



NEWSTEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter.

February 2026

Welcome Back

A warm welcome back to all the pupils, parents and staff after the February half term holidays.

We have several things happening this half term, leading up to Easter, please ensure you look at the opposite dates and keep yourself updated using our school website.

www.newstead.notts.sch.uk

New Website

<https://www.newstead.notts.sch.uk>

This is the link to our new website. The website is live, however there is still some work to be completed on it, so please bear with us. The calendar is up to date and this newsletter has been uploaded to it.

Abor - Parent Portal and

APP

We have 91% of parents signed up and using the APP, this is massively positive. I know some of you are still having issues even though you have download the APP. Ensure you have Arbor as a 'safe user' in your

Spring Term Diary Dates

23 February 2026 - School re-opens.
2,3,4,5 March 2026 - Cycle Training for Years 5 and 6.
5 March 2026 - World Book Day
WC16 March 2026- Parents Evening Week
20 March 2026- Comic Relief / Red Nose Day
25 March 2026- Easter Egg Competition
25 March 2026- PTA Easter Disco 4:00-5:30pm
27 March 2026 - Break-Up for Easter Holidays

Summer Term Diary Dates

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13 April 2026 - School re-opens to children
1 May 2026 - Elm Trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park
WC 11 May 2026 - SATs week for Year 6 pupils.
14 May 2026 - Class Photographs
22 May 2026 - Break-Up for Half Term.

HALF TERM

1 June 2026 - INSET DAY
2 June 2026 - School re-opens
9 June 2026 - Together as One Music Concert for Newstead Primary School Choir @ Newstead Centre.
Saturday 4 July 12-3pm PTA Summer Fair.
10 July 2026 - Annual reports out to Parents
14 July 2026 - Sports Day
16 July 2026 - New Classes morning.
24 July 2026 - Children Break-Up for Summer Holiday.
27 July 2026- INSET DAY

INSET DAYS 2025-2026

Monday 1st June 2026

Monday 27th July 2026 (**note** children will break-up for Summer 2026 on Friday 24th July 2026)

Leave of absence during term time - I would please ask that if any holidays are to be taken during term time you consider using the INSET days to make your holiday more cost effective and reduce the amount of days children are absent from school. Please note: 3 days of absence within a 6 week period puts children within the persistent absence category with Nottinghamshire County Council (illness or holidays)

settings and this should pull through the notifications. If we send out e-mails, some of them are ending up in your 'junk/spam' folder so please check and move the messages into your 'inbox' and hopefully any additional e-mails should then land in your inbox.

If you are having an issue please come and see or contact Mrs. Stevenson in the school office, who will be happy to help with any issues you are experiencing.



Letter from the Education Secretary.

We were pleased to receive a letter last month from the Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson congratulating the school on the outcomes we achieved for our pupils. The letter read:

Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at Newstead Primary and Nursery School achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement.

**A message from
Bridget Phillipson**



This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed.

Your school's achievements demonstrate what is possible, and I hope you will continue to share your experience and best practice with others. Even the strongest schools can go further. We encourage you to lead the way as a system leader - sharing effective practice, championing networks, supporting collaboration, and helping raise standards across the sector.

Bikeability Training - Year 5 and 6

For those children signed up to complete the cycle training next week you will receive an additional letter this week regarding which two days your child will be completing the training and what they will need to wear.



Basketball and Rowing Competitions

Some of our children recently represented the school at a basketball competition and a rowing competition. As always Miss Martin reports that the children show enthusiasm and good sportsmanship skills when at the competitions. I am pleased to announce that the girls basketball team claimed 1st prize and the trophy in their competition.



Behaviour and Relationships Policy.

We launched our new Behaviour and Relationships Policy earlier this year. This was e-mailed to you using the Arbor APP. Just in case you have not had a chance to see it, you can use the link below which will take you to a copy of the policy on the website.

The policy is based on a relational approach, alongside our new school rules of Ready, Respectful and Safe.

[Newstead Primary and Nursery School - Policies](#)

New School Rules.

Alongside the new policy, come the new school rules.

Our new school rules are Ready, Respectful and Safe. Staff and children have been working on what this actually means and have come up with some ideas. These are now displayed in all classrooms.

<p>Ready</p> 	<p>Respectful</p> 	<p>Safe</p> 
<p>We arrive at school on time, wearing the correct uniform and have the equipment we need for the day.</p> <p>We look at and listen to the teacher and follow the instructions.</p> <p>We are calm and quiet so everyone can learn.</p> <p>We 'aim high' and show effort in everything we do.</p>	<p>We listen carefully to 'the one voice'.</p> <p>We use good manners, speak politely and ask for help nicely.</p> <p>We look after our school and belongings, respect equipment, tidy up after ourselves and care for others' things.</p> <p>We are kind and inclusive, use kind words, include everyone and respect other peoples' feelings and views.</p>	<p>We think before we act, ensuring our words and actions are not harmful to others.</p> <p>We find a safe and trusted adult to help us with our worries.</p> <p>We walk calmly and sensibly around the school and corridors.</p> <p>We keep hands and feet to ourselves.</p> <p>We sit safely on our chair.</p> <p>We line up ready, one behind the other, calmly and quietly.</p>

In all classrooms we now have RECOGNITION BOARDS. A focus for the day is chosen against the rules. When the children are recognised, their name will be placed on the board - they could be recognised by an adult or a peer completing the recognition focus. Hopefully all children will have their name on the board by the end of the day.

Children's Mental Health Day



We championed Children's Mental Health Week by dedicating a day to focus on this important issue. The theme of this year's events was 'This is my Place'. The focus was to explore what a sense of belonging means to children, highlighting the importance of a safe, supportive environment, in schools, homes and communities. We also explored the uniqueness of being an individual and what it means for children to have their own self-identity and to celebrate this. During the morning the children completed a map. This was an activity where the children identified where they belong in their family, community, school, interests and hobbies. Each class also had a special box, which the children were invited up to have a look in. In the box was a mirror and a reflection of the special thing in the box was - the child themselves!!!



During the afternoon, the children had the choice of 4 different activities they could choose from. The children were placed in groups according to their individual choices. It was lovely to see the children working with others across the whole school and engaging in conversations with children they might not normally do so. The activities were singing, art, team building, puzzles and baking.



At the end of a busy day, we all came together for an assembly to celebrate what had been achieved during the day. Eleanor and Brooklyn our Pupil Parliament Belonging Ambassadors had prepared an assembly that they delivered to the whole school so confidently - well done.



And then to finish off Newstead Primary School Choir sang a song called 'We're all in this together' from High School Musical.

We all had a fabulous day. We need to say a massive thank you to Mrs Howlett, the schools ELSA and Mental Health Lead, for organising the whole day. Thank you very much - here's to next year's event!!

SPACE CENTRE

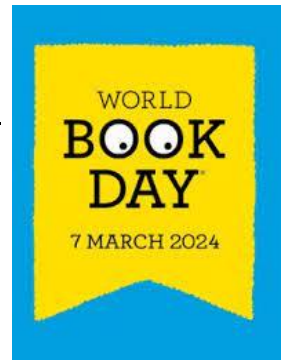
The children from Maple Class and a brilliant day out at the National Space Centre. They have been learning about Space this term and this trip enabled them to embed all the knowledge that had learnt and learn even more when at the centre. Here are just a few pictures from the day.



EVENTS THAT ARE COMING UP THIS HALF TERM.

World Book Day

World Book Day will take place on Thursday 5th March 2026. The children can come dressed in fancy dress or non-school uniform. The theme this year is 'Make a Whole School Story'. Our Learning Ministers Dylan and Kelly have been working with Mrs Megeary on this year's theme. The idea is that one class will begin a story and pass this onto the next class. The next class will work on a 'build up' and then pass this onto the next class and so on until each class has produced a part of the story. This will then be our whole school story. The children will also work on the illustrations during the day and then the book can be 'published'.



Red Nose Day - 20th March 2026



This year, we are having a dance theme for Red Nose Day. The children have been learning dances in their classes and will perform these on the day. We invite all parents to come and watch the children perform their dances on the playground from 9:15am (should last around 45 mins).

The children can wear sports clothes, superhero clothes, as much red as they can or just non-school uniform. For wearing non-school uniform we are asking for a donation of £1

At break time we will also be serving toast and juice. A slice of toast and juice will cost 20p. Additional slices of toast are 20p each (no more than 3 slices). All monies raised will go to charity.

Easter egg competition

Our annual Easter Egg Competition will be held on Wednesday 25th March 2026 so get your thinking caps on and boxes, glue and scissors at the ready. We always have lots of children enter this competition. The entries will be judged in year groups and there will be Easter Egg prizes to be won.



Easter disco

We will be having a school Easter Disco on Wednesday 25th March 2026 at 4:00pm - 5:30pm. Entry is £1 per child and there will be burgers, hotdogs, sweets and drinks on sale at an additional cost. Children who are Year 1 or younger need to be accompanied by an adult. Younger siblings are allowed but no older siblings.



Year 6 SATs Tests

Year 6 SATs are fast approaching and will commence during the week of May 11th 2026. These are statutory tests and children **MUST BE IN** school to take them. Please do not book any **HOLIDAYS** or any other events during this week.

Lost Property

We have lots of uniform left over again at the end of the half-term with no names in them.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE ensure every clothing item that your child has, including the separate items in PE Kits, are named. If clothing is not named in **permanent marker** we struggle to find the owner! If it is named, we generally manage to get it back to you.

Together as One Collaboration.

Newstead Primary School is proud to be working with a formal collaboration of schools in the local community known as 'Together As One'. We are a group of five schools growing together with a commitment to professional learning that enables life-transforming educational opportunities for our pupils. The other schools within the collaboration are:

- Abbey Gates Primary
- Annesley Primary School
- Morven Park Primary School
- Orchard Primary School

Our strategic plan is centred on three key priorities:

Priority 1: Children who are confident and resilient learners, prepared for the future.

Priority 2: Staff who are valued and supported with opportunities for growth.

Priority 3: Together we are aspirational, nurturing and forward looking.



August

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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June

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July

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 School Holidays  Public Holidays  Administration Day

Autumn Term

1 September - 17 October **7 weeks**
3 November - 19 December **7 weeks**

Spring Term

5 January - 13 February **6 weeks**
23 February - 27 March **5 weeks**

Summer Term

13 April - 22 May **5 weeks 4 days**
1 June - 27 July **8 weeks 1 day**

Newstead Primary INSET DAYS

Friday 17th October 2025
Friday 13th February 2026
Monday 1st June 2026
Monday 27th July 2026

UNIFORM

All the children look really smart in their new uniforms at the beginning of this term.

HOODIES / SPORTS TOPS

Hoodies and sports tops are NOT part of our school uniform. If the children come to school in these they will be asked to hang them up in the cloakroom, they are not to be worn in the classroom. Navy blue jumpers and cardigans are available from the school office or local supermarkets.

PE KITS

The children are required to wear 'school colours as part of their PE Kit (Navy or black shorts and a plain white t-shirt). Any brightly coloured kits are not allowed. PE kits are available to purchase from the school office.

JEWELLERY

Necklaces and rings are not appropriate for the children to wear in school. If your child wears earrings, they must be small studs. Your child must be able to remove their own earrings for PE or plasters must be worn over the top. Plasters must be provided from home. Children can wear a watch.

DO YOU QUALIFY FOR FREE SCHOOL DINNERS?

The government provides extra funding to schools for each child who qualifies for free school meals. If your child is entitled to Universal Free School Meals (Willow and Elm Classes) this DOES NOT automatically trigger this funding it needs to be applied for. This is simply done, over the phone, on the following number (0300 500 80 80) if you receive one of the following benefits. Parents of children in Oak, Maple and Pine class can also apply for free school meals using the same number.

Benefits:

- Income support
- Jobseekers allowance
- Employment support allowance
- Child tax credit, provided you are not entitled to working tax credit and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of state pension credit.
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year.



SCHOOL DINNERS - Pine, Maple and Oak Class

School dinners cost £2.90 a day (£14.50 a week) and MUST be paid for in advance or on the days itself.

UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL MEALS.

All children in Willow and Elm Class are entitled to a FREE school lunch under the governments Universal Free School Meal Scheme.

MILK

You must register online at www.coolmilk.com for your child to receive milk. If your child is under 5 they will receive free milk but you must still register them.

CONTACT DETAILS

Please feel free to contact school with any queries or questions and we will be happy to help.

Telephone - 01623 753681

Email - office@newstead.notts.sch.uk