



NEWHALL NEWS

27.03.26

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a busy and productive term, I am delighted to share some updates, celebrations and key information for the weeks ahead.

Our pupils have continued to impress us with their responsible attitudes, creativity and resilience. From completing their termly assessments to engaging fully in classroom learning, teamwork and thoughtful discussions, it has been a joy to see their progress. I trust that you found our recent parent consultations valuable and that they provided a clear picture of how your child is doing in school.

This half term has also brought a wealth of enrichment opportunities that have truly enhanced the children's learning experiences. World Book Day was a particular highlight - your support with the wonderful costumes made the day extra special, and it was lovely to hear the children talk enthusiastically about their favourite books. Alongside this, Y5 pupils took part in Talk the Talk workshops, everyone enjoyed dressing up for Comic Relief's "Dress Funny for Money," and many Y6 pupils participated in the Lea Green residential.

We were also fortunate to welcome visitors from Severn Trent, a scientist for British Science Week and author Serena Patel. These experiences bring the curriculum to life, and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all staff, parents and external partners who helped to organise or support these events.

Our wider school community continues to thrive, with families joining in with our local Parkrun Takeover and everyone looking forward to our Chocolate Bingo evening on **15th April**. Your involvement and enthusiasm are truly appreciated.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It makes such a difference to the opportunities we can offer and to the experiences our pupils enjoy every day.



[News - Newhall Junior School](https://www.newhalljunior.org.uk)

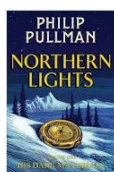


Year Five

This half term has been bustling,
Y5 have been real busy,
We finished *Northern Lights* in full,
With a twist that left us dizzy!

We raced through *Jungle Book* as well,
With wolves and bears but no horses...
Then wrote bold speeches, strong and clear,
About protecting Earth's resources.

Fractions, decimals—sorted out!
We put them in their place.
In Science, we were changing states,
Melting solids in a heated race.



Geography took us far away,
To Alps of ice and stone;
With snowy peaks and mountain paths
We roamed beyond our own.

Add World Book Day's bright
costumes,
A poet's visit was funny,
We've started prepping bolognese,
Will the sauce be runny?

Now with all that learning done,
Quite the busy, brilliant streak!
We're tired, proud, and ready for
A well-earned Easter break!

Year Six



Our Year 6 pupils had a fantastic time on their residential trip to Lea Green, taking part in a wide range of activities that built teamwork, confidence and independence. They challenged themselves on the low ropes, zip line and climbing tower, explored the outdoors through stream walks and a night walk, and developed new skills in archery. Buggy rides, the play area and soft play added plenty of fun along the way.

Pupils represented the school brilliantly, showing enthusiasm, cooperation and a positive attitude throughout. It was a memorable week that strengthened friendships and gave everyone a great sense of achievement.

Our Year Six pupils who remained in school during the Lea Green Residential enjoyed a brilliant few days packed with Taskmaster-themed challenges. They worked creatively and collaboratively to solve puzzles, take on team tasks and even design, make and bake their own cookies from scratch. The group showed fantastic enthusiasm, imagination and teamwork throughout - and had plenty of fun along the way!

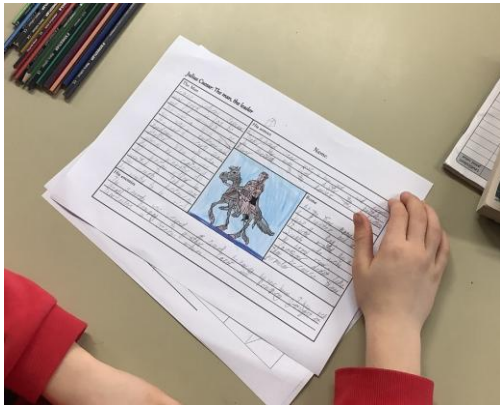
Year Three



Year 3 have continued to shine this half term, amazing us with their resilience, resourcefulness and responsibility. 3R delivered a note-perfect singing concert to parents and carers, which was a wonderful way to finish their sessions with the South Derbyshire Music Centre. Beast Quest has sparked the children's imagination, resulting in some daring fiction writing. Both classes have continued to display reciprocity and make real progress in their Character Awards sessions, where teamwork and sportsmanship have been evident.

Looking ahead, we can't wait to return to Calke Abbey and explore the historic house itself!

Year Four



Year 4 have had a wonderful half term, jam-packed full of Roman adventure and gore. We kicked off the learning by making a Roman film using green screens, which was shown to parents and carers at our Roman workshop. We've learnt about life of a soldier at Hadrian's Wall, discussed the differences between the orderly Romans and the barbaric Celts and created our own medieval shields in our own style, highlighting our resourcefulness and reflection. Finally, we imagined what the warrior queen Boudica may have said to her troops before riding into battle with Romans! We can't wait to learn about earthquakes and volcanoes after Easter!

Appointments

We understand that some medical appointments cannot be scheduled outside of the school day. Please ensure that you inform us in advance whenever possible and provide our office staff with any supporting appointment evidence. Thank you helping us keep our records up to date.



Early Birds Club – Exciting Changes After Easter!

It's wonderful to see how many of our children join us before school for breakfast and morning activities. **Early Birds Club** continues to be a calm, positive start to the day for so many pupils, and we're delighted to see it growing.

Hopefully you've seen the recent information emailed from school about how our breakfast provision is changing. We are very pleased to announce that we have been **accepted onto the DfE Free Breakfast Club Programme**. This fantastic opportunity enables us to offer **every child in the school a free breakfast and 30 minutes of free childcare** before the school day begins.

From **after the Easter holidays**, families will be able to access:

- **DfE Free Breakfast Club:**
8:15–8:45am – Free breakfast and supervised childcare for all pupils.
- **Early Birds Paid Breakfast Club:**
7:45–8:15am – Our usual early session, continuing at the cost of **£2 per child**.

Parents can book both the free and paid sessions through **Beehive**.

Please note that the **DfE free breakfast club must be booked at least two days in advance** so that we can ensure correct food quantities and appropriate staffing levels.

We're excited to offer this enhanced provision to all families and continue supporting pupils with a positive, settled start to each day.



Year Six SATs

Year 6 SATs (Standard Assessment Tests) are the national assessments that check children's progress in reading, maths and grammar, punctuation and spelling at the end of primary school. This year, the KS2 SATs will take place from **Monday 11th May to Thursday 14th May 2026**. You can support your child by encouraging regular short bursts of revision, helping them complete homework, and making use of resources such as CGP books, Times Table Rock Stars, Spelling Shed and BBC Education. Regular reading at home (20 minutes, four times a week) and a simple, manageable revision timetable can also make a big difference.

Communication and Meeting Requests

We aim to respond to emails and phone messages within 48 hours. School days are very full, and staff are busy professionals, so thank you for your patience and understanding. We kindly ask that all communication is courteous and polite, as we are always striving to work in partnership with our families.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with parents and carers. However, please do not arrive at school expecting an immediate meeting, as staff may be teaching or supporting pupils. Teachers are available for a quick chat on the playground after school, but longer conversations must be booked at a mutually convenient time.

Who to Contact

To help resolve queries efficiently, please follow these steps:

1. Speak to the adults who work with your child first – their teaching assistant or class teacher, who usually know your child best.
2. If your query isn't resolved, contact your child's Phase Leader:
 - Years 3 & 4 – *Mr Lander*
 - Years 5 & 6 – *Mr Wibberley*
3. For further support with SEND, after speaking with the class teacher, please contact Mrs Smith, Assistant Headteacher and Inclusion Lead.
4. Mrs Weaver is always happy to help, but will check that you have spoken to the staff who work closely with your child, as most issues can be resolved quickly at this level.

Safeguarding Concerns

We have six Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Mrs Wardle, Miss Summers, Mr Lander, Mr Wibberley, Mrs Smith and Mrs Weaver. If you have a safeguarding concern, one of the team will respond as quickly as possible.

Office Opening Times

Reception – Term Time Only

Monday–Friday: 8:30am – 4:00pm

House Points - Keep earning those points! 🐝

Well done to all pupils for their fantastic effort with their Beehive points. We are delighted to announce that the **Yellow** Team are the Spring Term winners! 🎉

Spring totals

Red - 1446

Green - 1443

Blue - 1274

Yellow - 1468

Year to date totals

Green – 4246

Red – 4569

Blue – 3961

Yellow - 4710

Sporting Success Continues!

Our pupils have been busy representing the school in a range of local competitions.

Girls' Football – Years 3 & 4

A group of Year 3 and 4 girls took part in the FA's *biggest ever girls' training session* at St George's Park. They spent the morning honing their skills with expert coaches before putting them into action during competitive afternoon games. The girls scored some fantastic goals and demonstrated plenty of our 6Rs throughout the day.

Swimming – Years 5 & 6

Our Year 5 and 6 swimming team achieved an impressive **2nd place**. With only half a full team, they showed exceptional teamwork—cheering each other on and bravely swimming double the number of races. A brilliant effort from everyone involved!



Diary Dates

13th April – Teacher training day. School closed to children

14th April – NJS fundraising Team meeting (2:45pm)

15th April – Chocolate Bingo (Doors open 4:45pm)

20th April – Y3 Magic Attic talk

21st April – Y5 Sikh workshop

22nd April – Lionheart Speaks event

24th April – Y3 Hindu workshop

24th April – Y5 Holocaust Museum visit

28th April – Y6 Islam Hajj workshop

29th April – Y3 visit to Calke Abbey

6th – 8th May – Y4 Bikability

11th – 15th May Year Six SATs Week

3rd- 4th June – Y4 Residential trip to Gullivers

8th June – Y6 World War 2 Blitz workshop

17th June – Sports Day at Shobnall Leisure Complex (Y5/6 morning Y3/4 afternoon)

18th June – Y4 Count Me In music concert (Derby Arena)

1st July – Transition Day. Meet new class teachers

