



NEWHALL NEWS

13.02.2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of a very soggy, rain-filled term, I want to say how proud we are of all our children. They have begun 2026 with real positivity, energy and focus, making the most of the fantastic opportunities their teachers have planned. Despite the weather, nothing has slowed them down!

This term, Newhall Juniors have sung at Birmingham Arena, taken on crime-scene investigations with Mini Police and shown excellent sportsmanship in the county finals for dodgeball and football. We continue to receive lovely feedback about how polite, kind and respectful our pupils are.

We have also marked several important events across the school. Safer Internet Day on 10th February focused on this year's theme, '*Smart Tech, Safe Choices*'. Pupils learned about staying safe online and the responsible use of AI, an increasingly important part of our curriculum. Thank you to all families who continue these conversations at home; your support makes a real difference.

Alongside this, Children's Mental Health Week encouraged pupils to reflect on what it means to have '*A Place to Belong*' within our school community. Supporting our pupils' mental health remains a key priority.

Finally, we have launched *The National Year of Reading*, a government initiative encouraging children to rediscover the joy of reading for pleasure. Reading supports wellbeing, strengthens learning and opens future opportunities, and we are grateful to parents who are helping promote this at home.

We have many exciting learning opportunities planned for the coming months. We wish all our children and families a lovely half-term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back next term.



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



Year 3



Year 3 have made a *fantastic* start to their Character Awards this half term! Each Tuesday, the children take part in a range of team-building activities designed to strengthen key skills such as **resilience, reciprocity, and resourcefulness**. Alongside this, the class is focusing on a **Quality of the Week**, giving pupils regular opportunities to reflect on positive character traits and demonstrate them in their daily learning. The children are already showing great enthusiasm, and we look forward to seeing their confidence and teamwork continue to grow throughout the term.

Year 4



Year 4 have continued to show responsibility and resilience this year. They have showed wonderful determination in beginning to learn the clarinet, as part of a 30-week project. The children delivered a fabulous mid-point concert to parents and carers, displaying their newly found musical talent! They showed their knowledge of tempo, rhythm and tone. We look forward to welcoming parents and carers back into school in June for their final performance. This date will be shared closer to the time. Well done, Year 4!



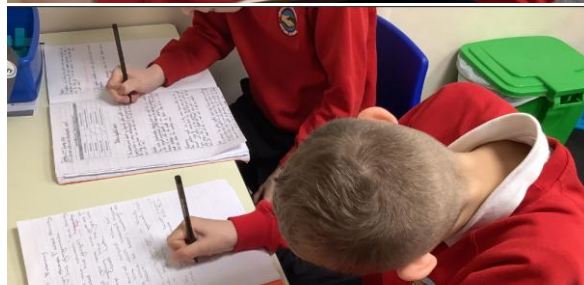
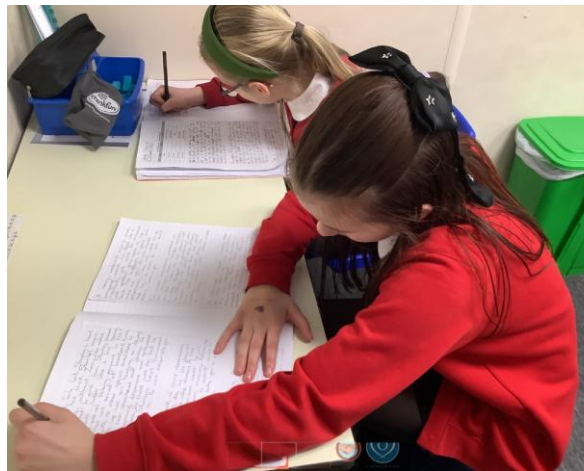
Year 5

Year 5 had a brilliant Viking Experience Day at Conkers, designing shields, building longhouses and taking on a Viking-themed orienteering challenge. Back at school, Adam Pepper from Silverscreen inspired pupils to use digital technology to bring history to life. We can't wait to see their finished film next term and welcome parents for the screening. Hopefully this will also inspire Year 4 next term, who have arranged their own Silverscreen workshop linked to their Romans topic.



Year 6

This half term, the children have been fully immersed in their writing unit inspired by *Holes* by Louis Sachar. They have explored a wide range of writing features - including passive voice, colons, semi-colons, figurative language and varied sentence structures - to develop their authorial skills. Using these techniques, the children have produced a thoughtful letter to Stanley's mum, an informative non-chronological report about the Yellow-Spotted Lizard, and an exciting narrative innovation following Stanley as he searches for Zero. It has been wonderful to see their creativity and confidence flourish through this engaging text.



House Points

Well done to all pupils for their fantastic effort with Beehive points. Many children have already earned their **Bronze badge**, and we're now seeing our first **Silver badges** too!

At the end of the Spring term, the **winning house** will enjoy a reward afternoon with **Paul from Magical Mayhem**. With five weeks to go, here are the current totals:

Spring Term Total:

- **Green:** 779
- **Red:** 763
- **Yellow:** 766
- **Blue:** 681

These also contribute to the **overall yearly scores**, and there's still plenty of time for a shake-up:

Year-to-Date:

- **Yellow:** 4008
- **Green:** 3582
- **Red:** 3886
- **Blue:** 3368

Keep earning those points! 🐝

Attendance Matters!

At Newhall Junior School, our whole-school attendance target is 95%
Our current year-to-date attendance is 94.3%

You can check your child's individual attendance at any time on Beehive. Every day in school supports progress, confidence and wellbeing (even small improvements add up to big gains over time).

Attendance Challenge

Any child who achieves a **4-week attendance streak by 13.03.26** will be heading to the **cinema** for a special celebration. We can't wait to enjoy this treat together and start planning our next attendance challenge.

We've talked with the children about why being in school every day is so important, but they also know that if they are genuinely unwell, it's important to rest at home, recover and keep others safe. There will be another attendance challenge and reward next term, so lots more opportunities to take part!

Each week, we'll also share our **attendance class winners** on our social media pages, so keep an eye on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Motivating your child to attend

Simple conversations can make a real difference.

- **Talk about school positively** — ask what they're excited to learn or who they're looking forward to seeing. Feeling connected helps children want to attend.



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

23rd February - Y4 Roman Day with Silverscreen

23rd February – 3:30 Y4 Parent Information Evening (Gullivers)

26th February – Parkrun Assembly in school

5th March – World Book Day (Get your book character costumes ready!)

9th – 13th March – British Science Week

10th March – Author visit (Serena Patel)

11th-13th March – Y6 Residential to Lea Green

17th March – Y3 Singing Concert to parents

20th March – Poet visit from John Hegley

22nd March – Newhall Juniors Parkrun Takeover (join us at Maurice Lea Memorial Park at 9am)

24th & 25th March – Parents Evening

26th March – Y4 Roman parent workshop

27th March – Last day of term before Easter holidays

EASTER HOLIDAYS

14th April – Return to school for summer term

For more dates, please visit our [school website](#)

School Dinners

Our menus for next term are available on our website. Please take some time to talk through the options with your child at home. Each day there are three meal choices, and children will select their option during morning registration.

- A main meal
- A main vegetarian option
- A jacket potato



Derbyshire Parent Voice

[Derbyshire Parent Carer Voice](#) are a community of passionate volunteer parent carers united by one purpose: To improve the lives of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities across Derbyshire.

Here is a [link](#) to a variety of webinars that they have coming up. If you have any questions, please come and speak to us.



Social Media use outside of school

As access to technology grows, we are seeing more issues linked to the inappropriate use of social media among children. We operate a no-phones policy in school. If a child brings a phone, it must be handed to the class teacher so it can be safely locked away. This supports learning by reducing distractions and forms an important part of our safeguarding procedures.

Recently, we have been made aware of unkind behaviour on platforms such as Snapchat and WhatsApp. Although these incidents take place at home during evenings and weekends, they can cause real upset and do not reflect our school values or expectations of respectful behaviour. Please remember that most social media platforms require users to be at least 13 years old. If you choose to allow your child to use these apps, we ask for your support in supervising their online activity.

How Parents and Carers Can Help

- Check which apps are installed on your child's device.
- Use parental controls on phones, tablets and games consoles.
- Regularly review the messages your child sends and receives.
- Set clear expectations about when and where devices are used (ideally shared family spaces).
- Encourage open conversations about online activity and any concerns.

How School Will Support

- Teach pupils about online safety through Computing, PSHE and assemblies.
- Refer any safeguarding concerns to the appropriate external agencies.
- Support parents with advice on managing online behaviour.

Further Support

For practical guidance on keeping your child safe online, you may find the following resource helpful:

[NSPCC – Keeping Children Safe Online](#)



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

