Newton News November 2026



Headteacher's Note



Dear Families,

As we begin a new term, it is lovely to reflect on what a fantastic start to the school year we have already enjoyed together. Last half term saw a hugely successful Macmillan Coffee Afternoon, a wonderful Harvest Festival supported by your incredibly generous donations, and a range of sporting events where our children truly demonstrated our Newton values of teamwork, respect and determination. We were also delighted to see our Reception children settle so quickly into school life, embracing every opportunity with enthusiasm and confidence. Alongside an amazing school disco and many memorable experiences, there was, of course, plenty of excellent learning taking place in classrooms every day. We are incredibly proud of all that our children achieved and are excited for another busy and successful term ahead. Thank you for your continued support as we look forward to creating many more wonderful memories together. ✨🌟

Governance Update



As we begin a new term, we would like to take this opportunity to thank **Paul Fenwick** as he steps down from his role as Chair of Governors. Paul has dedicated many years to supporting the school as a governor, providing invaluable guidance, challenge and encouragement throughout his time with us. On behalf of the entire school community, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for his commitment and service, which have helped to shape and strengthen our school.

We are also delighted to welcome **Mr Peter Roberts** as our new Chair of Governors. Pete has been a valued member of our governing board for several years and brings a wealth of experience from his previous role as a governor at **TCS**. We look forward to working with him in this new capacity and are excited about the contribution he will make as we continue to move the school forward.

We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to **Janice Flintham**, who has done a fantastic job serving as Clerk to the Governors over the past few years. Janice has provided unwavering support, professionalism and organisation, helping to ensure the smooth running of our governance procedures. Whilst she has now decided to "hang up her clerk's quill", we are pleased that she will continue to support the school in other ways.

As a result, we will soon be recruiting a new Clerk to the Governors. If you know of anyone with governance, administrative or clerking experience who may be interested in this important role, please do get in touch with the school office. We would love to hear from them.

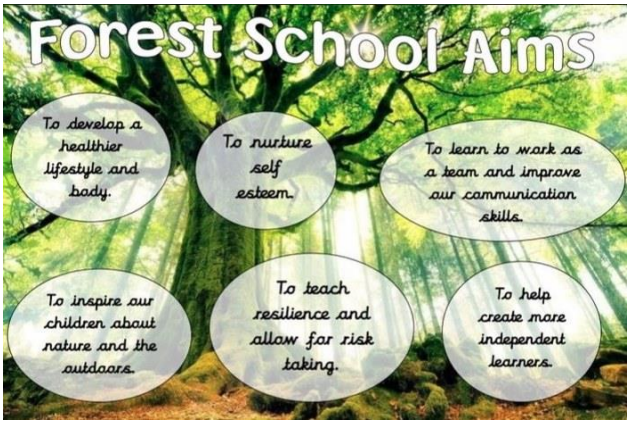
Keeping Our School Nut - Aware



Healthy and Safe Snacks

As part of our commitment to keeping all children safe and healthy, we would like to remind families that children should only bring fruit or cheese as a snack for breaktime. We have several children in school with allergies, including nut allergies, and it is essential that we take every precaution to reduce the risk of accidental exposure. We therefore ask that nuts, products containing nuts and cereal bars are not brought into school, whether as part of a snack, packed lunch or treat. By choosing simple snacks such as fruit or cheese, you can help us create a safer environment for everyone while also encouraging healthy eating habits. Thank you for your support and understanding as we work together to ensure all children can enjoy school safely and inclusively. 🍎🧀🍇

Forest School Update



At the end of last half term, we said a fond farewell to Mrs Cooper from Sunshine Forest Schools, who has taken up an exciting new role as a full-time Forest School Practitioner in a secondary school. Whilst we will miss her greatly and would like to thank her for all the wonderful experiences she has provided for our children, we wish her every success in her new position.

We are currently working with Sunshine Forest Schools to appoint a new Forest School Practitioner and will share further details with families as soon as these arrangements are finalised. Please note that there will be no Forest School during the first week back. The next group scheduled to take part in Forest School will be our Year 4 children in Amethyst Class. We look forward to updating you soon and continuing to provide these valuable outdoor learning opportunities for our pupils. 🌳🍂🔥

Juniper App Update

We have now fully transitioned to the **Juniper App** as our main platform for school communications. All messages, updates and notifications will now be sent via Juniper, as our previous school app has been retired and is no longer available.

If you are experiencing any difficulties accessing or using the Juniper App, please do not hesitate to pop into the school office. **Mrs Frost-Morris** and **Mrs Flintham** will be very happy to help and will do their very best to get you up and running. Thank you for your support as we continue to improve the way we communicate with our families. 📱😊

Safeguarding at Newton

At Newton Primary, we work hard every day to safeguard our children by ensuring our school is a safe, caring, and nurturing place to learn. All staff are trained to identify and respond to concerns, following clear procedures designed to protect every pupil's wellbeing. We work closely with families and external agencies to promote children's safety both in school and beyond.

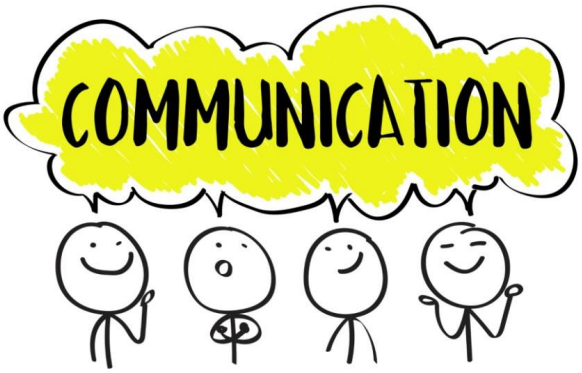
If you ever have any worries or concerns about a child, please speak to a member of our Safeguarding Team — we are always here to help.

For any concerns **outside of school hours**, these should be reported directly to **Call Derbyshire on 01629 533190**





Communication



At Newton Primary School, we value positive and open communication between home and school. As always, we ask that your first point of contact is your child's class teacher, either by speaking to them face-to-face after school or by telephone if this is more convenient. Our staff are always happy to discuss any questions, concerns or information that may help support your child.

Whilst email can be a useful method of communication, written messages can sometimes be misinterpreted, and wherever possible we encourage conversations as the best way to build understanding and resolve any concerns quickly. If you do need to send an email, we kindly ask that messages are kept concise and focused. If you choose to use AI tools to help draft emails, please ensure that the content remains relevant, accurate and specific to your child and the situation.

For more information, please see our Standards of Communication Policy on the school website: https://www.newton.derbyshire.sch.uk/standards-of-communication

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain positive, respectful and effective communication for the benefit of all our children and families. 😊📚🏫

Seesaw

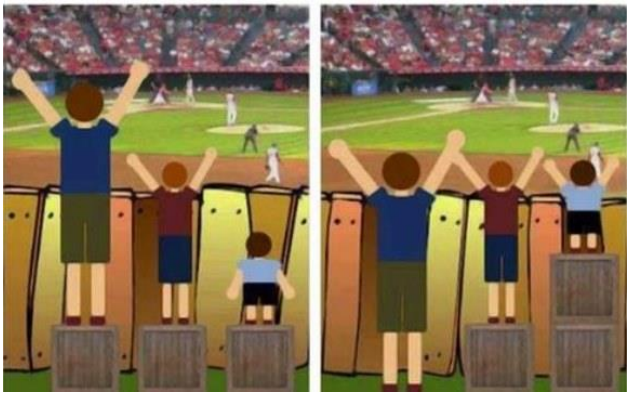
We are pleased to share that all classes are now up and running with **Seesaw**! Seesaw is a fantastic platform that helps strengthen the connection between home and school. Teachers can use it to share class news, updates, reminders and examples of the wonderful learning taking place in the classroom. It also gives children the opportunity to share their work and achievements with their teachers and families.

If you have not already done so, please download the **Seesaw** app to your device and ensure that your family is connected. We look forward to using Seesaw to celebrate learning and keep you updated on all the exciting things happening in your child's class. 📚✨

Parent/Carer Questionnaire

Over the coming weeks, we will be sending out a **Parent/Carer Questionnaire**, and we would be very grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete it. Your feedback is incredibly important to us as we are always looking for ways to make our school even better. This is a valuable opportunity to share your thoughts, celebrate what is working well and suggest any ideas for improvement. We genuinely value the views of our families and use your feedback to help shape the future development of the school. Thank you in advance for your time and support. 😊

SEND at Newton



Mrs. Booth, our SENDCo, has been working hard to raise the profile of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) across the school. We have now hosted two successful SEND coffee afternoons, giving families the opportunity to meet, share experiences, and ask questions. Mrs. Booth has also been meeting with families of children who have SEND Passports to ensure support is tailored and effective.

In addition, she has created a range of helpful resources on our school website for parents and carers who would like to learn more about SEND. If you have any questions or would like to understand more about Special Educational Needs at Newton Primary, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Booth — she is always happy to help.



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



Autumn Term 2 - Diary Dates

Please make a note of the important dates below. Reminders and any additional information will be shared via the school app closer to each event.

November 2026

Date	Event
Tuesday 3 November	Year 1/2 Multi-Sports Event at TCS
Tuesday 3 November	School Council presentations with Sally Renshaw
Monday 9 November	Year 6 Bikeability
Tuesday 10 November	Year 6 Bikeability - Session 2
Wednesday 11 November	KS1 Homework Topic Exhibition (Diamond and Emerald Classes at drop-off)
Wednesday 11 November	Visit to Newton Memorial (10:50am)
Wednesday 11 November	Flu Vaccinations
Wednesday 11 November	Staff Anaphylaxis Training - No After-School Club
Thursday 12 November	Launch of Times Table Rock Stars and NumBots
Friday 13 November	Children in Need Day
Tuesday 17 November	Amethyst and Ruby Class Trip to the Open Centre
Friday 20 November	Rock Star Day

December 2026

Date	Event
Monday 7 December	Blackwell Community Pantomime
Tuesday 8 December	KS1 Nativity Performance - 2:00pm
Wednesday 9 December	KS1 Nativity Performance - 5:30pm
Thursday 10 December	KS2 Trip to Derby Theatre to see The Railway Children (returning for a late lunch)
Thursday 10 December	Rock Steady Concert - 2:00pm
Tuesday 15 December	Diamond and Emerald Classes visit Cinderella at Nottingham Playhouse
Wednesday 16 December	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner
Friday 18 December	Carols Around the Tree, Newton Community Centre - 1:30pm
Friday 18 December	School closes for the Christmas holidays

January 2027

Date	Event
Monday 4 January	**INSET Day**
Monday 18 January	Mr Pepper Video Day - Amethyst Class (Extreme Earth)
Tuesday 19 January	Mr Pepper Video Day - Topaz Class (The Romans). Children may come dressed as Romans.
Wednesday 20 January	Mr Pepper Video Day - Diamond and Emerald Classes (The Great Fire of London). Simple 1660s-style costumes are welcome.

February 2027

Date	Event
Friday 12 February	Valentine's Bake Sale
Monday 22 February	**INSET Day**

Please note: **Dates may occasionally change. Any amendments will be communicated through the school app as soon as possible.**

We will keep adding to these dates as new events are confirmed!

Vacancies

We currently have a vacancy for a Clerk to Governors. Please see Mrs. Flintham for information please.

Times Tables Rock Stars

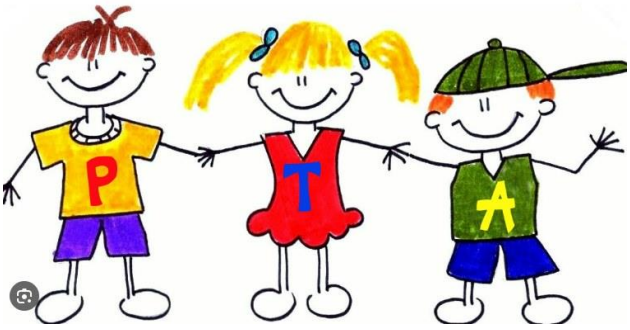
Times Tables Rock Stars

To support our children in developing strong times tables knowledge, Mrs Baines, our Maths Lead, is introducing Times Tables Rock Stars across the school. This is a fun and engaging (and slightly competitive!) way for children to practise and improve their multiplication and division facts. We are placing a real emphasis on times tables fluency, as this is a key skill that underpins mathematical understanding and makes a huge difference to children's confidence and success in Years 5 and 6 and beyond.

To launch this exciting initiative, we will be holding a **Times Tables Rock Stars Day on Friday 20th November.** Children are invited to come to school dressed as a rock star and will spend time exploring the platform, taking part in activities and practising their times tables skills. Our younger learners will also be able to join in the fun through NumBots, which helps children develop their number knowledge in an engaging way.

To help families support learning at home, Mrs Baines will also be running a Times Tables Rock Stars Parent Information Session after school. This will provide an opportunity to find out more about the platform and how you can help your child build confidence and fluency with their times tables. We look forward to seeing lots of future rock stars in action! 🎸⭐🎶

Friends of Newton School (FoNS) PTFA



Friends of Newton School (FoNS) plays a vital role in the success of Newton Primary School. The fundraising the team undertakes makes a huge difference, helping us provide the extra-special experiences and opportunities that enrich school life. We are currently raising money for an outdoor shelter for our playground. FoNS organised the latest disco, so not only do they support us to fund raise but they also organise fun events for the children.

Why join...?

It's totally flexible

Whether you're a full-time parent or working the nine to five, anyone can get involved. It's less commitment than you think. Small jobs such as organising uniforms, promoting events or clearing coffee cups keep everything running smoothly.

Make friendships

Meet and chat to a wider circle of families from different classes and year groups. Get to know other parents, and enjoy events and get-togethers.

Impact your child's learning

Studies show that children whose parents and carers are involved in their education do better in school and our FoNS benefits equally from active parents/carers.

Everyone is welcome

It's important to have mums, dads, carers and Grandparents represented. We all bring different skills, ideas and different perspectives.

Looking Ahead to a Busy and Exciting Term!



There is so much to look forward to this term! Our calendar is already filling up with exciting experiences, including Open Centre visits, theatre trips, pantomimes, and, of course, the much-anticipated Diamond and Emerald Class Nativity performances. The run up to Christmas is always a magical time at Newton, packed with learning, celebrations and special memories for our children. With so many wonderful events planned, it promises to be another fantastic term. The only question is... will that cheeky elf make a return this year? Watch this space!
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