

The Newcroft Club

Newnham Croft Primary School, Chedworth Street,
CAMBRIDGE CB3 9JF

NEWSLETTER: October 2021

Dear Parents,

A big welcome to our new families who have joined the club this year. It is also wonderful getting to finally meet the new Reception children now that they have started attending full days at school and are feeling settled enough in their daily routines to come to afterschool club as well. Commiserations if you are still on the Afterschool club waiting list. However, please rest assured that you are slowly climbing up it and do please feel free to email us and check on progress from time to time. Knowing that you are still interested in the space is helpful to us as well and means we can keep the lists updated and relevant.

General Communications: Please inform both the school and us (e.g. copy us in on an email sent to the office) if your child will not be attending for any reason such as illness, doctor appointments, early collection straight from school, play dates with friends etc. Please also inform us at the start of term if your child will be attending any of the clubs put on by the school and let us know whether they will be coming to us afterwards. This saves us a lot of unnecessary time spent looking for children so that we can reconcile the registers and prevents any upset and confused children worrying that they do not know where they are meant to be. Each class teacher has a list of which children are expected to attend Afterschool club each day, but the afterschool club is run separately to school and general information such as this is not shared.

For children going home on their own from the club on a regular basis we require parents to fill in a permission slip. This applies to Year 5 and Year 6 also. Forms can be picked up from the club or sent to you via email. One off permission may be given via a phone call on the day.

Information updates: Can we request that you let us know when your contact details change as well



as anything else pertaining to information held by us on your child's registration form. This could be newly diagnosed allergies and medical conditions, new concerns or anxieties, new emergency contacts or anything really that you think we should know about so that we may safeguard your child to the best of our ability and help them to gain the most out of their time at the club!

Staffing News: As we strive to get used to things 'post bubbles' it has been especially nice to welcome Sydney back again as his original plans for this topsy turvy year have had to be postponed. We have also welcomed Amelie, Hector, and Jess to the team. They are each working a couple of afternoons a week at the Afterschool club whilst also studying at college. All three of them have a long association with the club having been at the club as children, and in the case of Hector and Jess then returning as volunteers. It is always a bonus when we can recruit past attendees as they have an innate understanding of our ethos and are able to draw on their past happy experiences at the club to inspire our current club members. We are delighted that they have chosen to join the team. Zanna has now moved on to university, but we may still see her during some of the longer holiday clubs.

Lost Property:

We have a mantra at leaving time: 'Bag, Bottle, Coat' Soon we know we will likely need to expand it to 'Bag, Bottle, Coat, Gloves, Scarf, Beanie, Earmuffs....' So, we are really trying to encourage the children to think and gather their possessions before they walk out of the door. Please help us by having a cursory check as well before leaving and by labelling all items. We simply do not have any space to store lost property so items left uncollected after 10 days will be passed on to a charity shop (clothing) or disposed of (water bottles and lunch boxes).

Holiday club: Thank you to families who have signed up for this half term Monday 25th October – Friday 31st October. Some spaces remain still so do let us know if you would like to reserve a space. We are operating as normal now (no bubbles), so half day bookings are once again an option and there are no restrictions on the amount of days you need to book.

All dates for 2021/2022 holiday clubs can be found on the website. These include Newnham Croft published inset/training days.

And Finally – New Accredited Playwork training!

Play is finally starting to gain some recognition as being a valuable part of childhood and there is some amazing new training available for us playworkers. This is known as the PARS model of practice and, following group training over lockdown we have recently started to integrate this method into our daily work. PARS is the brainchild of Dr Shelly Newstead and it teaches playworkers to ‘articulate, develop and evaluate’ our work on an ongoing basis by putting into accessible language all the theories and techniques of playwork and providing us with methods to use in day to day practice so that we gain greater perception and awareness about how we as adults impact upon the play space and upon the children’s play itself. It provides techniques and teaching to help us ‘add adult’ into this child’s world appropriately and not gratuitously by using what Shelly terms ‘continuous reflexive practice’ so that children may play as freely as possible within the constraints of our setting and at the same time remain safe. We are finding that it is highly inspirational, and we are enjoying using the model as we make play observations and then dissect what we have observed- different play types, the play cycle itself, if and why we intervened, how the play ended, what we could do differently next time and so on.

Adam is currently studying for his Level 4 accreditation in PARS so he is our guide through this somewhat complex and thought provoking philosophy!

Thank you for reading this newsletter. As usual, a copy will be available to read on the website as well. Please don’t hesitate to phone or email me if you have any questions or concerns.

Warm regards,

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Some fun with wooden blocks and shapes:

Endless variations!

