



Newton News September 2026





Headteacher's Note



Dear Families,

A very warm welcome back to the new school year! We hope you have all managed to enjoy some special family time together over the summer break.

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back into school today. They have settled back into school life so well and brought lots of smiles, enthusiasm and positive energy with them. In assembly this morning, we talked about some of the things they would like to achieve during the year ahead – from earning awards and developing new skills to becoming Newton Class Ambassadors. It was lovely to hear them thinking so positively about the year ahead.

We are really looking forward to another happy, successful and exciting year at Newton, and to working closely with you to make it the very best it can be for all of our children.

As always, if you have any questions, worries or concerns, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. Equally, Mrs Wain and I are always happy to chat and can usually be found on the gates at the beginning of the school day.

Below, you will find some important information about the organisation and routines for the first few weeks of term. Best wishes,

Mrs. Hughes

New staff

We are delighted to welcome **Mrs Spear** to Newton, who joins us as part of the Emerald teaching team.

We also warmly welcome **Mrs Green**, who will be covering Miss Tann's maternity leave. Mrs Green will be working with Amethyst Class on Mondays and Tuesdays, and with Ruby Class on Thursdays.

From the week beginning **14 September 2026**, we are also pleased to welcome **Mrs Roberts**, who will be teaching Topaz Class on Mondays.

All of our new staff have spent time in school over the summer getting to know Newton, preparing for the year ahead and working alongside the team. They are really looking forward to getting to know your children and becoming part of our Newton community.

The School Day

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Our school gates will continue to open at **8:40am**, ready for a prompt start to the school day at **8:50am**.

At the end of the day:

- **Diamond and Emerald Classes finish at 3:15pm.**
- **Topaz, Amethyst and Ruby Classes finish at 3:20pm.**

For families collecting children from more than one class, we kindly ask that you collect your younger children from Reception and Key Stage 1 first, before making your way around to collect older siblings from the Amethyst and Ruby door. This helps us to make collection as smooth and safe as possible for everyone.

Children in **Years 5 and 6** may walk home independently, but we must have written consent from a parent or carer before they are able to do so.

We completely understand that, from time to time, families may be delayed. If you are going to be late collecting your child, please give the school office a quick call to let us know. We will make sure your child is safely taken to our After School Club, where they can then be collected.

Thank you, as always, for your support in helping us to keep the beginning and end of the school day calm, safe and well organised for all of our children and families.

We are going to become an “allergy-aware school”

At Newton Primary School, we want to do everything we reasonably can to keep all of our children safe. We currently have a child in school with a serious peanut allergy, so we are asking all families to please **not send any foods containing peanuts into school**. This includes packed lunches, snacks, treats and food brought in for special occasions.

We are an **allergy-aware school**, which means we work carefully to reduce the risk of allergic reactions while recognising that no school can guarantee a completely allergen-free environment.

As part of this we ask that children only eat fruit, cheese or yoghurt snacks at break times. No crisps, biscuits or cereal bars.

Please check food labels carefully and avoid sending in peanuts, peanut butter or any products that contain peanuts.

Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us to keep every child safe and included.

Changes to Free School Meals from September 2026

Could Your Child Now Be Eligible for Free School Meals?

From **September 2026**, the rules for Free School Meals have changed. **All children from households receiving Universal Credit are now entitled to a free school meal**, meaning many more families may be eligible.

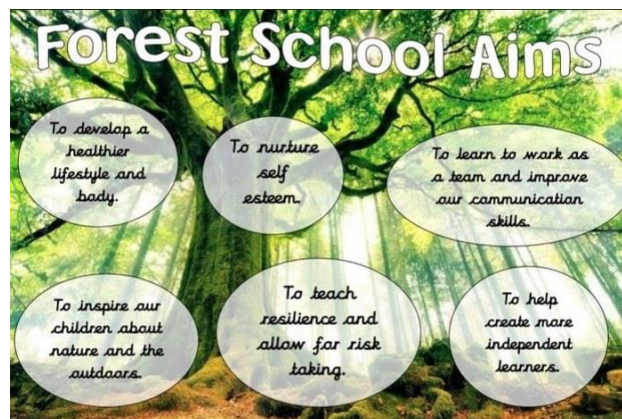
The previous transitional protection arrangements ended on **31 August 2026**, so families must now meet the new eligibility criteria to continue receiving Free School Meals.

If you receive Universal Credit, we strongly encourage you to check whether your child is eligible and apply. Registering can also help school access additional funding to support children's learning and opportunities.

Universal Free meals also end when your child finishes in Year 2 and unless you are eligible for Free School Meals you will be charged if your child has a dinner,

Please speak to the school office if you need any help or further information.

Forest School for Topaz Class



This half term, Topaz **Class** will be enjoying Forest School sessions on Friday afternoons, beginning on **Friday 11th September**. this will be for the Year Four Children.

On their Forest School days, children will need to bring **wellies or walking boots that they don't mind getting muddy**, along with a **change of clothes**.

As we know, Forest School doesn't stop for a little bit of rain! If the weather is looking wet, please make sure your child also brings suitable **waterproof clothing** so that they can stay warm and dry while still enjoying their afternoon outdoors.

We know how much the children enjoy their Forest School experiences and we are looking forward to seeing Amethyst Class making the most of our outdoor environment this half term.

Communication



At Newton, we really value open, positive communication with our families. We know that the best outcomes for children come when school and home work closely together, and our teachers are always happy to listen, help and talk things through.

Your child's **class teacher should always be your first port of call** if you have a question, worry or concern about anything relating to your child. Wherever possible, we encourage these conversations to take place **face to face**, as this is often the quickest and most helpful way to understand something fully and work together to resolve it. After school is usually the best time to speak to teachers, as they have more time to give you their full attention once the children have been safely dismissed.

If you simply need to pass on a quick message in the morning, please speak to a member of staff on either the main gate or the Diamond/Emerald gate and we will make sure it gets to the right person.

We do prefer conversations in person or over the telephone where possible. Written messages and emails can sometimes be interpreted differently from how they were intended, whereas a conversation gives us the opportunity to listen, ask questions and understand the full picture.

We completely understand that work and family commitments mean that not everyone is able to collect their child from school regularly. If this is the case, you are very welcome to telephone school and ask to speak to your child's class teacher after the school day, or email the school office to request a call back. If you are requesting a call, a little information about what you would like to discuss is always helpful so that the teacher can be prepared and support you as fully as possible.

Communication works both ways, and our teachers will also speak to you at the end of the day or give you a telephone call if there is something they feel would be helpful to share. We want

families to feel comfortable approaching us, and class teachers are always keen to work alongside parents and carers to support the children in every way they can.

For further information, please see our **Standards of Communication** on the school website:

<https://www.newton.derbyshire.sch.uk/standards-of-communication>

Juniper School App



We are hoping to go live with the **Juniper School App on Thursday 10th September**. All parents and carers should now have received an invitation at the email address you have provided to school.

We know that some families would also like grandparents or other family members to have access. We are currently working with Juniper to find the best way to make this possible. **Mrs Frost-Morris is liaising with Juniper**, but at the moment there is no simple way to add additional family members. We will keep you updated as soon as we know more. If any parents still need access to the Juniper App please provide your email address to the office by emailing info@newton.derbyshire.sch.uk

Other Ways We Will Communicate

Each class will also have a **Seesaw account**, so please make sure you have access to Seesaw on your phone or device.

Seesaw is a lovely way for us to share what the children are learning and enjoying in school, and for families to share things from home too. We may also use Seesaw as a **secondary method of communication** alongside the Juniper School App.

We hope these different ways of communicating will help keep families informed and make it easier for us to share all the wonderful things happening at Newton.

Medical Needs

If your child requires any medication in school, including an **inhaler or EpiPen**, please make sure that the relevant medical forms have been completed and that all medication is **clearly labelled and in date**.

Inhalers and EpiPens should be kept in your child's classroom during the school day so that they can be accessed quickly if needed.

Please let us know promptly if there are any changes to your child's medical needs or medication.

Thank you for helping us to keep all of our children safe and well.

Attendance Matters



Good attendance is so important for children's learning, friendships and confidence. Every day in school really does count.

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please **telephone school each day that they are absent** so that we know they are safe and accounted for.

If your child is going to be absent for a holiday or other planned reason, a **holiday/leave of absence form must be completed**, even if the absence is only for **one day** or your child is **under five**. This forms part of our safeguarding procedures and helps us maintain accurate attendance records for every child.

We completely understand that children can be genuinely unwell and sometimes need to stay at home. If you are worried about your child's attendance or there are barriers making it difficult for them to attend regularly, please speak to us — we are always happy to work with families and offer support.

Lost Property



A huge thank you to **Mrs Flintham**, who very kindly took all of our lost property home over the summer and washed everything for us. Any items that were clearly named have now been returned to the children's new classes.

Please could we ask that **all clothing, coats, shoes and PE kit are clearly labelled with your child's name**. We collect an astonishing amount of lost property throughout the year, particularly cardigans and jumpers, and many items are never claimed.

Although the **British Heart Foundation** makes very good use of anything left unclaimed, we would much rather see these clothes reunited with their rightful owners!

A quick name label really does make all the difference and helps us to return lost items much more easily.

384 Club – Important Reminder



Please ensure your account remains in credit for 384 Club and let us know in advance if your child will not be attending a session. With limited places available, cancelling with notice allows another child the opportunity to attend.

As the club operates on a not-for-profit basis, we will need to charge for sessions not cancelled at least 24 hours in advance. Thank you for your understanding and support in helping the club run smoothly.

Behaviour in 384 Club

We want **384 Club** to be a happy, safe and enjoyable place for all of our children. The same high standards of behaviour that we expect throughout the school day also apply when children are attending the club.

Parents and carers who use 384 Club are asked to sign a **behaviour agreement**, as children are expected to show the same respect, kindness and good choices that they would during the rest of the school day. Where a child is repeatedly unable to meet these expectations, unfortunately 384 Club may no longer be an appropriate option for them.

Mrs Ward and Mrs Ball work incredibly hard to make the club fun, welcoming and well organised, and wherever possible they make sure the children also get the chance to enjoy some fresh air and outdoor time. They deserve the same respect and consideration as every other member of staff in school.

Thank you for supporting us in keeping 384 Club a positive and enjoyable place for everyone.

SEND at Newton

At Newton, we are committed to ensuring that children with SEND receive the support and provision they need to thrive. Mrs Booth works incredibly hard to coordinate this support and has continued working throughout the holidays to make sure that appropriate provision is in place for the start of the new school year.

Mrs Booth works **Tuesday to Friday**, with **Tuesday as her non-teaching day**, so if you would like to arrange a meeting with her, Tuesday is often the best place to start. As always, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance, and they can work with Mrs Booth to make sure the right support is in place.



Mrs A. Booth SENDCo

Join our Facebook Page



If you haven't already joined, join our Facebook page!

It is a fantastic way to get the latest news, achievements and information, as soon as they are available.

[Click here to take you to our page.](#)

Diary Dates

The academic year is still young, so there will be plenty more dates to add as events and activities are confirmed. Please keep an eye on the school website and our communications for updates so that you don't miss anything!

September	
Monday 7 th September	Children return to school
15 th September	Peter Roberts, Governor to do a health and safety walk around the school.
18 th September	Severn Trent Assembly and KS2 workshop

October	
1 st October	Themed Lunch Day
To be confirmed.	Harvest Festival
Friday 23 rd October	Break up for half term.

November	
Monday 9 th November	Year 6 Bikeability
Tuesday 10 th November	Year 6 Bikeability second session
Wednesday 11 th November	Flu vaccinations
Tuesday 17 th November 2026	Amethyst and ruby trip to the Open Centre.

December	
Monday 7 th December	Blackwell Community Panto
Thursday 10 th December	KS2 Derby theatre visit to the Railway children
Friday 18 th December	Break up for Christmas holidays,

Safeguarding at Newton

The safety and wellbeing of our children is always at the heart of everything we do at Newton. Our **Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Sarah Hughes**, supported by our **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads, Mrs Helen Baines, Mrs Carol Wain and Mrs Ashleigh Booth**. If you ever have a concern about the safety or wellbeing of a child, however small it may seem, please do speak to one of us. We would always much rather you share a worry so that we can listen, support and take any appropriate action.

PE Timetable

	9.00 – 10.00	10.00 – 11.00	1.00 – 2.00	2.00 – 3.00
Monday			Emerald (Real PE)	Diamond (Hall if want to use)
Tuesday				Topaz (Real PE)
Wednesday	Physical Literacy Premier Sports Ruby- 9-9.30 Amethyst- 9.30-10 Topaz- 10.30-11 Emerald- 11.30	Diamond Premier Sports (10-10.30)	Emerald Premier Sports (Tennis)	Topaz Premier Sports (Tennis)
Thursday			Amethyst (Real PE)	Ruby (Real PE)
Friday			Ruby (Tennis)	Amethyst (Tennis)

1 - If this changes in anyway Class teachers will let you know.

Friends of Newton School (FoNS) PTFA



Our Friends of Newton School group makes such a positive difference to life at Newton, helping to fund those extra experiences, resources and treats that make school special. We would love to welcome **anyone who would like to get involved** — whether you are a current parent or carer, grandparent, former parent, past member of FoNS or completely new to the school community. There is no expectation of a huge commitment; every idea, pair of hands and bit of support is valued. FoNS is also a lovely way to meet other families, make new friendships and help create lasting memories for our children. **Old faces and new are always very welcome.** Watch this space as Mrs. Booth will organise a get together soon!

Inset Days

Friday 4th September 2026

Monday 4th January 2027

Monday 22 February 2027

Friday 30th April 2027

Monday 14th June 2027