

New Close News

8th April 2022 HeadTeacher: Mrs L Kilminster

Dear Parents

As we end our term I would like to thank you for your continued support in all aspects of school life. It was an absolute pleasure to hold parents' evening in the school hall for the first time in nearly two years! It was lovely to share with parents progress made, targets for the future and personal achievements. All staff also reported to me what a positive experience it was for them too, with so many thoughtful comments and lots of praise for the school; this is wonderful to hear. We always value your contributions and work hard to ensure that there are good levels of communication between home and school. This is very much a partnership. We hope to build more opportunities in terms 5 and 6 for parents to be further involved in school life.

For the next couple of terms you will notice that we will be having a 'big push' on reading for pleasure at home and school. Reading daily can have a significant impact on your child's life chances and general well being. Mrs Ashton (English subject leader for New Close) has put together a guide to support reading at home (see below). She has also planned an exciting Easter holiday project for the children to get involved in - please do support this. I have talked to the children about this in assembly today.

I do hope you have a lovely Easter break and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 25th April.

Mrs Kilminster

Year 6 Leavers' Hoodies

We would like to mark the end of our Year 6 pupils' time at New Close with the opportunity to purchase a special leavers' hoodie.

If your child is in Year 6, you should have received an email from Mrs Wootten explaining how to go about ordering the hoodies from our supplier's on-line shop.

The deadline for orders is 02/05/22.

Pupil movement

If any of our families know that they will be moving out of the area over the coming months, please let Mrs Wootten in the office know.

AFTER-SCHOOL GARDENING CLUB



After Easter Mrs Cundick will be running a gardening club. She will be growing vegetables, flowers & creating a herb garden. If you have anything spare that would help our gardening club then any donations will be gratefully received.



Gardening club starts on 9th May for KS2 children - please sign up on Parentmail to attend.



You can now follow and like us on our Facebook page to keep up-to-date with what's happening in school...

www.facebook.com/newclose.school

Please remember to "like" our features!



Vacancies at schools in the Acorn Education Trust can be found on their website, [here](#)

Reading Matters

At New Close we know that reading is central to accessing the whole curriculum, and that reading for pleasure and knowledge can transform lives. Our pupils receive a rich reading diet in school, and we ask that parents and guardians support their child in practicing their reading at home too.

What will my child be reading at home?

Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and those in Year 2 who are still securing phonics knowledge, will be bringing home a Little Wandle phonically decodable book. Pupils will be reading this book in school for three sessions, then bringing the book home to practice the fluency (smoothness of reading) and prosody (expression) at home. They will also have a 'Sharing Book' for someone at home to read to them and enjoy together.

Pupils who are secure in phonics in Year 2, and KS2 pupils will have a Progress book which is matched to their reading ability and a Choice book from the class library. The Choice books will be chosen in collaboration with the class teacher to ensure the book is going to be appropriate.

How often should my child read at home?

It is expected that EVERY child reads at home. This should be as frequently as possible (ideally every day), but as a minimum, EYFS and KS1 pupils should be reading at home 5 times a week and KS2 pupils should be reading at home 6 times a week.

For our more confident readers, this may be reading to themselves but with discussion to an adult. For our younger readers we encourage you to hear them read their phonic book and share their 'Sharing' book. We encourage parents to sign your child's reading record book and record any comments, to help to develop the link between school and home and highlight progress or concerns that you might have. Teachers check the reading record books on a regular basis to monitor the frequency of pupils' reading, and to ensure they remain on the appropriate Progress books for their reading level.

How can I help my child with their reading at home? Reading with TRUST

T ake turns to make plans and predictions before reading	<i>'I wonder if the little bear will get lost, what do you think?' 'Do you think he's lost his hat? I think his friend the bear might find it.'</i>
R ecap to check ideas and understanding as your child reads	<i>'You said that the mummy owl would come back. Where had she been?' 'Why do you think the little boy was frightened?'</i>
U se encouragement and praise to keep children engaged in reading	<i>'You really read that with lots of expression – well done!' 'You did a great job explaining what happened last time'</i>
S hare prior knowledge and experiences that link to the book	<i>'Have you learnt about penguins at school? Where do they live?' 'That programme told us lots about baby animals, let's find a book to read about them.'</i>
T une-in and listen to your child be curious about their interests	<i>'I love reading dinosaur books with you. I really want to know more about your favourite dinosaur.' 'Show me your favourite book. What did you like best about it?' 'Let's find something similar in the library.'</i>



Easter Reading Competition



The Challenge: Read a **NEW** book this holiday and create a 'Book in a Box'

PRIZES FOR THE MOST CREATIVE BOXES!

What do I have to do?

Read a book you have never read before over the Easter holidays. It could be a school book, one from home or the town library. It could be fiction or non-fiction.

Then—create a 'Book in a Box' - find a box and decorate it with ideas, picture or objects that appeared in the book! Search 'Book in a Box' on google images for loads of inspirational ideas

What can I use to decorate my box?

Pictures you have drawn based on the book/maps of places in the book/objects from around the house that appear in the book (check with a grown up first!, models of characters, etc.

You could use wrapping paper, tin foil, playdoh, newspaper—anything you can find around the house!

Check out these brilliant examples!
What will you come up with?



Bring your box in by the 29th of April



Changes to measures and guidance for managing COVID-19 from Friday 1 April

From the 1st April the government has removed some COVID-19 restrictions and introduced new guidance as set out in its Living with COVID-19 plan.

Pupils are no longer expected to routinely test for COVID-19 to attend school. However if your child has any of the following symptoms below then they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people where they can.

- continuous cough
- high temperature, fever or chills
- loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell
- shortness of breath
- unexplained tiredness, lack of energy
- muscle aches or pains that are not due to exercise
- not wanting to eat or not feeling hungry
- headache that is unusual or longer lasting than usual
- diarrhoea, feeling sick or being sick

They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend. If a child has mild symptoms such as a runny nose, slight cough who are otherwise well they should continue to go to school.

Children and young people aged 18 and under who have a confirmed positive COVID test (LFD or PCR) will be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for **three** days. Adults are advised to stay at home for five days.

Children and young people who usually go to school, college or childcare and who live with someone who has a positive COVID-19 test result should continue to attend as normal.

Schools will keep in place baseline infection and prevention and control measures to help manage the spread of infection. Schools will:

- Encourage pupils to take up the offer of the national vaccination programme including COVID-19 and flu
- Ensure occupied spaces are well-ventilated and let fresh air in
- Reinforce good hygiene practices such as hand-washing and cleaning

From April healthy 5-11 year olds will also be offered the COVID vaccine. Vaccinations will take place outside of schools in vaccination centres, pharmacies, GPs and walk-in centres. Parents of 5-11 year olds will receive a letter from the NHS with further information. [Online bookings](#) for 5-11 year olds will open in April.

Wiltshire Council has also shared more general advice which you can read here - [COVID-19 restrictions removed and new guidance from Friday - Wiltshire Council](#)

Wiltshire Council is asking people to continue to be courteous of others with local case rates still high, by wearing a face covering in indoor crowded spaces, practising good hand and respiratory hygiene and continuing to stay at home if they are unwell to limit the transmission of all infectious diseases.

Free universal symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for the general public in England will end however limited free COVID-19 testing for vulnerable groups and some health and social care workers will continue to be made available nationally as per the government's policy. Wiltshire Council's seven lateral flow test collection sites have now closed as required through this national policy change.

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Dates for your Diary - Terms 5 & 6

- **25th April** - return to school for all children
- **w/c 25th April** - After-school clubs continue
- **28th April** - swimming starts for Otter class
- **28th & 29th April** - Nursery parent meetings with Mrs Pyke
- **2nd May** - Bank holiday (school closed)
- **30th May-3rd June** - half term holiday
- **6th June** - return to school for all pupils
- **7th June** - David Wiltshire Photography (class photo's)
- **9th June** - school nurse: Yr6 Height/weight checks and Reception height/weight/vision/hearing checks
- **w/c 11th July** - Fox class residential trip to Stone Farm, Devon
- **22nd July** - last day of term

New Close Breakfast Club

7.45 am- start of school day

Flexible drop off

Breakfast provided

£4 per session

To book please access Parentmail - bookings must be made at least 8 days before the requested session*.

*** Parentmail will not be available during the Easter holidays.**

Parking

A reminder - please do not park or drop off in the lane or in the school car park.

The car park is for staff, school visitors and disabled access only. Thank you

New Close Nursery

Are you looking for a nursery place for your child?

We are taking applications for children who are due to start nursery in September 2022.

If your child turns 3 this academic year then you are warmly invited to book a show-around of our school and nursery.

Please contact the school office for more details.

School Uniform

We encourage our children to take pride in their appearance and feel that this in turn shows pride in their school.

Please support us with this.

Trainers should only be worn on PE days.

Red jumpers/cardigans should be worn (not other jumpers/hoodies)

Extreme hairstyles are not acceptable

Thank you

Timings of the school day

The gates open at 8.50am

The school day starts at 8.55am - please ensure that your child is in class by this point.

Gates will be closed by 9am

Please report any PCR test results to:

lk@newclose.wilts.sch.uk and office@newclose.wilts.sch.uk

This can be at any time over the weekend or week day. You may be contacted for further information.

Stars of the Week



Rabbit: Olivia, Bella, Hawk

Squirrel: Ninamma, Talayo

Otter: Nogen, Tyler

Fox: Anya, Archie C, Max

Reading Races



Reading Race 1:

Reading Race 2:

Reading Race 3:

Reading Race 4:

Reading Race 5: Pranita

House points



Wilton:
121 points



Stourhead:
77 points



Longleat:
91 points

THE WINNERS:
WILTON

Pupil movement

If any of our families know that they will be moving out of the area over the coming months, please let Mrs Wootten in the office know.

School lunches

Please use Parentmail to order your child's meals. You will need to book at least 8 days in advance. **However, Parentmail will not be available during the Easter holidays.**

- Free for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 under the government's Universal Infant Free School Meals Scheme.
- £2.30 for children in years 3, 4, 5 and 6

If you wish to cancel a school meal please contact the school office by 9.00am on the day in question.

WE ARE A NUT-FREE SCHOOL

Just a reminder that New Close school and nursery is a nut-free and peanut-free zone.

We now have 2 children with nut allergies and it is **essential that packed lunches don't contain any nuts or peanuts (or products containing them).**

We would appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

FREE and SUBSIDISED COOL MILK

A reminder to all parents/guardians that school is able to provide free milk each day to all children under five and to those children entitled to statutory free school meals. Milk can also be provided to children aged five or over at a subsidised cost. Our school milk scheme is administered by Cool Milk. To register your child for school milk, please visit <https://www.coolmilk.com/> or ask in the school office.

If your child is in our nursery, please contact the office to arrange and do not order directly through Cool Milk.

**Goodbye and Good Luck to two of our families who are moving out of the area:
Thomas and Lily in Bunny class.**

Fruit/Veg

We are able to offer free fruit/veg to children in reception, years 1 & 2. **Please let us know if you do not want us to offer fruit to your child.**

EVENTS AT WARMINSTER SWIMMING POOL



Easter Holidays Intensive Swimming Lessons

Tuesday 12th - Thursday 14th April 2022	
Technique Clinic Front + Back/Breast/Fly	9:00am - 9:45am
Skills Clinic	10:00am - 10:45am
Distance Awards	9:00am -11:00am

Tuesday 19th April - Friday 22nd April 2022			
Ducklings	9:00-9:30am		
Stage 1	9:30-10:00am	Poolside Diving	9:00-9:45am (FULL)
Stage 1	10:00-10:30am	Stage 5/6	10:00-10:30am
Stage 2	10:30-11:00am	Stage 3/4	10:30-11:00am

**Please contact reception to book a place or e-mail Becky for more information:
becky-jane.saye@wiltshire.gov.uk**

Payment on booking required.
Skills Clinic & Technique Clinics are for stage 5's and over. £18.45
Adult required in the water with Ducklings.
Distance awards – only pay for badges/certificates earned.
Poolside Diving, Ducklings + Stages £24.60

Wiltshire Council