

COVID SAFE CHRISTMAS

Hello and welcome...

... to our termly e-newsletter! Don't forget to visit our [website](#) or click any of the many links which will take you directly to the blogs and photos on the website for each event and article.

This term we are thrilled to have the majority of our children and staff back in school. It has been different, because of COVID, but we have been determined to make sure all of the Newfield Family is able to benefit from the best opportunities that we can offer - so it's been business as usual - with the odd hiccup or different way of working - we hope it is working for everyone?!

EXCITING RETURN TO SCHOOL

We continue to try to support families remotely and to support [learning at home](#) and our ever popular [YouTube channel](#).

This term has seen over [20 new children](#) and many new staff join school, and lots of events, all held in a 'COVID safe' way - so read on to find out more.

Another exciting initiative is that the School for [Autism](#) at Newfield is now a training hub for the [Autism Education Trust](#). This means that we will be training staff across BwD and beyond - so helping even more children and families - brilliant!

We continue to be so proud of our children, families and staff

SHARING ACTIVITIES WITH NEW FRIENDS

- everyone has coped so well in these challenging times and we continue to work together to be successful and strong.

Always trying to innovate, we even managed to squeeze in another quality mark - for [MOVE!](#)

Thanks as always for all of your help, commitment and support for school.

We wish you a very restful, happy holidays - if you are celebrating a COVID Christmas, we hope it is special for you and your family.

See you in 2021...



Message from the Headteacher, Rik

Well what a strange year we have had due to the COVID pandemic! I continue to be amazed by our wonderful, resilient children and the dedication of our staff. We have re-opened in September and welcomed back most of our children, but it has been a challenge for everyone - and I appreciate the understanding that you have shown during this time, pulling together as a family should.

The children in school are having a different, but still fantastic, experience with lots of opportunities to learn, make progress and be happy. Those children at home have also had input and I am really pleased with the developments that we have made to ensure that Newfield continues to support families and children to thrive - thank you for the positive feedback from yourselves.

I'm sorry that we haven't been able to welcome you into school at the many events that usually take place - but be assured, as soon as we have got rid of COVID, we will happily welcome you back once again.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who plays their part in making Newfield the magical place it is, all the staff and children, and the families for your continued support.

I wish you all a very happy and joyful Christmas and look forward to a more settled year in 2021.

Rik

SPECIAL EVENTS

This term we have taken part in number of charity events, raising awareness and money to help others...

In September, we started off the year's fundraising in traditional manner, wearing denim to celebrate [Jeans for Genes](#) day and raising money and awareness for children with genetic conditions.

This term saw the launch of our working with the [National Schools Breakfast Program](#) - which enables us to provide a [healthy breakfast](#) for all of our children every day - we are currently doing this by sending home packs of cereal, porridge and bagels every fortnight - if you are missing out, please get in touch to ask for more details!

At the end of October classes celebrated [Halloween](#) with lots of treats, some dressing up and some spooky fun!

In November we had a week of special [bonfire](#) related activities in school - lots of [fireworks](#), [sparkles](#) and [fun](#) involved! We also commemorated [Remembrance Day](#) in a different way, as we could not come to gather for an assembly, but it was still poignant.

We then went spotty again, taking part in lots of fun events with some unexpected visitors for [Children in Need](#).

In December we tried to treat our staff and make sure they focussed on their [wellbeing](#) too, because in order to be able to support the children, they need to look after themselves!

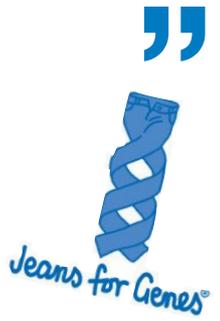
INTRODUCING EDDIE...



As many of you know we are fortunate to have Baxter, the PAT dog, coming into school with his trained handler, to spend time with the children, and this has really supported the wellbeing of pupils and staff in school.

This term we have [welcomed another dog](#) to Newfield - Eddie, who belongs to the Headteacher and who is being trained to be a therapy dog.

Eddie has been spending time in school, to become familiar with the school environment, before he is introduced to children and staff to support their learning and wellbeing.



Delivering the National School Breakfast Programme



BACK TO SCHOOL

RETURN TO LEARNING - POST COVID LOCKDOWN

We are so happy to have been able to welcome back the majority of our pupils and staff and as promised we have been doing our best to provide each of them with the very best opportunities to learn - either in the school, or at home.

Teachers have assessed children and been working on promoting learning in several areas - Communication; Physical skills; Positive behaviour; Social skills; Independence; Access to learning; Sensory regulation - based on individual children's needs.



We have had a big focus on making sure that children have the chance to communicate, with many interventions going on, as well as [School Council](#) and [Rights Respecting School Steering Group](#) meetings - with a difference as some of these have now become virtual!

After such a long time at home, we wanted everyone to think about their mental health and emotional wellbeing - so have focused on this throughout [Optimistic October](#), particularly on [World Mental Health Day](#), with an exclusive [Art Exhibition](#).

On [European Day of Language](#) we were going all over the world to [enrich the learning](#) - it was a fun day!

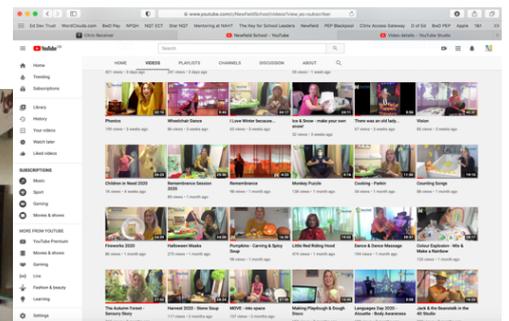
There have been many [curriculum activities](#) going on - have a look on the blog and you can see what the [children have been up to](#) in school.

We were also really pleased to receive the [MOVE](#) - Movement Opportunities Via Education - Gold level quality mark for the work we do helping children to develop their physical skills - walking, balancing, sitting, bike riding. Each week we have a [MOVER of the week](#), celebrating lots of fabulous moving independently!



LEARNING AT HOME

We have equally been committed to supporting those children who are [not able to return to school](#) just yet, with teacher Danielle offering a range of live and recording sessions, as well as [providing equipment and resources](#) for use at home - we have very positive feedback from families about this work - and are happy to get any new suggestions about what you would like - so check out the [YouTube Channel](#) and get in touch!



This year due to COVID, not being able to have visitors in school and the need to socially distance, Christmas has been very different in school - but it's still been brilliant!

There were Christmas themed WOW events in the studios in [School for Autism](#) and [School for SEND](#).

All our classrooms, halls and Atriums were decorated - we even managed to win a [Christmas Classroom decorating competition!](#)

Classes made videos to send home to parents, to replace the usual Nativity and concerts. [Baxter & Julie](#) held virtual Christmas parties.

Some of our older pupils ran a [Christmas Enterprise](#) scheme.



Pupils also enjoyed [Christmas Jumper day](#) and Christmas Lunch; Christmas parties in classes, an online [Carol Concert](#) and virtual visits from Father Christmas!

We still had a special collection for [Christmas for the Blackburn Foodbank](#), to think about helping other people at this special time of year and we took cards to Queens Lodge to share some Christmas cheer with the residents!

Christmas Celebrations

GOODBYE JANIS!

At the end of this term, we have said goodbye to our swimming teacher, Janis Bennett - who has worked at Newfield, Dame Evelyn Fox and Brockhole schools since 1984! She has brought pleasure to hundreds of children in the hydro pool - she is retiring and we will all miss her very much - thank you Janis, we wish you a [Happy Retirement!](#)



We've had several donations this Christmas - Morrisons supermarket in Blackburn gave some [chocolate selection boxes](#), supply agency Breakthrough in Education sent prizes to children in class 5 as winners of their Christmas Classroom competition and the [Book Trust](#) presented us with some lovely new books for the library!

THANK YOU!



Christmas Holiday

School closes:

Friday 18th December 2020

School re-opens to staff:

Monday 4th January 2021

School re-opens to pupils:

Tuesday 5th January 2021

Spring Half Term Holiday

School closes:

Friday 12th February 2021

School re-opens:

Monday 22nd February 2021

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