



Newlands Junior School



Newsletter 2026

We have started the year with many exciting events which have been well supported by our families. There is a reminder of our diary dates at the end of this newsletter. These can also be found on the calendar on our school website. For some of our planned events, it is stated that there will be further information sent out closer to the date – please keep an eye out for emails dropping into your inboxes as well as information posted on our closed Facebook group about these.

Thank you all for your continued support – Newlands wouldn't be the school it is if it wasn't for you all!

Communication

We are here to support our pupils as well as their families, so if you have any concerns, please speak initially with your child's class teacher. Mrs

Underwood and Mrs Vardy, our fabulous office staff, are also

available to help with any concerns, particularly those relating to Eduspot.

here
to
help

School Dinners

We are having an increasing number of children saying they do not like the dinners and will not eat the alternative jacket potato.

The menus are on our website. Please go through these with your child. If there is nothing they will eat, you can send in a pack up so they do not go hungry.

Understanding the New Ofsted Approach

As many of you will be aware, Ofsted has introduced a new way of reporting on schools, designed to give parents a clearer and more balanced picture of what school life is really like. Instead of one overall judgement (such as *Outstanding* or *Good*), schools now receive **separate judgements across a range of key areas**. These include;

- Safeguarding (which remains a vital and non-negotiable expectation)
- Inclusion
- Curriculum and Teaching
- Achievement
- Behaviour and Attitudes
- Personal Development and Wellbeing
- Leadership and Governance

Inspectors look closely at how well schools meet the needs of all pupils, how effectively children learn and behave, and how schools prepare them not just academically, but socially and emotionally too. The new approach recognises that schools may be strong in many areas while still working to improve others.

Gradings will include;

- Attention needed – the majority of things are going well, but there are some areas still being worked on
- Secure – meets expected requirements, functioning effectively and consistently
- Strong – indicates that a provider is delivering high-quality education or care that exceeds the expected, baseline level.

For parents, this means Ofsted reports should be **more detailed and transparent**, helping you understand both what a school does well and how it continues to develop. We welcome this more rounded system of judgements and remain committed to meeting these high expectations, providing a safe, happy and ambitious learning environment for every child in our care.

ATTENDANCE

After suffering our worst attendance figures last term (**94.30% compared to national 95.07%**), we have made a positive start to the year. Our attendance has been around the 98% mark. Please ensure pupils are in school unless they are really unwell as it has a huge impact on learning. Pupils fall behind their peers, miss out on the many fun activities organised by staff and friends move on when children are repeatedly absent. All of these affect a pupil's wellbeing and self-esteem. Pupils with good attendance succeed better in school and later life so please work with us to ensure our pupils are provided with the opportunities they deserve.

Snacks

At Newlands, we work hard to help pupils to lead a healthy, active life.

We do this by;

- Providing 30 active minutes every day
- Educating the children on the health benefits of exercise
- Educating the children how their bodies use the food they eat
- Encouraging children to eat healthily as well as teaching them to cook a variety of nutritional meals
- Encouraging children to bring healthy snacks to eat at break times.



This term the school council will be leading our 'Eat the Rainbow' Challenge again. Each child bringing in a piece of fruit or a vegetable will receive a token. The classes will work together to earn the most tokens and win a food hamper each week. Let's work together to encourage our children to follow a healthy lifestyle.

Dates for your diary. These can also be found on our school website:



Newlands Junior School
We are Proud

Diary Dates

Spring Term 2026



Date	Event
Week beginning: 26.01.2026	
26.01.2026	Y5 Partake Mayan Day
26.01.2026	9 – 9:45am Y3 Reading Workshop in classrooms for parents/carers
27.01.2026	9 – 9:45am Y4 Reading Workshop in classrooms for parents/carers
28.01.2026	9 – 9:45am Y5 Reading Workshop in classrooms for parents/carers
29.01.2026	9 – 9:45am Y6 Reading Workshop in classrooms for parents/carers
30.01.2026	Y3 visit to Weston Park – more details to follow
Week beginning: 02.02.2026	
02.02.2026	Maths Escape rooms Workshops
03.02.2026	Maths Escape rooms Workshops
05.02.2026	Time to Talk Day – linked to the charity Mind. Start a conversation about mental health.
06.02.2026	NSPCC Number Day - more details to follow
Week beginning: 09.02.2026	
10.02.2026	Safer Internet Day

12.02.2026	9am Safer Internet Assembly for parents/carers - more details to follow
12.02.2026	11:30am Valentine's dinner for Y3 parents/carers - more details to follow Children break up today
13.02.2026	INSET DAY
16.02.26 – 20.02.26 FEBRUARY HALF TERM HOLIDAYS	
Week beginning: 23.02.2026 Aspirations Week	
23.02.2026	School opens
23.02.2026	Y6 SATs after school boosters start today
Week beginning: 02.03.2026	
4.03.25	Y4 visit to Veolia – more details to follow
05.03.2026	World Book Day - more details to follow
Week beginning: 09.03.2026 – Science Week	
11.03.2026	10 – 11:30 Y5 (15 children) visit to Clipstone Hall Lodge Care Home to make Easter cards.
11.03.2026	2pm – 6pm Parents Evening - more details to follow
12.03.2026	10 – 11:30 Y5 (15 children) visit to Clipstone Hall Lodge Care Home to make Easter cards.
13.03.2026	2:30pm Science assembly for parents/carers - more details to follow
Week beginning: 16.03.2026	
16.03.2026	9 – 10:00am Y3 Grandparent's Easter craft workshop - more details to follow
17.03.2026	Y5 Easter Workshop with Methodist Church
17.03.2026	9 – 10:30am Y6 Grandparent's Easter craft workshop - more details to follow
17.03.2026	Y4 visit to Magna - more details to follow
18.03.2026	Y3 visit to Botanical Gardens – more details to follow
18.03.2026	9 – 10:30am Y5 Grandparent's Easter craft workshop - more details to follow
19.03.2026	Y6 Easter Workshop with Methodist Church
19.03.2026	9 – 10:30am Y4 Grandparent's Easter craft workshop - more details to follow
Week beginning: 23.03.2026	
23.03.2026	1:15 – 2:30 Y4 singing at Clipstone Lodge Care Home
26.03.2026	9:30am Easter Assembly at church – children only due to space
27.03.2026	2pm Superstars, Attendance and Easter Competition Assembly for parents/carers - more details to follow CHILDREN BREAK UP FOR EASTER TODAY
Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April 2026 EASTER HOLIDAYS	
Children return to school on Monday 13th April 2026	

INSET DAYS FOR THE REST OF THIS ACADEMIC YEAR ARE:

Friday 13th February 2026
Monday 1st June 2026
Monday 27th July 2026

Please follow link for next academic year's holidays
remember our INSET days are not on this Notts County Council list:
<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-holidays-and-closures/school-holiday-and-term-dates>

**PE days up to February Half Term
2026 are:**

Year 3 Wednesday and Friday
Year 4 Tuesday and Thursday
Year 5 Tuesday and Thursday
Year 6 Monday and Wednesday