



# 'The Buzz'

What's happening at Neston Primary School

21 January 2021

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## "Well Done"

My thanks and congratulations to all those parent, grand-parents, carers and relatives who are helping the children to learn at home during this current lockdown. We are aware that this is a challenging time for us all. We are trying to use on-line learning more during this lockdown (at the insistence of the Dept. for Education). We have less members of staff in school during the current lockdown, so we struggle to produce paper copies of work as we did in the past.



## Staff Changes

Last week, Mr Lee Crane left Neston Primary school to pursue other interests. I would like to thank Mr Crane for all he did to maintain the fabric of the school building, grounds and the bus conversion. We wish him well for the future. Good luck to you!

Following the interviews to find a replacement Site Officer, we are pleased to welcome back Mr Jonny Rudd to school. We wish him well.



## Free School Meal Vouchers

Our caterers provide school meal parcels for the first two weeks of this lockdown. The Government then changed their plans and we are now awaiting vouchers. When they arrive, I will ask that parents/carers collect the vouchers from school



## Circumstances Change

During the pandemic, many people have been negatively impacted by the situation we find ourselves in.

If your children are not entitled to free school meals but you are in need of support - in the form of a food hamper - please contact school. Your request will be handled confidentially and we will do our best to help.

If your circumstance have changed and you feel you may be entitled to free school meals now, PLEASE just go on line and complete the form.. It is quick and the results are given straightaway.

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/school-meals.aspx>

Or search for Cheshire West Free School Meals on Google or a similar search engine



## Poorly Pupils

If your child is ill, please e-mail the child's teacher so they know and then then teachers aren't expecting work from a child who is too poorly to complete the work



## Letters and School Payments

If uploading work via School Spider Platform is tricky, please take a photo of the work and e-mail it to the class e-mail address. Teachers can then provide some feedback..



## Laptops for schools

The Government have promised to provide every school with a few laptops that can be distributed to families who may be struggling to access on-line learning.

The laptops are welcomed. The number of laptops provided are fewer than the demand we have - not everyone who needs a laptop will be able to borrow one ☹. In addition, the delivery of the laptops has been slower than expected. Once we have the laptops in school, we will get them out to pupils who need them. I wish we had more laptops to offer pupils. I know how frustrating access to on-line learning can be for some families.



## Access to the Internet

### Get internet access for 'disadvantaged' children – (Those children entitled to Free School meals)

The Department for Education is working in partnership with mobile network operators to help schools support disadvantaged pupils in years 3 to 11 who do not have a fixed broadband connection and rely on a mobile internet connection to access remote education.

This scheme temporarily increases data allowances for mobile phone users on certain networks. This is so that disadvantaged children can access remote education if their face-to-face education is disrupted, and they do not have access to broadband at home.

Who can get help?

Schools in England can request mobile data increases for disadvantaged children and young people in years 3 to 11 who are not able to attend school due to national lockdown restrictions. They must meet all 4 of these criteria:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education
- be entitled to free school meals

Which mobile networks can increase data? Children with access to a mobile phone on one of the following networks might be able to benefit: EE O2 Sky Mobile SMARTY Tesco Mobile Three Virgin Mobile Vodafone Other providers will join the scheme at a later stage

Requests can only be made by someone at the school - For each request, we need to know:

- the name of the mobile phone account holder
- the number of the mobile device
- the mobile network of that device (for example Three)

PLEASE CONTACT SCHOOL IF YOU THINK YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR HELP WITH ACCESS TO THE INTERNET VIA MOBILE PHONE



My sincere thanks to a local charity - Mathews and Monk Charity - for making a donation to school funds. We will use the money for the benefit of the children. At the moment, we will keep the money in the bank and use it post-pandemic when things return to 'normal'.



"Neston Calling" - Please remember - when we call, our number will be displayed as 0845 148 00 60 - please do not ignore the number or block it.



Keep in touch - I understand that not everyone is a fan of Facebook or Twitter, but please consider joining our Facebook group, as it is the quickest way for us to stay in touch with pupils and parents. Search for 'Friends of Neston Primary School' on Facebook or @Neston\_Primary on Twitter

If you ask a question via social media, you may not get a reply straight away, as we do not monitor accounts 24/7.

E-mailing or ringing school during the school day is quicker. We may not answer questions posted or e-mailed during the evening or at the weekend. PLEASE E-MAIL TEACHERS using the class e-mail addresses if you have any questions or problems.

On a personal note - I am asking again that parents/carers please e-mail the office directly or ask questions via class e-mail addresses. Please do not private message me. Using messenger

If you want, or need, to contact members of the Governing Body you can either drop a letter/note into the school office or contact the chair of Governors via the e-mail address [admin@nestonpri.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@nestonpri.cheshire.sch.uk)  
Our Parent Governors and Community Governors are: Mr Richard Shuker (Dad of Joseph Shuker Y5) & Janis Kneen (Mum of Barney Stinchcomb Y3)  
Amanda Powell (Chair of Governors) and Simon Wilson (Vice-Chair of Governors)



**EMOTIONAL HEALTH**

Pastoral and Well-Being Support - To help pupils and parents adapt to Lockdown 3 we are offering an e-mail address for parents to use. If they are anxious or worried about the impact of the lockdown on pupils. You can contact Mrs Jane Furlong and Mrs Sarah Tedford (Learning Mentors) directly [mentors@nestonpri.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:mentors@nestonpri.cheshire.sch.uk)

Keep in touch - If you need any help or support regarding school-work, please e-mail the teachers directly.

[yearrec@nestonpri.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:yearrec@nestonpri.cheshire.sch.uk)

[year1@nestonpri.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:year1@nestonpri.cheshire.sch.uk)

[year2@nestonpri.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:year2@nestonpri.cheshire.sch.uk)

[year3@nestonpri.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:year3@nestonpri.cheshire.sch.uk)

[year4@nestonpri.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:year4@nestonpri.cheshire.sch.uk)

[year5@nestonpri.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:year5@nestonpri.cheshire.sch.uk)

[year6@nestonpri.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:year6@nestonpri.cheshire.sch.uk)

PARKING - PLEASE park carefully and considerately when you are dropping children off and collecting them. Our neighbours and staff at NCYC get very upset if parents/carers don't take care when parking their vehicles.

PARENTS/CARERS SHOULD NOT USE THE STAFF CAR PARK WHEN DROPPING OFF OR COLLECTING CHILDREN. Be safe – park safely please

THANK YOU – to our admin staff, cleaners, site manager, teachers, TAs, MDAs, mentors, governors, parents/carers and children for all they have done to ensure that we can get through 'Lockdown 3' together

THANK YOU also to those parents/carers and friends of the school who have taken the time to write, or e-mail, to thank staff for what they are doing and have done throughout the past year.  
It has been a challenging experience for us all and your supportive messages and gifts are very welcome.