Newlands Junior School



Newsletter 2026

A message from Mrs Castledine: I would like to thank all pupils, parents and carers for the efforts made to ensure pupils are smartly presented in the correct uniform/PE kit and with their reading diaries/homework.
Please remember, ties and shoes, not trainers, must be worn and reading books/diaries need to be in school every day.



Car Park:

We are very fortunate to have the space to drop off and collect our pupils at the top of the school drive. This land belongs to a housing association. They are quite happy for us to make use of the space, but unfortunately, we are not allowed to carry out any work on it. It is becoming increasingly uneven and holey, so please be extra cautious when driving and walking on here, particularly with the dark mornings and nights approaching.

Harvest Festival:

We hope to see lots of you joining us for our Harvest Festival on Thursday 15th of October at 9.30 for years 3 and 4 and 10.15 for years 5 and 6. This will be held at All Saints Church. Donations of tins and packets can be brought into school on the day and will be donated to a local food bank. We also support this foodbank all year round. This is year 5s chosen charity so please support at any time by adding items to our trolley in reception.



Reading:



Our pupils have made a great start this year with their reading at home. As you are aware, we expect a minimum of 5 reads each week. Every Friday, in assembly, our class average is shared and all classes are over 5. Years 5 and 6 have won every week this half term so come on years 3 and 4, let's try and read a little bit more. This skill is vital and it is also a time to snuggle up together and share a good book.

Arbor:

I hope we are all becoming more confident with the use of Arbor. Please continue to ensure you have selected the option children would like for lunch, particularly those who are free school meals. We are also now using the App for texts and emails. As a result, we are no longer using Marvellous Me and you can delete this App. If you are experiencing any problems, the office staff are always on hand to help out.

Attendance:



With the exception of children taking holidays in term-time, we have started the year positively. We are currently at 96.6% which is above our target of 96+%. Mrs Green is now working with a group of pupils, our Attendance Committee, who will be helping to monitor attendance, support those who are struggling and revamp our reward system. Following the next meeting, after half term, a letter will be sent from the committee so you can see the fabulous work they are doing. If our attendance remains above 96%, pupils will be rewarded with a Wheelathon, where everyone can bring bikes, scooters or roller blades to school for the day. We haven't achieved this since before Covid, so please let's work together to keep our attendance positive.

Parents Evening:

Please remember to attend your parents evening appointment on Wednesday. If you haven't got an appointment yet, the office will contact you.



As always, our calendar is full of exciting activities leading up to Christmas. Please keep your diary dates handy, check the calendar on the school website as well as reading your texts so you don't miss anything.





Thank you for your support and partnership

Mrs Castledine

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



Diary Dates

Autumn Term 2026

Date	Event
Week beginning: 02.11.2026	
02.11.2026	**School opens**
Week beginning: 09.11.2026	
09.11.2026	**INSET DAY**
12.11.2026	**Flu vaccinations**
13.11.2026	Y5 (Class 6) Visit to Sherwood Observatory - more details to follow
Week beginning: 16.11.2026 – Anti-Bullying Week	
16.11.2026	Odd Socks Day to mark the start of Anti Bullying Week – children wear odd socks to school.
16.11.2026	Y5 (Class 5) Visit to Sherwood Observatory - more details to follow
16.11.2026	9 – 9:45am Y3 Maths Workshop in classrooms for parents/carers - more details to follow
16.11.2026	Y6 Height and Weight checks in school
17.11.2026	9 – 9:45am Y4 Maths Workshop in classrooms for parents/carers - more details to follow
18.11.2026	9 – 9:45am Y5 Maths Workshop in classrooms for parents/carers - more details to follow
19.11.2026	9 – 9:45am Y6 Maths Workshop in classrooms for parents/carers - more details to follow
20.11.2026	Children in Need **Y3 Charity** - more details to follow 2:15pm Anti-Bullying Week assembly for parents/carers
Week beginning: 23.11.2026	
23.11.2026	Children wear non uniform in return for bringing in sweets for the Christmas Fayre
25.11.2026	Y6 visit to Newstead Abbey (Victorian Christmas) - more details to follow
Week beginning: 30.11.2026 – Mock SATs week Y6	
02.12.2026	1:45pm Christmas Fayre - more details to follow
03.12.2026	9 – 11:30am Y3 Christmas Workshop delivered by Mr Darlington
Week beginning: 07.12.2026	
07.12.2026	9 – 10:30am Y3 Grandparent's Christmas craft workshop with bacon butties - more details to follow
07.12.2026	9:30 – 10:30am 15 Y5 children visit the care home to do Christmas crafts
08.12.2026	9 – 11:30am Y4 Christmas Workshop delivered by Mr Darlington
08.12.2026	9 – 10:30am Y5 Grandparent's Christmas craft workshop with bacon butties - more details to follow
09.12.2026	9:30 – 10:30am 15 Y5 children visit the care home to do Christmas crafts
09.12.2026	9 – 10:30am Y4 Grandparent's Christmas craft workshop with bacon butties - more details to follow
09.12.2026	1:30 – 2:30pm 20 Y4 children visit the care home to sing Christmas songs
10.12.2026	9 – 10:30am Y6 Grandparent's Christmas craft workshop with bacon butties - more details to follow
11.12.2026	**8:55am Y3/4 Superstars Assembly** **2:20pm Y5/6 Superstars Assembly** Parents/carers **of those children who have been chosen to receive a Superstars award** will be invited to this assembly.
Week beginning: 14.12.2026	
15.12.2026	**9:30am Christmas Service at All Saints Church – whole school (children only)**
15.12.2026	Children's Christmas dinner & toy afternoon – children are allowed to bring toys/games into school (no electronics, mobile phones, games consoles or anything that needs to be plugged in)
16.12.2026	Y3 visit to Creswell Crags - more details to follow
17.12.2026	Children's Christmas party day - more details to follow
18.12.2026	1:30pm Carols around the tree – parents/carers welcome. Children can go home after the carols with their parent/carer. **Last day of term.**
	Children return to school on Monday 4th January 2027

INSET DAYS FOR THIS ACADEMIC YEAR ARE:

Tuesday 1st September 2026
Friday 16th October 2026
Monday 9th November 2026
Friday 12th February 2027
Monday 7th June 2027

PE days for the Autumn Term are:
Year 3 Monday and Wednesday
Year 4 Tuesday and Friday
Year 5 Thursday and Friday
Year 6 Tuesday and Thursday

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