

The Newcroft Club

Newnham Croft Primary School, Chedworth Street,

CAMBRIDGE CB3 9JF

NEWSLETTER: November 2020



Dear Parents,



Season's greetings to you all! The end of this surreal year is rapidly approaching and at the club we are doing our best to inject a bit of safe but sparkly festive cheer into the place. The fairy lights kindly donated by a couple of families following my appeal in the previous newsletter have been put to use, and this week the red bubble had the honour of decorating the Christmas tree which is an exciting activity that the children absolutely love. Usually the tree would have its decorations continually adjusted by different children throughout the time it is on display but of course this is now forbidden and so the tree question was posing rather a challenge. Playworker Molly then had the bright idea of placing it inside the playhouse which is currently not in use as it is too tricky to keep clean to standards required by covid preventative measures. The result is that the playhouse has been transformed into a wonderful Christmas house and the children are so enjoying being able to peer inside and see the twinkling tree with all its decorations, plus our little nativity set and the golden papier mache reindeers peeking out from the upstairs window.

Suitable clothing: The Christmas house certainly brightens up the yard area, however it cannot be denied that it is getting very cold out there and in the playground where we are spending a lot of time these days. As you know the bubbles take turns in the community room areas, spending a week in one area before moving to the next. Two of the spaces are inside and then there is the yard area under the marquee kindly erected by the school. This space has excellent lighting but as it is exposed to the elements, warm clothing is an absolute necessity, particularly as we are not allowed to use or provide cushions, blankets or any soft furnishings at all.

Following our observations of children playing, we would like to recommend that they come dressed in multiple layers of vest, top(s), a jumper or fleece and then a waterproof/wind proof top coat or jacket which can be put on if needed. The reason for the layers is that children who run around a lot get too hot in a single thick coat, or they feel the thickness and weight impedes movement so they remove it and then they may forget to put it on again when they stop running around. A woolly hat/ balaclava is a good idea too as we lose so much heat through our heads and fingerless gloves will help keep them warm when sedentary and mean that they can still comfortably create and make, draw, write or read. Some fingerless gloves have pull over mittens attached and I always think this offers excellent versatility. When it comes to scarves though, I have lost track of how many scarves we have collected in lost property over the years- so, scarves are an optional extra in my opinion.

Also, please make all these items easily identifiable, ideally with your child's name or initials written on the item somewhere. It has been impressive to see how well the children are coping with the responsibility of having to remember to take their all their stuff home with them at the end of the day now that parents cannot enter the room to do it for them. We have had very few items being forgotten and left at the end of the day- Bravo!

Christmas Holiday club: We intend to run our Christmas holiday programme from Monday 21st December - Wednesday 23rd December and Monday 4th January. (We will be closed between Christmas Eve and New Year) We have a mix of varied art and craft and cooking activities planned as usual well as plenty of opportunities for free play with friends both indoors and outside.

Please could you let me know if you are interested in a space at this holiday club by Wednesday 2nd December if possible? This will give us time to make the necessary bubble and staffing arrangements or, if uptake is too low to make opening viable, it will mean families who have already booked will have enough time to make alternative arrangements. Confirmation of opening will be given by Friday 4th December and in the case of January 4th being oversubscribed; priority will be given to families who have also booked spaces in the days before Christmas.

Thank you for reading this newsletter. All our recent newsletters can be found on our website along with other information about registration and booking, school term and holiday club dates and other useful stuff! If you have any comments or questions, please do get in touch using any of the following ways:

- Phone/text us on mobile no. 07812798195
- email Maureen at thenewcroftclub@gmail.com
- email Maureen via the contact form on our website www.thenewcroftclub.co.uk

Keep warm and stay safe,
Maureen