

Newsham Primary School Blyth

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Headteacher: Mrs. Anne-Marie Armstrong

23rd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

2020 has been a difficult year in so many ways; Coronavirus has resulted in many families experiencing unemployment or financial hardship and this is something we recognise at Newsham Primary School. Therefore we are working with several local charities to offer support to any family who would benefit from help this Christmas. More details will follow with regard to the Christmas support in the next few weeks. However, in the meantime, we would like to draw your attention to the following facilities that are available all year round, as well as support from local businesses throughout the autumn half-term break.

As many of you will be aware, the Government has decided not to issue vouchers to feed children, who are in receipt of Free School Meals, throughout this school holiday. At Newsham, we are very aware that this could have a significant impact for some of our families, as we experience these current unprecedented and unfamiliar times. Therefore we would like to share the details of some local businesses who have very generously offered to provide food for any children in families that are experiencing hardship. Meals must be ordered and can be collected or delivered. This extremely kind offer is made to all families confidentially and without judgement. Meals can be obtained from the following establishments:



Laurences Tapas Bar, Waterloo Road, Blyth <https://www.laurencesblyth.co.uk/>
Contact Jamie: 07969138899 / Facebook



Masons Arms, Plessey Road Blyth.
Contact Dang or Olivier: 01670 361226 / Facebook



Three Horseshoes, Hatherly Lane, High Horton, Blyth.
Contact Kathie: 01670 822410 / Facebook



Engage in the Community.
Contact Engage: 07765296301 / Facebook

Blyth Food Bank is a charity that supports people who live in Blyth, and the surrounding areas, who require emergency food support. A referral is necessary for anyone needing a parcel from the food bank and fortunately Newsham Primary School are able to facilitate that referral. Therefore, if this is something you find yourself in need of, please complete the electronic form (accessible on NPS website and Facebook page) or contact the school office; someone will then contact you to arrange this. The food bank offers a confidential and discrete service from their base in Seaforth Street, Blyth. Food parcels can be collected from here or alternatively can often be delivered to your home.





Northumberland Community Bank can provide loans to people who need them at rates which are affordable. The bank is a financial co-operative that operates for people, rather than profit. Their aim is to help customers borrow fairly so local people don't have to resort to payday lenders and loan sharks. Families in receipt of benefits and those who may have arrears or CCJ's are welcome to apply, however these *must* be disclosed. The Community Bank are definitely not interested in squeezing the most out of people and therefore offer financial products and services, such as a safe home for savings, as well as affordable loans.

For example: Families who are in receipt of child benefit can apply for a **'Family Loan' of £400.**

This is repaid back from Child Benefit, with 26 weekly repayments of £16.87.

Interest rate charged: 3% per month, which is equivalent to 42.6% APR.

The total interest charged on £400 loan is £38.44

There are a range of loans, of varying amounts, available and more details are obtainable on the website <https://www.northumberlandcommunitybank.co.uk/> or by contacting Northumberland Community Bank on 01670 522779.

Newsham Primary School is a very special school community, where we all work together to help one another, so please do not hesitate to contact us if you think we may be able to support you in accessing any of these initiatives.

We hope everyone enjoys a happy and safe half-term break and we look forward to welcoming children back to school on Tuesday November 3rd.

Take care and stay safe.

A-M Armstrong

Mrs. A-M Armstrong
Headteacher