



NEWTON ELEMENTARY

13359 – 81 Avenue

Surrey, B.C. V3W 3C5

Telephone: 604-596-8621 Fax: 604-596-6912

www.surreyschools.ca/newtonelementary

Principal: Ms. S. le Riche Vice-Principal: Ms. C. Koppensteiner

We would like to acknowledge the shared traditional territory of the Coast Salish people on which the Surrey School District is located. We thank the Katzie, Semiahmoo and the Kwantlen First Nations and acknowledge the diverse population of people who contribute to our school's rich culture.

June 9th, 2021

Dear Kindergarten Parents:

It has been a particularly difficult time and we hope that this message finds you and your family safe and well. We are sorry that we have not yet been able to meet in person, however, we are very excited that your child will be starting Kindergarten with us in September. To help with the transition to school, we have included some important information for you and your child so that you are able to prepare for the start of school.

September 7, 2021– Confirm Registration

On the first day of school, Tuesday, September 7th, your child will not attend class but it will be essential to confirm his or her attendance. We will inform you during the last week of August about the plan for that day. Unfortunately, we are unable to plan the first week of school as we are still waiting for the Ministry of Education and School District Health and Safety protocols.

Gradual Entry

Each year we give the Kindergarten students an opportunity to gradually learn the routines of school and separate from their caregivers. As such, Kindergarten students always have a gradual start to the school year. This is where they start with a very short time, usually one hour, at school and add a little more time each day. Typically, children only attend one hour a day at the beginning and work up to full day attendance sometime around the third week of school.

Students will be divided into small groups so that our staff can get to know the children well and place them appropriately in their classes for the year. We will send this schedule to you as soon as we receive it from the school district and Ministry of Education.

School Supplies

We will be ordering school supplies in bulk so that we can keep the cost to parents to a minimum. The cost for the school supplies is approximately \$30 per student. The children will be receiving: duo-tangs, exercise books, crayons, markers, glue sticks, white glue, pencils, erasers, paint, scissors etc. We will inform you of the exact cost at a later date. Teachers will be collecting money during the first few days of school.



We are a community of lifelong learners who: celebrate diversity, strive for our personal best, while respecting others and ourselves.

Getting Ready for School

Please start the habits which will help your child be ready for school as soon as possible. Please build independence in your child by allowing him/her to do as much for themselves as possible and by:

- *Going to bed by 7:30-8:00 pm each night. Many of our students are tired at school and do not get enough sleep.
- *Read to your child every day for at least 20 minutes in any language
- *Practice printing their first name, cutting with scissors, drawing and colouring, play with playdough, count everything!
- *Let your child help you cook, measure, stir and create in the kitchen
- *Practice dressing themselves, putting on coats and shoes-we expect they can do this when they arrive in September
- *Sing songs, play cards and board games-play with your child as much as possible
- *Practice independent use of washroom (using toilet, washing hands, self-dressing)
- *Enjoy the outdoors and play games
- *Please talk to your child as much as possible this builds language
- *No more than 2 hours of screen time (TV, Phone, Tablet per day)

Health Concerns

If your child has severe allergies to food or other items, please contact the school office and your child's teacher to help us plan for your child's safety while at school. There are forms that must be completed by your child's doctor. If your child requires medication to be administered at school, please also contact the office to obtain the required forms. We have a number of students registered in Kindergarten who have severe anaphylactic allergic reactions to peanuts and tree nuts. Please help to ensure that your child's snacks and lunches are nut free. We appreciate your help in keeping all our students safe at Newton. Children will bring healthy snacks/lunches to school each morning. Please no juice or candy at school.

Regular Attendance

Regular daily attendance for the entire day of school is essential. We know that children who attend school regularly are more likely to have successful school experiences, graduate from high school and further their education after grade 12. We hope that all children will attend class every day, which will help to create a happy, positive attitude toward school. Please plan vacations and appointments so that they do not interrupt your child's education. We must protect the learning environment for all and disruptions to dismiss students impact many people.

Information for Parents

In order to keep our students safe, we ask that parents/guardians call the school if your child is going to be away or late for school. Please notify the school before 8:00am or call and leave a message at any time, day or night. There is an answering machine at the school for your convenience should you call before or after school office hours. If we do not hear from you, we MUST call you or your emergency contacts to ensure that your child is safe.

We look forward to seeing you in September and to a wonderful year ahead at Newton.

Please regularly check your email for updates in the next few weeks and again at the end of August. Should your contact information change please ensure to let us know. Feel free to contact me at any time with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. S. le Riche, Principal



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