

The Newcroft Club

Newnham Croft Primary School, Chedworth Street,

CAMBRIDGE CB3 9JF

NEWSLETTER: September 2020

Dear Parents,

As we celebrate our first fortnight back at school I'd like to take the opportunity to welcome the new families who have joined the after school club and to thank everybody for being so brilliant in adapting to the new ways of working. The children are being very responsible about hand sanitising are remembering to take all their belongings home so our mountain of ever accumulating lost property is but a distant memory nowadays which is fantastic! Great care was taken when planning for the bubbles but restrictions to size as well as siblings being together in the same bubble has unfortunately meant that not everybody has been placed within a group of friends and classmates. A special thank you goes out to these children who have had to adapt and play with children outside of their usual group of friends. We are also sorry that the bubble restrictions have meant that it is not viable for us to accept children who only want to attend a single session per week; we have tried to prioritise need.

General Communications: Please note that we do not enter the school at all any more. This means that it is no longer possible to leave messages for us in our book at the school office. Also, we cannot look for your child throughout school if they do not turn up at the start of session. All the teachers have a list of who we are expecting at the club each day and they send/ escort the children to us. It is a safe system but it is a huge help when parents inform both the school and us (e.g copy us in on an email sent to the office) if a child will not be attending for any reason including doctor appointments, early collection straight from school, play dates with friends etc. Please also inform us at the start of term if your child will be attending any of the clubs put on by the school, and let us know whether they will be coming to us afterwards.

Covid -19 Communications: Please see attached the latest government guidance for parents. Although we are all being instructed not to over react about colds, the club would still prefer if children stayed at home during the more acute days of the cold if possible, to help with a speedy recovery and diminished chances of contagion.

In order to make space for our 3rd bubble in the yard area and to erect the marquee, it was necessary to finally bid farewell to our much loved (though long dead) cherry tree. During the time of lockdown we painted it and later on we tried to help dig it out and cut down the trunk using a saw. We had a lot of fun trying but quickly learnt how hard cherry wood is and how



tough tree roots are! Thankfully the professional tree removers have left us 2 parts of the trunk to play with now and we also have something to remember the tree by.





Such simple yet effective examples of loose parts play, it was great to see these dinosaurs taking full advantage of what is left of the tree branches, and the other part of the trunk makes a good bench and balance beam.

Staffing news: We are delighted to welcome Ellen to our team. She is enjoying getting to know the children and despite starting work during this time where we are all finding our way around the new rules and routines, Ellen is fitting in and getting on with the job brilliantly. If you would like see a mini bio about any of our staff, please have a look at the staff page on our website.

Holiday club: Yay! We are reopening for half term (Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October)

Because we will still be using the bubble system (maximum 15 children per day in a bubble and bubbles must remain consistent)

we will require that families book a minimum of 3 full days per week. We will not be offering our half day option for the time being although you will still be able to drop off and collect your children at whatever times suit you.

As with the afterschool club, we will be able to support 3 bubbles. We need to be careful though and try to manage the bubbles in such a way that there are enough children in each bubble for those children to have a fun time and also that we fill the bubbles in order for it to be viable for us. Therefore, should it become necessary (e.g. if 2 bubbles become full but there are too few children booked to support a third bubble), we will have to prioritise those families who have booked in for the most days.

Please let me know if you are interested, as usual the earlier the better helps with all the planning necessary. We intend to offer our usual mix of indoor and outdoor play opportunities, arty crafty things to make and do, and I am also trying to think of ways to fit in some cooking too!

Resources: As usual we would be grateful for any small bits and bobs for crafting projects (Beads, sequins, wool, envelopes, pretty paper, stickers etc..) and we are able to quarantine these smaller items for the requisite time prior to using. We cannot accept fabric at present though. Looking ahead to the darker months, we are hoping to string up some fairy lights to make the yard marquee look pretty and inviting for the bubble outside in this area so if you have any spare lights we would love to put them to good use, particularly solar powered lights to be more eco-friendly.

Thank you for reading this newsletter. As usual, a copy will be available to read on the website as well. Please don't hesitate to phone or email me if you have any questions or concerns.

Warm regards,

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