

# Newtown Church of England Primary School



**Growing together  
in strength, love and wisdom,  
we shine.**

**Newsletter  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025**



## Message from the Head

Happy Valentines Day! At school, with the help of our fabulous Friends, the children have enjoyed writing notes of affirmation and love which they then posted on the foyer doors. The children have also enjoyed purchasing 'Valentine's Crafts in a Bag' – thank you to Jacob and Olivia for selling so well and a big thank you to the Friends of Newtown for organising.

*Love* is a one of our core values at Newtown and we recognise it in our Mission Statement: '*Growing together in strength, love and wisdom, we shine.*'

We often talk about this value in the context of 'loving our neighbour' and learning as one whole-school family; looking after and supporting each other by showing love of one another.

*Love* also features heavily in our school prayer, 'Let there be love, love of one another and love of life itself' highlighting how we want our school to be a place of joy which encourages a love of learning and enables children to enjoy and appreciate life in all its fullness.

So, as we head into the February half term break, I wish you a restful week away from the classroom, spending time with family and friends with a little bit of love in whatever form you find it.



'Love is patient. Love is kind. Love never fails.'  
1 Corinthians 13



## Staff Wellbeing & Class Dojo

We introduced Class Dojo to school a couple of years ago and it has proved to be a real success in giving parents a flavour of what the children are up to during their lives at school.

The platform also gives parents the option of contacting teachers directly – 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.

As headteacher, one of my responsibilities is to ensure teacher wellbeing and unfortunately, this aspect of Class Dojo is proving to be detrimental to staff wellbeing. Therefore, initially for next half term, this part of the Class Dojo platform will be disabled. This decision will be reviewed at Easter.

The link between parents and school is incredibly important for the education of the children and parents. Teachers will also be happy to speak and meet with parents, however, this should now be done via the office email – [admin@newtown.shropshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@newtown.shropshire.sch.uk) – or phone. Mrs Hanbury or Mrs Hordern will then share any messages with staff or forward any emails.

If you would like to arrange a meeting with teachers, this should also be done via the office who will be able to make an appointment at a mutually agreeable time.

## Staffing Update

Mrs Lingard will be absent from school until at least 13<sup>th</sup> March due to ill health. In her absence, Osprey and Falcon Class will come together to form a Year 5/6 class under the leadership of Miss Morris.

Miss Morris will also be supported by Miss Kerr. Miss Kerr is a class teacher who works part-time at Welshampton and already knows the Newtown children well.

Mrs Reece will also have time to support our Year 5 and 6 children alongside Miss Brown – who we welcome back to Newtown following maternity leave.

## Year 6 SATs Club

In a change to previous details shared, Year 6 SATs Club will start on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February. It will run every Wednesday from 3:15pm to 4:30pm up until SATs. Parents are invited to join us at the end of the first SATs Club from 4:00pm on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February where we will share information on Y6 SATs.

**Executive Headteacher:** Mr Ben Crompton

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## Return to School

Please remember that children return to school after half term on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February. School is closed for a PD on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

## Morning Drop-Off

Please be aware, that parents will no longer be able to come into classrooms in the morning. All children should be dropped at the school doors – which are going to be upgraded and updated over the half term break – and children should walk to their classrooms independently. Not only is this for safeguarding reasons, but also because we really want to promote independence amongst the children, and this is the first step in doing so.

Unfortunately, teachers will no longer be able to accommodate requests to meet with parents at school drop-off. When this happens, it takes teachers away from their class of children as they are welcomed to the classroom and school work is starting.

If a parent has a message to pass to a teacher, please do so via a member of staff on the front door.

We very much appreciate parents support in this.

## Ferociously Fabulous Fencers

On Wednesday, we took a team of Year 3 and 4 Fencers to Moreton Hall School to compete in their first Primary Aged Fencing Competition. After a quick guide to the sport of fencing, our children got kitted up and connected and began their joist!

The children did brilliantly in what was a wonderful event and experience for all the children. Newtown were declared joint winners overall which reflected the skilled fencing on show!



## Forest School Timetable

Please take note of the dates for children's Forest School sessions for the rest of the year. These have changed slightly from previous dates shared but will still ensure that over the school year, children from Year 1 to Year 6 have had the same number of outdoor sessions.

<b>Hawk Class</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> 14 <sup>th</sup> 21 <sup>st</sup> May
<b>Kestrel Class</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> February 19 <sup>th</sup> 26 <sup>th</sup> March 9 <sup>th</sup> 30 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>Osprey &amp; Falcon Class</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup> 18 <sup>th</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2 <sup>nd</sup> 9 <sup>th</sup> July

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## Go Ape!

On Monday, I joined our Hawk Class children as they went on an exciting trip to Go Ape in Delamere Forest where they swung through the treetops to complete high-rope obstacles.

Their bravery and determination was outstanding and the children really challenged themselves, even when it was really high and really wobbly – as did the staff!

Everybody managed to complete the first course which was a huge achievement and we were extremely proud of each and every member of our class.

We were also proud at how supportive the children were to one another, constantly cheering each other on and helping their friends (and staff!) as they tackled trickier sections of the course.

A special mention to Mrs Braithwaite for achieving such graceful Zip Line landings - twice!

## Tag Rugby

In a slight change to the original plan, our Year 5 and 6 Tag Rugby team competed with their Welshampton counterparts. Mr Tinsley organised the tournament which was played in good spirits and allowed the children to play against other children competitively as they honed their Tag Rugby skills!

## Furry Friend Visitor

Yesterday, we were lucky to welcome Mrs Rutter to school with her little bunnies! The children all loved their visit as they learnt about rabbits and had lots of cuddles! Thank you Mrs Rutter for visiting us.



## Gardening Club

As we move into the Spring we will once ore be starting our Gardening Club – further details to follow.

We will welcome any donations of tools, pots, seeds etc, so if you have anything that you think may be useful, please drop them off with us after half term.

## Payment Reminders

Could I remind all parents to pay for / settle any outstanding costs before booking your child on to future clubs or hot school dinners.

There are several payments which are outstanding which if not paid, have to found from the already stretched main school budget which takes away from the money we are able to spend on the children as a whole. Thankyou.



Hello from the **Family Information Service** (FIS for short). Our job is to give you the info and resources you need to help your family life run a little smoother. We can help with:

- Childcare - finding it and advice on paying for it
- Local baby and toddler groups
- Events, clubs, activities, and fun things to do in the school holidays, for all ages
- Getting parenting and family support
- Finding health and wellbeing support

We cover everything and anything to do with family life, so if you have a question, chances are we'll be able to help, or if we can't, we'll point you in the direction of someone who can.

Follow us on social media for all the latest news and info.



[www.shropshire.gov.uk/fis](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/fis)

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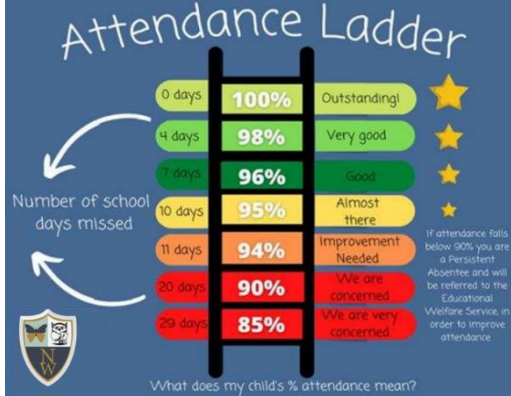
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**Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow...**

- Owl - 100% ★★★★★
- Hawk – 98.5% ★★★
- Kestrel - 95% ★★
- Osprey - 100% ★★★★★
- Falcon – 92% ★★★

Weekly average: 97%



**Shining Stars of the Week**  
**Owl Class**

Tommy for his great concentration during carpet time.

**Hawk Class**

Isabella for using great phonics knowledge.

**Kestrel Class**

Levi for working so hard with his handwriting.

**Osprey Class**

Percy for being very helpful.

**Falcon Class**

Lucas for being so conscientious.

Have a wonderful half term break,

Yours sincerely,  
Mr Crompton.

**Key School Dates**

**March**

- 6<sup>th</sup> March World Book Day
- 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> March Year 3 & 4 Residential Trip Condoover
- 19<sup>th</sup> March Friends of Newtown Meeting
- 28<sup>th</sup> March Easter Egg Dress Down Day

**April**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> April Year 6 London Trip
- 4<sup>th</sup> April Newtown Escape Rooms
- 10<sup>th</sup> April Easter Raffle

**May**

- 1<sup>st</sup> May School Closed – Local Election
- 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May Year 6 SATs Week
- 16<sup>th</sup> May Newtown Colour Run

**June**

- 8<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> June Phonics Screening Check
- Year 4 Multiplication Check
- 27<sup>th</sup> June Sports Day
- 1:15pm start
- Parents Welcome

The Cellar Church, Ellesmere, invites you to a  
**BRIGHT SPARKS HOLIDAY ACTIVITY**  
During February 2025 half term.  
Free fun for primary school age children  
Reception to Year 6

**FUN**

**CRAFT**

**BIBLE STORIES**

**GAMES**

**QUIZ**

**At Ellesmere Town Hall**  
**Wednesday 19 February**  
**2.00pm till 4.30pm**  
To register scan the QR code opposite or collect a registration form from  
**More Than a Sundae,**  
**Cross Street**

**SCAN HERE**

**Cheshire KIDS FUN DUATHLON**  
SAT 10TH MAY 2025

- RUN, BIKE, RUN FUN EVENT FOR 5-16 YEAR OLDS
- ALL ABILITIES WELCOME, ENTRY FROM £18
- CYCLE & RUN COURSES ALL ON GRASS
- LARGEST KIDS DUATHLON IN THE UK
- FANTASTIC KIDS FINISHERS MEDAL

**Alderford KIDS FUN TRIATHLON**  
SAT 14TH JUNE 2025

- SWIM, BIKE, RUN FUN EVENT FOR 7-16 YEAR OLDS
- ALL ABILITIES WELCOME
- FRESHWATER LAKE SWIM
- ALL WITHIN THE GROUNDS OF ALDERFORD LAKE
- FANTASTIC KIDS FINISHERS MEDAL

BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE TODAY AT  
**UKTRIATHLON.CO.UK**



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**Shropshire  
Supporting  
Families**  
through Early Help



# COFFEE & CHAT

## Wem

1st Thursday of each month

10am until 1pm

Wem Library, 3 High St, Wem,  
Shrewsbury SY4 5AA

All families within the local area welcome

Free information, support  
& advice around:

Family Life

Housing & Finance

Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)

Parenting Support

Training & Employment

Domestic Abuse Support

And much more...

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED  
"PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN SEALED  
CUP/TRAVEL MUG"



[shropshire.gov.uk/early-help](http://shropshire.gov.uk/early-help)



**Shropshire**  
Council

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