



Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to start by saying a massive welcome back to all of our children and their families. It was lovely to see so many smiling, excited children literally bounce through the doors last Wednesday and I think I saw quite a lot of smiles on the parents' faces too! It has certainly been a very strange Spring and Summer; let's hope this Autumn starts to bring a small amount of normality back to our lives.

Thank you to everyone for adhering to the new rules and staggered start and end times. There were a few small teething problems on the first couple of days but it now seems to run like clockwork already.

I would like to say a huge welcome to all of our new Ducklings and Wagtails. We are all super proud of how they have settled in, especially considering the fact we were unable to offer our normal transition in June and July. It seems like they have been part of our school family forever already and I am sure you would like to join me in thanking the staff in these bubbles for all of the hard work they have put in over the summer to ensure the rooms and permissible activities are welcoming and safe.

The rest of the children who have come back, whether that be since the middle of July or the middle of March have also been amazing and settled back into school life as if they had never been away—we are super proud of you all. I am sure the children have talked to you about how the classrooms look different to keep everyone safe and again this is due to the hard work of the teachers so I'm sure you would like me to thank them on your behalf.

I'd like to say a special welcome to Oliver, Evie, Lewie, Elsie and Tyler who have joined our schools this term.

You may have noticed that the big posters at the school gates have been amended. We have followed government guidelines issued on Tuesday 8th September that you do not have to keep children at home if they only have cold-like symptoms as long as they are well enough to attend. To clarify the current situation: **if anyone in your household shows symptoms of COVID 19 (temperature, cough or a change in their sense of smell or taste, the whole household must go into isolation. The person with symptoms should then arrange for a test by phoning 119. If that test comes back negative then everyone in the household can go back to work or school. If it is positive the whole household must complete the 14 day isolation period.** Please ring and ask for advice if you are unsure about anything and be assured that you will not be penalised for attendance as we have a special code to put in the register.

You may have seen on Twitter that we were able to begin Forest School at both schools this week. If you don't follow us yet, please do by searching for [Austrey_ce](#) and [newton_ce](#). I am unable to put photos with children on at the moment until we have had chance to collect all of the photograph permissions forms but that will start as soon as we can. We are able to do this safely by making sure we stay outside with children from Y3 to Y6 only. Although the children will remain in their class bubbles whilst inside for the foreseeable future we can have secondary bubbles that are the two classes in the Key Stage as long as they are outside and socially distancing whenever possible. As a result of this and the brilliant way the children are responding to the new rules, we feel we will be able to begin our after school programme in a few weeks. I am sure you understand we need to start small and build this up gradually. **At Austrey there will be a multi sports club run by Mr Kavanagh on Monday from 3.20pm to 4.20pm for children in Ducklings and Robins only. On Thursday we will replicate this for children in Owls and Kingfishers. Mrs Harvey will send more details shortly. At Newton Regis, we can do the same with Mr Duffy but reception children in Ducklings and Harlequin will be on a Monday 3.15pm to 4.15pm and King Eider and Mandarin will be on a Tuesday at the same time. Mrs Pick will send more details shortly.** This provision will be reviewed regularly and I would like to reassure you that if guidelines change these will be cancelled and you will receive a full refund.



The Widow's Mite

Mark 12:41-44:

You will have seen on Seesaw that our Christian value of this half term is GENEROSITY which I introduced with the story of "The Widow's mite" during collective worship (virtually) on Monday. I have been in contact with the Church and it is extremely unlikely that we will be able to attend a service for Harvest but it would be great if we could still help those less fortunate than ourselves and bring in donations for the local foodbank as explained on the letter.



I hope you all have a great weekend. Please remember that we are always here if you need to ask or clarify anything. You can message class teachers on Seesaw or contact the office.

Newton Regis : admin@newtonregis.heartwoodmat.co.uk or 01827 830220

Austrey: admin@austrey.heartwoodmat.co.uk or 01827 830248

To the children...

It has been fantastic for me to finally meet you all and I am trying very hard to learn all of your names. You have all been very welcoming and friendly when I have seen you and understand that I can only come into your classroom for very short amount of time (socially distanced of course) or mostly I just have to stand in the doorway! I hope you are enjoying being back at school with your teachers and all of your friends . We are certainly very happy to have you back! You are following the new rules to keep everyone safe brilliantly and everyone in school is really proud of you all. Remember , if there is anything that you need to ask or are not sure about anything, there are plenty of adults in school or at home who you can talk to.

Have a lovely weekend and I will see you all on Monday morning for our next virtual collective worship.

