

The Newcroft Club

Newnham Croft Primary School, Chedworth Street,

CAMBRIDGE CB3 9JF

NEWSLETTER: May 2020



thenewcroftclub.co.uk

Dear Parents,



June 2020 - First Steps (According to government guidance issued 11.05.2020): Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday of a phased plan for emerging from lockdown, I just wanted to let you know that we have remained open at afterschool club for the children of key workers. We have capacity to expand in June if you have need of childcare and are included in the first group of children returning to school (Reception, Y1, Y6 and additional key worker families)

At the moment we have between 3 and 6 children per afternoon attending, with 2 members of staff. The children usually choose to spend most of the afternoon playing outside, and then they come in to

have a turn on the Wii at the end of the day. They have also done quite a bit of painting (including the rainbow pictured), and practised their pool and darts skills. We are doing our best to limit the risk of virus transmission and are very mindful of hygiene, regular handwashing and cleaning of commonly touched surfaces like tables, door handles, light switches etc. at the start of session and at intervals throughout the afternoon. We have had to restrict the variety of toys on offer to those that can be cleaned easily at the end of every session. Social distancing amongst children will always be challenging, especially in a play setting. This is why we try to spend as much time outside as we can.

Please let me know if you are interested in your child attending sessions from June, and I will be happy to add them to the register. Additionally, please inform me if, following this time away from the club, there are particular things we should be aware of concerning your child. I would be grateful if you could let me know as soon as possible, so that I can plan and risk assess for increased numbers.

September 2020 - Important changes requiring your action:

From what I can ascertain, it looks like schools may be functioning as normal by September. This pandemic has shaken everything up so profoundly and given us all a time to reflect upon the enforced changes, our values and how we might see our way ahead. **We have made the decision to downsize the after school club from 50 children per day and 5 staff, to 40 children per day and 4 staff.** We believe that this will have a positive impact for both children and staff. With a smaller group, it will be less noisy (noise levels were mentioned repeatedly by the children in their questionnaire responses last term) and will provide staff a greater opportunity to really engage with children individually. As well as this, it will enable more time to be spent learning from play observations, and extending play opportunities. Trained play workers are able to offer so much more to children than merely working in a supervisory capacity!

This means that the current registers will be scrapped, so you will need to please re- enlist your child at the afterschool club. Spaces will be allocated on a first come first serve basis, so please register your interest as soon as possible. Failure to do so may result in disappointment even if your child has been attending the afterschool club for a long time. The spaces will be open to families who are on the waiting

list as well. If your child has not attended before, please fill in the registration form (on our website). If we already have your up-to-date information and contact details, then notification via email will suffice.

Staffing changes: Sadly, in this process of restructuring, we have had to say farewell to 2 members of staff - Anna and Sydney. We wish them all the best in their careers moving forward. Sydney has written you a letter which I have attached with this newsletter.

Holiday club: We will not be running holiday club over half term 26.05.20 – 01.06.20. We will review whether to open for all or part of the summer holiday club next month depending on whether there is sufficient demand for it and once we have a better idea about how the government return to school strategy is working.

Thank you for reading this newsletter, I really hope that you are all coping during this unsettling time. We miss you and look forward to seeing all the children again as soon as it feels safe.

Warm regards,

Maureen

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