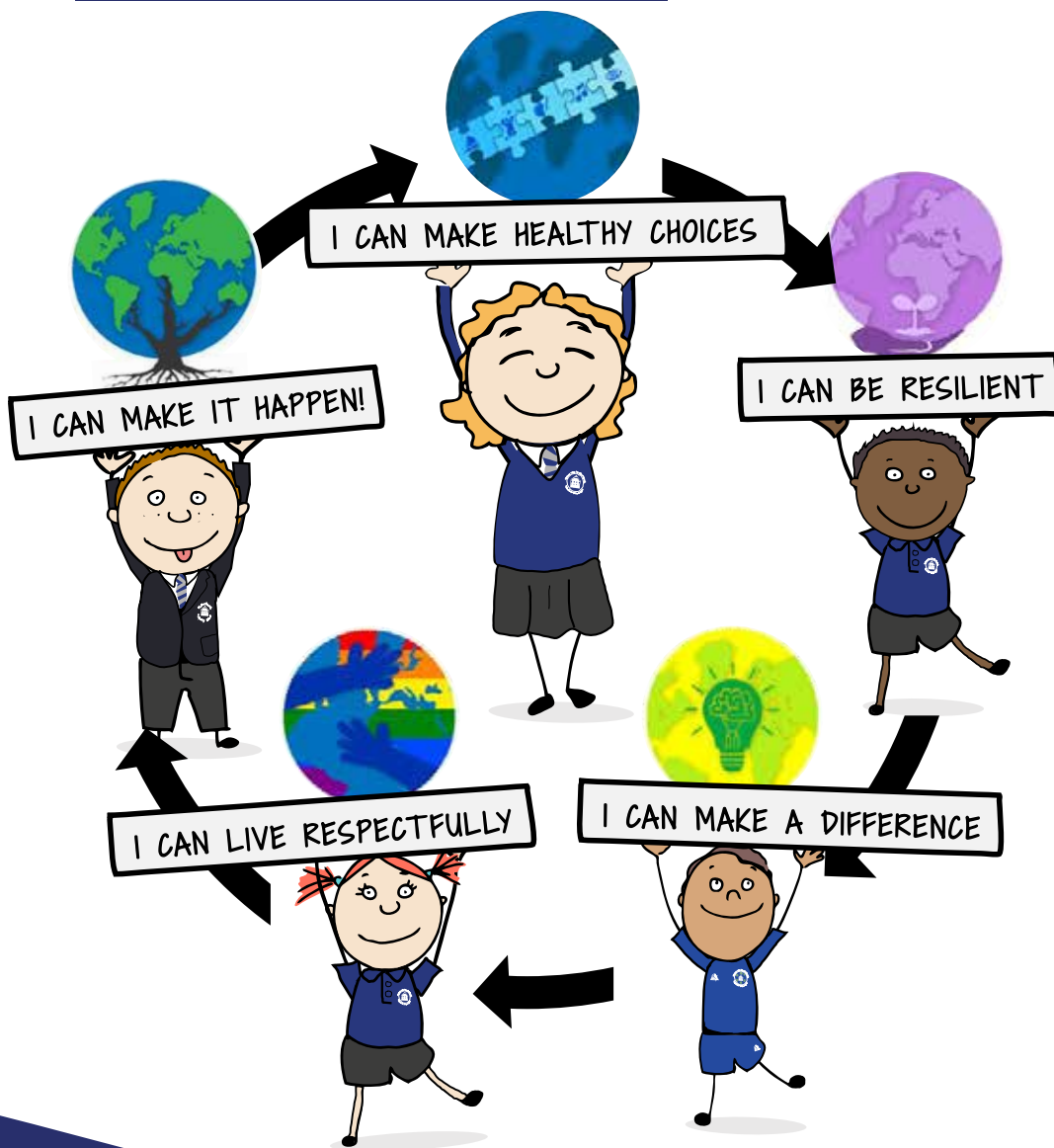




Welcome Booklet



Our Mission Possibles



Welcome

Thank you for choosing Newchurch Primary School. We are really excited to welcome you and your child in September and to share all the lovely learning experiences in our Early Years Foundation Stage.

From the moment your child starts school, our Reception teacher and Early Years team work hard to create a happy, safe and welcoming environment. Feeling that they belong is very important to us. We want every child to feel valued, listened to and secure, so they can settle quickly and enjoy being part of our school community.

Our classrooms and curriculum are carefully planned to support children of all abilities. Children are encouraged to play, learn and make friends together, helping them build confidence, independence and curiosity. When children feel they belong, they feel confident to explore, try new things and learn.

Children follow the national EYFS curriculum through a child led approach. This means learning is often based on children's interests and current topics, keeping it fun, engaging and meaningful. We also offer educational visits and outdoor learning opportunities to help develop a love of learning. The Early Years are an important time for your child, as these early experiences help shape how they feel about school and learning. Play is a key part of everything we do, supporting children to develop social skills, problem solving abilities and early reading and writing skills in a natural and enjoyable way.

We encourage children to become independent, confident learners and provide a well balanced curriculum that supports both their learning and personal development. If you have any questions that are not answered in this booklet, please feel free to contact the school on **01983 865210**. To help make your child's move from home to school as smooth as possible, we would appreciate you taking the time to read the information in this brochure.

We look forward to welcoming you and your family to Newchurch Primary School.

Thank you

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

How will the school keep my child safe?

Keeping children safe relies on safe premises, safe people and safe policies and practices. There will always be a Designated Safeguarding Lead in the school with a high level of expertise in safeguarding and child protection. All staff are appropriately trained and recognise that keeping children safe is their primary responsibility. We have fully qualified first aiders across the school and most of the Early Years staff have received paediatric first aid training.

How will you use images of my child?

There will be occasions when we may take photographs of the children at our school or be requested by the media to submit photos. You will be asked to provide consent as to how you would like these images to be used. We appreciate that some families may not wish their child to appear on social media and we will respect these wishes and ask our community to do the same. Consent can be changed at **anytime**.

Will you share my personal information?

As your child joins our school we will start to hold a lot of information concerning your family. In accordance with GDPR protocols we will keep this safe and secure and will only share with third parties in the event of safeguarding concerns or criminal proceedings. You will be asked to sign to confirm that you understand these principles.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

What will my child be learning in their first year at school?

The children will spend a large part of their day in continuous provision, during which they will be able to access a wide range of activities both inside and outside which will be predominantly led by their own interests. The EYFS environment has been carefully set up to encourage independence and self-selection of open-ended resources that include real objects and loose parts. This enables the children to use their creativity when playing and gives them the opportunity to reflect and adapt their play to suit their needs and interests.

Real tools will be on offer in provision, specifically in the snack table, home corner and digging area outside. The children will be taught health and safety rules which will allow them to manage 'risky play' in a safe environment. The children will be encouraged to help themselves before asking for help from others, thus giving them the foundations to become resilient independent learners, as they progress throughout the school. Phonics, writing, handwriting, reading and Maths are taught daily through short focus sessions. The children then have the opportunity to further embed these skills in continuous provision throughout the day.

What will my child need to bring to school?

Children will be expected to bring their school rucksack into school daily which should contain their reading book and reading journal. There is no need to bring pencil cases or other items from home as it will all be available in class during continuous provision. PE kits should be worn to school on allocated PE days. A named reusable water bottle should be brought in daily which can be refilled at our water stations. All items that came from home and all uniform items need to be clearly named please to ensure safe return if they are lost.






SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

When are school holidays?

We always publish our calendar dates on our school website. In addition to the holidays the school can take 5 INSET days which are used to ensure that the teachers receive additional training to provide the best educational experiences for your child. We publish these dates as soon as we are able.

Bank and Public Holidays 2026/2027

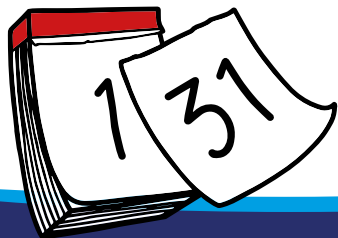
- | | |
|--|---|
| Christmas Day 25 December 2026 | Easter Monday 29 March 2027 |
| Boxing Day 26 December 2026 | May Day Holiday 3 May 2027 |
| New Year's Day Holiday 1 January 2027 | Spring Bank Holiday 31 May 2027 |
| Good Friday 26 March 2027 | Summer Bank Holiday 30 August 2027 |

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| * First day after break |  School Holidays |  Bank Holidays and National Holidays |
| # Last day before break |  Islandwide development day | |

Autumn Term 2026 starts on Tuesday 1 September 2026 and ends on Friday 18 December 2026 (Half term from Monday 19 October to Friday 30 October 2026)

Spring Term 2027 starts on Monday 4 January 2027 and ends on Thursday 25 March 2027 (Half term from Monday 15 February to Friday 19 February 2027)

Summer Term 2027 starts on Monday 12 April 2027 and ends on Wednesday 28 July 2027 (Half term from Monday 31 May to Friday 4 June 2027)



| SEPTEMBER 2026 | | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| M | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| T | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| W | 2* | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| T | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | |
| F | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | |
| S | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | |
| S | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | |

| OCTOBER 2026 | | | | | |
|--------------|---|----|-----|----|----|
| M | | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |
| T | | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |
| W | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| T | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| F | 2 | 9 | 16# | 23 | 30 |
| S | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| S | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | |

| NOVEMBER 2026 | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| M | 2* | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| T | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | |
| W | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | |
| T | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | |
| F | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | |
| S | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | |
| S | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |

| DECEMBER 2026 | | | | | |
|---------------|---|----|-----|----|----|
| M | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| T | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| W | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| T | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| F | 4 | 11 | 18# | 25 | |
| S | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | |
| S | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | |

| JANUARY 2027 | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| M | 4* | 11 | 18 | 25 | |
| T | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | |
| W | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | |
| T | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | |
| F | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| S | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| S | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |

| FEBRUARY 2027 | | | | | |
|---------------|---|-----|----|-----|--|
| M | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22* | |
| T | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | |
| W | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | |
| T | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | |
| F | 5 | 12# | 19 | 26 | |
| S | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | |
| S | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | |

| MARCH 2027 | | | | | |
|------------|---|----|----|-----|----|
| M | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| T | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| W | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| T | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25# | |
| F | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | |
| S | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | |
| S | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | |

| APRIL 2027 | | | | | |
|------------|---|----|-----|----|----|
| M | | 5 | 12* | 19 | 26 |
| T | | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |
| W | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| T | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| F | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| S | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | |
| S | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | |

| MAY 2027 | | | | | |
|----------|---|----|----|-----|----|
| M | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| T | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | |
| W | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | |
| T | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | |
| F | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28# | |
| S | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| S | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |

| JUNE 2027 | | | | | |
|-----------|---|----|----|----|----|
| M | | 7* | 14 | 21 | 28 |
| T | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| W | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| T | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | |
| F | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | |
| S | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | |
| S | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | |

| JULY 2027 | | | | | |
|-----------|---|----|----|----|-----|
| M | | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 |
| T | | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |
| W | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28# |
| T | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |
| F | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| S | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| S | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | |

| AUGUST 2027 | | | | | | |
|-------------|--|---|----|----|----|----|
| M | | 2 | 9 | 16 | 23 | 30 |
| T | | 3 | 10 | 17 | 24 | 31 |
| W | | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | |
| T | | 5 | 12 | 19 | 26 | |
| F | | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 | |
| S | | 7 | 14 | 21 | 28 | |
| S | | 1 | 8 | 15 | 22 | 29 |



How will my child be assessed in their first year at school?

Children will be assessed first and foremost using our observation system linked to SeeSaw, our online journal. At present, children will also take part in a baseline assessment within the first 6 weeks. This includes fun 'hands-on' activities to determine the children's starting points in Maths and English.

What if I am worried that my child may have additional learning needs?

Please talk to us if you feel your child has additional learning needs. If we need to discuss this further, we will talk to our SEND team for further advice and strategies.

Will my child have access to online technology?

Yes. We think it is important that children have access to technology from the very beginning of their education. They will have access to ipads to use for research purposes as well as some online learning portals. The children will also have the use of a large interactive whiteboard that allows them to explore using drawings, writing alongside learning games and visual images. We do have robust safety systems in place to protect children whilst online in school. We do ask that all new parents participate in a compulsory safety session prior to their children accessing the technology and this invitation will be sent to you directly. Feedback from previous attendees suggests that this session is invaluable in raising awareness.

Will my child be going on school visits during their Reception year?

Yes definitely! Children will have the opportunity to visit locations that enrich their curriculum focus. You will be sent a consent form to authorise that you are happy for your child to participate in such activities throughout the year. Unfortunately, without the necessary consent your child will not be able to participate, even in a simple walk around the immediate locality and so please sign and return the form to us.

Can my child take part in any extra curricular activities?

We operate an extensive range of after school clubs. These are accessible to children in Reception class at the start of the Spring Term. We find that our little learners are too tired to join in clubs when they first start school. Clubs are charged and they run for the duration of 10 weeks each term and are paid for via our cashless payment system.

A breakfast club is in operation daily and CoolKidz childcare also will be available until 4pm daily.



SCHOOL MEALS AND DRINKS



Does the school provide a hot meal for my child?

Currently the Government operates a Universal Free School Meal system for any child in either Reception Class, Year 1 or Year 2. This entitles your child to a free hot meal every day. Meals are served to the children at the table and good manners are promoted as part of our 'Dining Experience'. We have a fabulous chef to cook our meals on site. The menu is shared on our website and every week in the school newsletter.

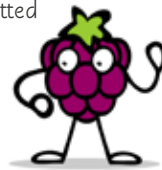
Some families may be entitled to additional benefits and we would encourage you to complete the Pupil Premium Registration Form if you are eligible as this will enable your child to have access to more financial support throughout their time in school.

Can I provide a packed lunch for my child?

We encourage children to bring a healthy lunch to school which could include items such as fruit, vegetables, pasta or rice salads, yoghurts.

We ask that children do not bring nuts to school as some children in school have allergies. Sweet products are also discouraged.

Healthy snacks are also available in the classroom and the children are permitted to have a drink of water or milk and a snack should they become hungry or thirsty during their day.



What happens at lunchtime?

We operate an active lunchtime where children are encouraged to play happily with their peers, supported by older pupils who act as fabulous role models. Our younger children are helped to learn lunchtime routines by their buddies, building confidence, friendships and independence.



Does the school offer milk?

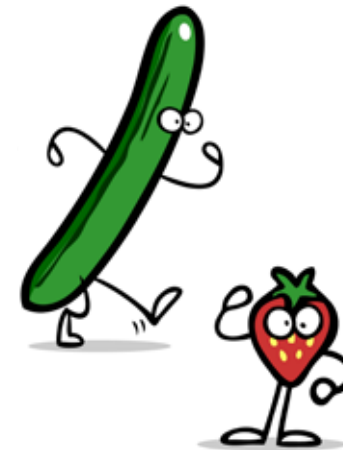
Parents are asked to subscribe School Milk, a free and subsidised scheme. You can register at www.coolmilk.com. This will ensure that we have a plentiful supply for our snack table all year round. There is no need to pay for milk once your child turns 5 years old as we will ensure that there is always enough milk to go around.

Will my child need a water bottle?

We strongly encourage all children to have their own refillable water bottle. Please ensure this is named and is in school on a daily basis. Children are at greater risk of dehydration than adults and so we will ensure that we give timely reminders for your children to have drinks throughout their day.

It is my child's birthday, can I send in sweet treats?

Whilst this is a lovely idea we are a healthy school and to keep all children safe and happy, please be mindful of allergies and potential upsets by leaving birthday treats at home rather than bringing them to share with the class.



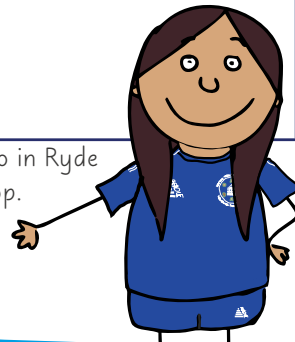
SCHOOL UNIFORM

What does my child need to wear to school?

It is our preference that our children wear the following to school, we have very few items with a personalised logo in order to make the uniform as affordable as possible for parents. As learning is play based in early years please make sensible, practical choices for your child.

| SCHOOL UNIFORM | PE KIT - WITH NEWCHURCH LOGO |
|--|---|
| Royal blue polo shirt with school logo | Royal blue PE shirt |
| Royal blue v necked jumper or cardigan with school logo | Royal blue PE Shorts |
| Grey trousers | Royal blue hoody , Tracksuit bottoms (optional for winter months) |
| Grey knee length skirt | Trainers |
| Optional grey shorts | |
| Optional blue gingham dress | We are currently reviewing our PE kit providers to ensure the best options for our pupils. An update will be provided well in advance of September once this has been confirmed by the Governors. Thank you for your understanding. |
| Grey, black or white socks or grey tights | |
| Black sensible school shoes, not trainers or fashion style | |
| Simple hair ties – no fancy bows or head bands please and only school colours. | |
| A pair of welly boots (any colour) to keep in school | |

All items with the school logo can be purchased from Kids and Co in Ryde all other items can be purchased from wherever you prefer to shop.



Can my child wear jewellery in school?

We ask that pupils do not wear jewellery in school apart from a simple watch without internet connectivity to aid their telling of time. Small stud earrings can be worn but these must be removed by pupils on PE days. If your child cannot remove their own earrings we ask that they do not wear them.

Schools are busy places and we find that jewellery can cause unnecessary accidents.



HEALTH ISSUES



What do I do if my child has prescribed medication?

If your child needs to have medication at school you must complete a form at the school office. We ask that medication at school is kept to a minimum and if antibiotics are prescribed for less than four times a day we suggest this can be organised out of school time.

Please note that staff will only administer prescribed medication and not over the counter remedies. All medication held on school premises is kept locked and secure.

What happens if my child has a medical/dental appointment?

We ask that you please try to arrange medical appointments outside of school time to avoid interrupting learning. If this is unavoidable we ask that you bring the appointment letter to the school office so it can be recorded on the register.

What happens if my child has an accident at school?

We have staff trained in paediatric first aid on site who can offer reassurance and first aid to pupils who are injured at school.

If the injury is significant we will always inform parents and advise of how we will proceed.

What if my child has a long term or chronic medical condition?

Please talk to us if your child has a chronic or long term illness. We will always aim to support your child and are able to create individual health care plans in conjunction with parents for children requiring specialist support or intervention. Serious allergies, diabetes and asthma related conditions will also be supported by an appropriate plan.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

How do you communicate with Parents?

We pride ourselves on our open door policy and welcome the views of parents. We use several forms of communication including; a text messaging service, emails, a weekly newsletter, updates through SeeSaw blogs on the school website and our dedicated school Facebook page. It is important that parents keep the school updated of any changes to contact details to facilitate this communication.

We also operate a Parent Forum to act as a critical friend to proposed aspects of school improvement. You would be very welcome to join this forum.

Mentoring Days are held twice a year and this is your opportunity to discuss the progress, effort and attainment of your child to date. If you have any immediate concerns please contact the school office who will be happy to assist.

What do I do if I need to see my child's teacher?

Quick communications can take place at drop off or pick up times. If a more lengthy meeting is required please contact the school office who will be happy to coordinate a convenient time for both parties.



Do I need to join the parent Whatsapp group?

Many year groups have a Parent WhatsApp group, which parents often find useful for sharing information quickly. These groups are organised by parents, not the school, and joining or leaving is completely optional.

How can parents get involved?

We welcome parental involvement in their child's education. We ask that you support reading at home by sharing a story for at least 10 minutes every day and sign our reading pledge.

You will also be asked to engage with the SeeSaw Online Learning Journal for your child which will give you access to photos, observations and comments relating to their learning experiences in school.

Our Friends Association (FONS) also welcome volunteers as they actively promote fundraising opportunities for our school. You don't have to do anything amazing but it would be amazing if you could do something to contribute as we really could not do without the additional monies raised by this fabulous team!

What do I do if I need to make a complaint?

Whilst we never set out to upset anybody there may be times when you feel you need to make a complaint. Please see the Federation Complaints Policy for how to do this. Please refrain from using social media to share any concerns you may have. We would always rather talk things through with you if we can and together we can hopefully resolve matters and keep everyone smiling.



ATTENDANCE AND TIMEKEEPING

What are the school opening and closing times?

To ease congestion in the village we operate a staggered start in the mornings and the children are encouraged to arrive promptly at 8.30 - 8.40am window.

Upon arrival they will be met at the grey gate by a member of staff. All children will be ready to pick up from 3.00 - 3.10pm window each day from the playground by EYFS outside area.

We offer a breakfast club provision from 7.45am to assist working parents who may require an earlier start. We also provide additional childcare via our 'Cool Kidz' club with an extended day until 4pm (Mon-Fri) to support our working families.

What do I do if my child is late to school?

If you are aware that you are running late, please ring ahead to inform us to prevent us worrying about you. Upon arrival to school please escort your child to the main school office whereby a member of the admin team can sign them in. Be sure to tell us at this time if your child requires a school meal. We will ensure your child safely gets to their classroom to enjoy the rest of their day.

What do I do if I am going to be late in collecting my child?

There are times when parents are late collecting their child from school, if this is going to happen we ask that school is kept informed and the expected delay is given.

If a child is not collected and no reason is given we will place them in an after school club for which a charge will be added.

If a child is still not collected, we will follow our Late Collection of Child Policy a copy of which can be found on our school website.



ATTENDANCE AND TIMEKEEPING

Can I send someone else to pick up my child?

Keeping children safe is our priority and we will only hand a child over to a person who has been added to an approved list by the parent. Should collection arrangements change please contact the school office to inform us at the earliest opportunity.

How do I know if my child should stay home from school?

As a parent you are the best person to know if your child is well enough to go to school and is able to learn. Should your child wake up with a cough, cold or headache our medical advice is to give them paracetamol (calpol etc) and send them to school. We will always contact you if your child's condition worsens or if we believe it is contagious such as chicken pox, vomiting etc.

To prevent spread of infection if your child experiences diarrhoea or vomiting we ask that they do not attend school for 24 hours after the last episode, and if your child suffers with both symptoms then we ask that your child remains at home for 48hrs.

How do I report my child's absence from school?

We would prefer you to notify us as soon as possible on the day of the absence. A message can be left on the school answer machine should no one be available to take your call.



Can I take my child on holiday in term time?

No. The Governing Body have opted to follow the IOW Local Authority guidance for school attendance and therefore the school is expected not to grant any period of leave during term time unless sufficient evidence to support exceptional circumstances is provided by the parent. The school is obliged to pass on any information regarding term time holidays to the Education Welfare team who may wish to take further action including the issuing of Truancy Penalty Notices. Please see our Registration and Attendance Policy on the school website for further information.



Contact

Executive Headteacher: Miss K Howarth BA (QTS), NPQH

Head of School: Mrs L Parkin BA (QTS), NPQH

Chairs of Governors: Mr I Watterson, Mrs H Berners

SENCo: Mrs E Kelly (contact via school main email address)

Office Administrator: Mrs P Knight

Newchurch Primary School, School Lane, Newchurch. Isle of Wight. PO36 0NL

Telephone: (01983) 865210

Email: office@newchurchprimaryschool.co.uk

www.newchurchprimaryschool.co.uk

