



NEWHALL NEWS

24.10.2025

As we reach the halfway point of the autumn term, it's a perfect moment to reflect on the fantastic start we've had at Newhall Junior School. I've been truly impressed by how well the children have settled into their new classes. Our Year 3 pupils, in particular, have embraced their new environment with enthusiasm and are already making great strides in their learning.

Throughout this term, we've been focusing on the **6Rs**, which continue to be at the heart of everything we do at Newhall. It's been a real pleasure to celebrate so many children in our weekly assemblies who have demonstrated these important values so brilliantly.

We've also had the pleasure of welcoming several visitors who have enriched our curriculum, including author **Steve Webb** and the **Widget Workshop Company**, who brought the Stone Age to life for our Year 3 pupils. It was wonderful to see so many families engaging with class teachers during our online parents' evening. Although we couldn't welcome you into school this time, we're very much looking forward to inviting you into our **new school building** next half term for our **Community Roadshow**.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our incredible staff team for their dedication and hard work in building strong relationships and routines this term. Special thanks go to our **catering team**, who have carefully introduced new menus, our **premises team**, who continue to work tirelessly to maintain our site and prepare for the move into our new temporary building, and our **office team**, who manage the day-to-day running of our busy school with efficiency, care, and kindness.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable half-term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Tuesday 4th November**.

Mrs Weaver

Head of School

[News - Newhall Junior School](#)



Year 3



This half term, Year 3 have been exploring how life changed throughout the Stone Age. The highlight was a Stone Age Workshop, which fully immersed the children in the topic. Using VR headsets, they stepped back in time and experienced life as it was thousands of years ago. They also tried their hands at everyday Stone Age activities such as grinding flour with saddle and rotary querns, making butter, using bow and pump drills, building mini tabletop shelters, and creating a wattle miniature wall.

Across the curriculum, learning has been linked to this period. In Writing, the children produced diary extracts inspired by *The Stone Age Boy* and have begun explanation texts about Stone Age tools. In Reading, they explored a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts about the era. In Art lessons, the children have created their own natural paint, cave paintings and finished the unit with a whole-class handprint mural.

Year 4

Year 4 have made a fantastic start to the academic year and are thoroughly enjoying their Character Awards sessions. These outdoor activities, led by an OAA (Outdoor and Adventurous Activities) specialist, have included engaging games, orienteering challenges and the introduction of key first aid skills. After each session, pupils reflect on their experiences using our school-wide 6Rs, helping them to articulate what they've learned and how they've grown. In addition, Year 4 have begun their music lessons with the South Derbyshire Music Partnership. This 30-week programme is off to a lively start, focusing on rhythm and pitch while revisiting key concepts from Year 3. The children are especially excited about the opportunity to begin learning the clarinet, and their enthusiasm is already shining through in lessons.



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This half term, our Year 5 classes have successfully grown caterpillars into butterflies and released them. We watched them transform as part of our science unit looking at life cycles in different living things.

We also enjoyed our writing workshops with visiting author Steve Webb. He showcased his graphic novels and shared his secrets about crafting unique characters and plotting stories.



Year 6

Our Year 6 pupils had a wild surprise this half term when the Rainforest Roadshow returned to school, bringing with it a collection of creepy crawlies and fascinating facts.

As part of their Geography topic on South America and the Amazon, children got hands-on with exotic creatures including scorpions, tarantulas, leaf insects and a giant millipede. There were plenty of gasps and giggles as brave volunteers stepped up to hold them!

Dave, our knowledgeable visitor, shared stories and insights about the continent, showing off real-life artefacts and photographs from their travels. The biggest thrill came when they revealed an authentic Amazonian blowgun, sparking lots of excitement and curiosity.

This interactive session was a brilliant way to bring learning to life. Pupils deepened their understanding of South American wildlife, local communities, climate and the city of Manaus, all while having a blast. It's safe to say the Rainforest Roadshow was a hit!



Online Safety: Working Together



We'd like to remind families that the minimum age for using platforms such as **Snapchat** and **WhatsApp** is **13 years old**.

Recently, we've become aware of some upsetting messages being shared within group chats in Year 5 and 6. Unfortunately, these comments have had a negative impact on some of our pupils and we've spoken with the children about the importance of kindness, respect and the consequences of online behaviour.

If your child has access to a phone or messaging apps, please take a moment to talk with them about how they use their devices and the importance of using technology responsibly. We will continue to work with pupils in school to promote safe, respectful and positive online interactions.

If you would like support or advice on how to keep your child safe online, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We're here to help.

Punctuality Matters

A special thank you to all families for supporting punctuality. We've seen a noticeable improvement in children arriving on time, which makes a huge difference to their well-being, learning and sets a positive start for the day.

All children are expected to arrive at school between **8:45 and 8:50am**. Learning begins straightaway with spelling and handwriting activities and **maths lessons start promptly at 9:00am**, so arriving on time is essential to ensure children don't miss valuable learning opportunities.

If your child is finding it difficult to come to school, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We're here to help and can offer appropriate support tailored to your child's needs.

We also offer **Early Birds Breakfast Club** every morning from **7:45am**, which is **free for children eligible for Free School Meals or Pupil Premium**. For children who find the transition from home to school challenging, our **Newhall Nest** provides a calm and nurturing start to the day. This is an invite-only provision, but please contact us if you feel your child would benefit from this support.

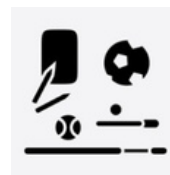
Thank you once again for helping us make every morning a positive start for all.



Diary Dates (Please see our [website](#) for further information)

3rd November – School closed for move to temporary building
4th November – Y6 visit to Cadbury's World
5th November – Y4 Egyptian Workshop
12th November- Y3 visit to Calke Abbey park
10th November – Odd Socks Day for Anti-Bullying Week
14th November – Children In Need Day (non-uniform day)
25th-1st December – Book Fair (Families invited to view after school)
26th November – Community Roadshow and school tour (Families welcome 3:20-5:30pm)
28th November – School closed for training day
1st December – Year 6 Christmas Carol Workshops
2nd December – 3SF Singing Showcase
3rd and 4th December – Y5 Astro Camp
8th- 12th December - Christmas Craft Week (Details sent to families next term)
16th December – Christmas Concert (Details to follow)
22nd December to 2nd January – School Closed for Christmas holidays
7th January – Choir singing at Young Voices

Supporting Learning and Play Beyond the School Day



We're excited to announce that our **new afterschool club** will be available to book via **Beehive** for sessions starting from **10th November**. Mrs Rodney and Miss Shipton are looking forward to welcoming children to a fun, engaging and supportive environment.

Families can choose to book sessions until **4:30pm** or **5:30pm**, depending on their needs. For children staying until 5:30pm, a **sandwich and fruit snack** will be provided.

Pupils will enjoy a wide range of activities including **sports, arts and crafts, games, quizzes**, and more. There will also be opportunities to use **iPads** for educational platforms such as **Spelling Shed** and **Times Table Rock Stars**, supporting homework in a relaxed setting.

We can't wait to see your child there! Please look out for an e-mail with more information



Mini Police



Our children have been thoroughly enjoying their weekly Mini Police sessions, working closely with our local PCSOs to learn about the vital role of the Police in our community. They've explored important topics such as knife crime and hate crime and proudly took part in their attestation ceremony where they were officially sworn in and received their Mini Police uniforms. We're excited for the upcoming sessions, which will include visits from the Armed Response Unit, Drone Unit, and Dog Unit, alongside continued learning in the classroom and the local community.

Sporting Successes

A huge well done to all the pupils who have proudly represented our school in sporting competitions this term! Special congratulations go to the **Year 5/6 girls' cross-country team**, who achieved an impressive **third place** earlier this term—what a fantastic result!

Looking ahead to next term, pupils will have the opportunity to take part in a range of exciting events including **football**, **sports hall athletics**, **kurling** and **dodgeball**. Mr Bower will continue to lead and coach teams during our after-school sports club, helping pupils prepare and shine in upcoming competitions.



We are keen to hear your views and suggestions: *(You can also use the suggestion box in the school reception)*

