Newhall News

Autumn Term 1

Headteacher's Message

As we reach the halfway point of the Autumn Term, I would like to thank our children, staff and families for the fantastic start we have made to the academic year.

It has been wonderful to see pupils settle quickly into their new classes, embrace new challenges and approach their learning with enthusiasm. Our Year 3 pupils have made an excellent start to life at Newhall and have quickly become valued members of our school community.

I continue to be incredibly proud of the way our children demonstrate our school values and the 6Rs each day. Their resilience, responsibility and respect help to create a positive environment where everyone can thrive. It has also been a pleasure to celebrate so many pupils in our weekly assemblies for their achievements and positive attitudes.

Attendance has been another real strength this term. We are proud of the many children who come to school each day ready to learn and make the most of every opportunity. Our attendance message, Be Present. Be Positive. Be Proud., is reflected in the commitment shown by both pupils and families. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring children attend regularly and arrive on time.

In true Newhall fashion, we have already welcomed a number of visitors to enrich our curriculum. Highlights have included a visit from author Alex Foulkes and an exciting session with Rainforest Dave and his wonderful creatures, bringing Year 6's Geography learning to life.

October has been a busy and exciting month. We marked World Mental Health Day by taking part in *Hello Yellow*, promoting the importance of positive mental wellbeing, and we have also celebrated Black History Month. This year's theme, *Honouring Our Communities*, has provided valuable opportunities for pupils to learn about and celebrate the achievements and contributions of Black individuals and communities, both past and present.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. It was lovely to see so many families at our Spelling Workshop and Parent Consultation meetings, which provided opportunities to celebrate children's successes and discuss their progress.

I wish all our families a happy, healthy and enjoyable half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 2nd November.

Mrs Clare Weaver
Head Of School

Year 3

Year 3 have made a fantastic start to the school year and should be very proud of all they have achieved so far. The children have settled brilliantly into the new routines and expectations, showing enthusiasm, resilience and a positive attitude to learning. We have already made excellent progress in reading, writing and maths, with the children working hard and embracing new challenges. A particular highlight of the term was our Stone Age workshop, where the children dressed as Stone Age people, explored real and reconstructed artefacts, created cave art and even made simple tools. It was a wonderful hands-on experience that brought our history learning to life. What a great start to the year, and we look forward to all the exciting learning still to come!



Year 4



Year 4 have had a positive start to the year, and the children are enjoying their Character Awards sessions. These outdoor sessions are delivered by Mr Halford and the children have enjoyed sessions focused on resilience, team building and developing communication skills through outdoor learning. The children then reflect on the sessions in the classroom, using the school-wide 6Rs to explain what they have learnt.

Year 4 have also started their music lessons, which are being delivered by the South Derbyshire Music Partnership. The 30-week programme has started with a focus on rhythm and pitch, recapping their Year 3 learning and the children were very excited to begin learning the clarinet in their final session of the half term. We look forward to sharing the children's progress with parents and carers at the mid-point concert (date to be confirmed).

Year 5

What a fantastic half term Year 5 has had! We kicked things off with a magical Harry Potter Day, celebrating our writing topic and sharing our love of reading. In History, we explored the Anglo-Saxons and debated whether the period really deserved to be called the "Dark Ages".

In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of place value, addition and subtraction, while during Science Week we investigated heat shields and filtration through exciting hands-on experiments.

A special well done to 5S, who have started their swimming lessons and shown great enthusiasm and determination in the pool.

We are incredible proud of all the children for their hard work and positive attitudes this half term, and we look forward to more exciting learning after the break!





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 tarantulas, leaf insects and a giant millipede. There were plenty of gasps and giggles as brave volunteers stepped up to hold them!

Dave and Sue, our knowledgeable visitors, 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!

NEWHALL NEWS & NOTICES

FUNDRAISING – THANK YOU, NEWHALL!



A huge thank you to everyone who supported our recent fundraising for Freya. Through our bake sale and raffle, our amazing school community raised an incredible **£611.08**. Every cake bought, raffle ticket purchased and donation made helped us reach this fantastic total.

Congratulations as well to Amelia and Lyla, who won the two chocolate hampers in our raffle!

5* HYGIENE RATING FOLLOWING OUR RECENT INSPECTION



We are proud to share that following our recent inspection by South Derbyshire Environmental Health, we have gained a 5* Food Hygiene Rating. Thank you to our catering team for this fantastic achievement.

UNIFORM

Please would you check your child's school uniform. We have had many items of uniform going missing that have children's names in them. Please check your child hasn't accidently come home with another child's items of clothing.

We also have a large collection in the lost property so please encourage your child to check here. Please ensure all items of children's uniform are labelled clearly so we can return any lost property promptly.

COMMUNICATION

If you need to speak to a member of staff/class teachers, you will need to make an appointment. Unfortunately, class teachers cannot be available before school or during the school day due to teaching commitments. Any concerns can be given to the office team, who will ensure that it is emailed to the relevant members of staff. **Please note, all members of staff have a discretionary period of 48 hours to respond to your concerns.** Any safeguarding concerns will be reported immediately to our DSL team.

ATTENDANCE – BE PRESENT, BE PROUD, BE POSITIVE

We have had a really positive start to the school year and would like to thank our parents and carers for continuing to support good attendance and punctuality.

This half term we have continued to celebrate attendance across school through our weekly attendance updates, class celebrations and our 100% Attendance Club. We are also really excited about our current cinema attendance challenge. Pupils who achieve 100% attendance across the challenge, which began on Monday 12th October, will earn a place on our cinema trip on Tuesday 17th November 2026.

Every day in school matters. Being in school regularly gives children the best opportunity to learn, build friendships and make the most of everything Newhall Junior School has to offer.

As always, if there are difficulties affecting your child's attendance, please speak to us so that we can work with you and offer support.

Be Present. Be Proud. Be Positive

BEHAVIOUR

We are extremely proud of the way our children have started the new school year. Since returning in September, we have awarded over 3,500 reward points to celebrate positive behaviour, effort and attitudes. Our weekly 6R certificates have also continued to recognise children who demonstrate our 6Rs. It has been wonderful to see how well the children have embraced our routines and expectations, particularly when moving calmly and sensibly around the school.

HOUSE POINTS

Well done to all pupils for their fantastic effort with their Beehive points. The latest totals are below for this half term.

Red – 749

Green – 732

Blue – 721

Yellow – 630

Top Classes

Lower School – 4L – 429 points

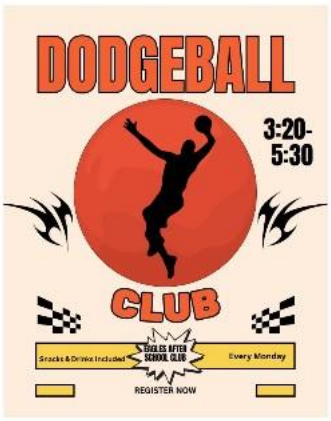
Upper School – 6V – 669 points

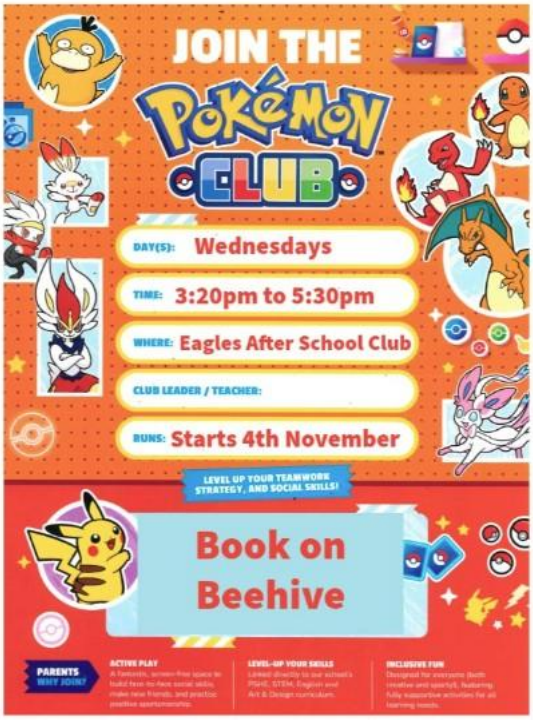
Key Dates

Activity	Date
Year 4 Egypt Workshop	Tuesday 3rd November 2026
Year 6 Cadbury World Trip	Wednesday 4th November 2026
Year 3 Trip to Rosliston Forestry Centre	Thursday 5th November 2026
Attendance Reward Trip - Cinema	Tuesday 17th November 2026
Inset Day - School Closed	Monday 30th November 2026
Year 6 A Christmas Carol Workshop	Tuesday 1st December 2026
Year 3 Christmas Craft 2pm - 3pm	Tuesday 8th December 2026
Christmas Jumper Day	Thursday 10th December 2026
Year 5 Christmas Craft 2pm - 3pm	Thursday 10th December 2026
Year 6 Christmas Craft 2pm - 3pm	Friday 11th December 2026
Year 4 Christmas Craft 2pm – 3pm	Monday 14th December 2026
Carol Concerts: Morning Performance 9.30am, Afternoon Performance 2.00pm	Thursday 15th December 2026
School Christmas Dinner	Friday 16th December 2026
Rocksteady Concert	Thursday 17th December 2026
Last Day of Term – School open to pupils	Friday 18th December 2026

After School Clubs

We have a range of new and exciting After School Club themes starting after the half term holidays. See images below for more details. Bookings must be made via Beehive.







Snacks and Drinks Included





everyone ACTIVE

We're excited to be working with **Everyone Active** to give our families and staff access to a **FREE two-week membership** at their local leisure centre.

It's a great opportunity to enjoy swimming, fitness activities and family time together. Simply scan one of the QR codes displayed around school, complete the short survey and receive your free membership code.

Don't miss out on this fantastic chance to get active and have fun as a family