro-social skills, emotional understanding, social problem-solving and self-control. DE have provided funding for this programme and we feel it will be beneficial for all our pupils. You can read more about the programme on our school website.

We are currently trialling a Breakfast Club in school; it runs from 8am to 8.50am each morning. It would be helpful if you could book this on the school money app at least a day in advance as numbers are currently small, in order to let staff know if they are required. A decision will be made later in the month if the club can continue.

Fun Club is back from 2-3pm each day for P2 and P3. P1 are invited to attend from 1st November, when they will be more settled to the school routine. Please book through the school money app and it is on a first come first served basis.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions at Downpatrick Leisure Centre we do not have a swimming slot for this term but we are hopeful for Term 2!

You will be aware from social media that Covid-19 continues to be a threat to schools including the NPS daily routine. We are trying our best to keep our school community safe and our school open for all pupils so please be vigilant. If your child has any Covid-19 symptoms or any other illness, please keep them at home and seek medical advice. If your child tests positive for Covid-19, they must self-isolate for 10 days.

PHA will now be responsible for contacting you if your child is deemed a close contact to a positive case. If this happens, you need to self-isolate and book a PCR test for your child whereby they can return to school when a negative result is received. As a matter of courtesy it would be appreciated if you could let the school know if your child is positive or has been identified as a close contact.

**School Reminders**

1. Due to **severe** pupil allergies, Newcastle Primary School & Nursery Unit must be a **nut** **free zone.** Children **must not** bring nuts or nut products e.g. Nutella, to school for lunch or snack.
2. Dogs are not permitted anywhere on our school grounds. Please can you inform your wider family circle to ensure they don’t bring dogs to school.
3. Parking in the school grounds is for staff and deliveries only.
4. Please do not ride bicycles or scooters in the school playground – we don’t want any accidents!
5. Please make sure you book school dinners, snack and clubs through the school money app before midnight of the day they are required.
6. The school is open from 8.50am each morning for pupils.