NEWSTEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter.

November 2026

Welcome Back

Welcome back. Hope you all had a lovely October half-term. This half-term is the busiest in the school year so please keep up to date with what is happening, especially leading up to Christmas by looking at the dates opposite or using the calendar section on the school website.

www.newstead.notts.sch.uk

A copy of this newsletter can also be found on the homepage.

Attendance – ATTEND TO SPEND.

Our new attendance initiative, 'attend to spend' was launched just before the half-term holidays in preparation for the new term.

Leaflets and information were sent out via Arbor and paper copies with the children.

All the children have an attendance card in their reading diaries. This will track the 100% attendance weeks they achieve. Every 4 weeks the attendance

Autumn Term Diary Dates

2 November 2026 – INSET DAY
3 November 2026 – School re-opens to children at 9.00am
10 November 2026 – Heights and Weights Yr6 and Reception.
13 November 2026 – Children In Need Day
WC 16 November 2026- Odd Socks Day - Anti-Bullying Week
25 November 2026 – Nasal Flu Immunisations
27 November 2026 – Pine Trip – Ancients Greeks at Mansfield Museum.
2 December 2026 – PTA Christmas Fair 3:45-6:00pm
9 December 2026- Christmas Dinner Day / Christmas Jumper Day
9 December 2026 – Willow and Acorn Christmas Nativity – 9:30am.
10 December 2024– Elm Christmas Nativity – 9:30am and 5:00pm.
14 December 2026 – Attendance certificates assembly.
16 December 2026 – Christmas Party Day
17 December 2026 – Pine, Maple and Oak Christmas Church Concert – 2:00pm and 5:00pm
18 December 2025 – Break-Up for the Christmas Holidays

Spring Term Diary Dates

4 January 2027 – School re-opens to children
27 /28 / 29 January 2027 – Year 5 and 6 Residential to Willersley Castle.
4 February 2027 – SCARF Workshops (part of PSHRE Curriculum)
WB 1 February 2027 – Children's Mental Health Week
11 February 2027 – Children break-up for half-term
12 February 2027 – INSET DAY

INSET DAYS 2026-2027

Friday 12th February 2027
Monday 12th April 2027
Monday 7th June 2027

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 form 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)

shop will open and the children will have the chance to 'spend' their stamps on something in the shop or save their stamps to spend on something with a higher stamp value.



Attendance Policy

A new attendance policy will also be launched soon. A full version of this policy will be given to all families but a 'parent friendly' version will also be given out – this will feature the main points from the more detailed policy. Attendance is our main priority as a school.

Ofsted found that 'rates of attendance are low and have been consistently so for the last three years'. We have a two-year window to ensure that attendance improves in line with national percentages. We cannot do this alone, we need you as parents to understand how important it is for children to attend school for the majority of the school year.

Ofsted have already completed a monitoring call with leaders to discuss the actions to improve this area and will come and complete an on-site inspection around the attendance area within two years, so it is important we work together to improve this area quickly.

Is my Child too ill for school?

At the back of this newsletter is a poster released by the NHS and the UK Government to support parental understanding when your child is ill. Please take a look as it is a quick and helpful guide to help you assess if your child is too ill for school.

'Under the weather' forms.

Some days your child may be 'under the weather' – headache, cold, sore throat, cough etc but they are okay to come into school. You can always talk to the adults on the gates at drop off times to let them know your child is feeling under the weather. For those of you who do not drop off we will be launching a form that will be on our school website that you can fill in so we keep a closer eye on your child during the day. If your child comes to school and cannot make it through the day, we will call and let you decide what you want to do.

Attendance Reward Assembly

At the end of this term, we will be holding an attendance assembly, where we will be celebrating those children who have achieved good attendance this term. Children will receive a certificate for 'good' attendance if their attendance is 96% or above. Children who have 100% attendance at the end of the term will also receive a certificate. If they continue to achieve 100% attendance for the whole school year they will also receive a bowling trip in July 2027.
We currently have 48 children out of 74 (65%) who have attendance of 96% or above.

Leave of absence

Can I just remind you that leave of absences are not encouraged during term time as it impacts your child's education, friendships and wellbeing.
I have put in links to the school's website calendar and the Nottinghamshire County Council school holiday calendar is at the back of this newsletter, so you are aware when the school holidays are.
If you do take a leave of absence during term time, we still require a form to be filled in. These can be obtained from the school office.



Parents Evening Attendance

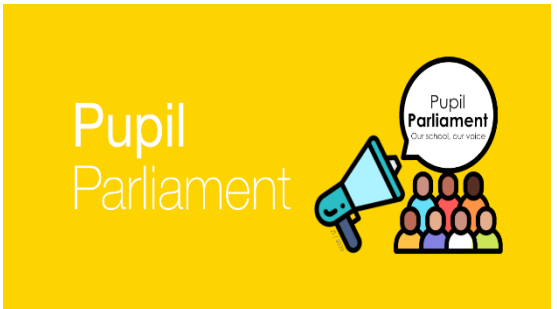
Thank you to all those parents who attended parents evening before the half-term holidays. You can always ask to speak about your child's well-being and academic performance, but parents evening gives you time in the Autumn and the Spring Terms to hear about how your child is getting on in their class.

The attendance of parents was very positive. We have 74 children in school and 68 children were represented, this is 92%. Thank you to all those who attended.

Pupil Parliament

At Newstead Primary School we have a Pupil Parliament. All the roles within the Parliament have been voted for by the children. The aim is that the ministers, on behalf of the other children in the school can represent views, opinions and plans for change. Ministerial meetings will be conducted by the Prime Minster.
Last half term, the children who wanted to become a minister put themselves forward and then the children voted. Below is a list of the ministerial roles and the children who were voted into these roles:

Prime Minister – Evelyn
Inclusion Ministers – Kelly and Nellie
Environment Ministers – Brooklyn and Heath
Fundraising Ministers – Carter and Priah
Learning Ministers – Kelly and Dylan



Sport and Play Ministers – Ollie and Leo
Belonging Ministers – Eleanor and Eva
Learning Ministers – Harmony and Darcey

Our prime minister, Evelyn, will be meeting with all the other Prime Ministers within our Collaboration of schools via a Teams meeting this half term to discuss any focuses for the work the parliaments can achieve in all 5 schools.

Children in Need – Friday 13th November 2026

On Children in Need Day the children can come dressed in fancy dress if they wish to or in non-school uniform. Fancy dress may be any 'spotty' outfit, pyjamas or any fancy dress the children may have. We are asking for a £1 donation for fancy dress or non-school uniform. We will be selling toast and juice on this day, 20p per slice of toast and 10p for juice.
The children throughout the day will be doing various activities.

Please note: Elm Class has a trip on this day to Newstead Abbey for a Victorian Christmas.

Year 4 and Year 5 Swimming.

We change to **GROUP B** on Thursday 26th November 2026. Group B will swim from this date until the 11th February 2027. Swimming lessons will be at Hucknall Leisure Centre on a Thursday afternoon. The children will swim from 2:15pm until 3:00pm so will be back just in time for home time. They will be transported to the leisure centre using the school mini-bus. All children will require the appropriate swim wear. They will need a towel. Girls require a swimming costume (no bikinis or tankinis). Boys need **fitted swimming trunks/tight shorts** (they are not allowed to wear loose fitting shorts with pockets). If your child needs to wear goggles to swim a letter needs to be signed and returned to school. Goggle letters can be collected from the school office. Long hair needs to be tied up or a swimming cap must be worn.



PTA EVENTS

KS2 Movie Night

Pine, Maple and Oak will be invited to the Movie Night on Monday 16th November. Details will be given via the PTA very soon.

PTA Christmas Fair

The PTA are busy organising the Christmas Fair that will be held on Wednesday 2nd December 2026. More details will follow closer to the time. We will be having a raffle and a tombola stall, so if you would like to donate anything to these you can begin donating now.





Year 6 SATs 2027

SATs for the current Year 6's will commence during the week of May 10th 2027. These are statutory tests and children MUST BE IN school to take them. Please do not book any LEAVE OF ABSENCES 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.***

Is my child too ill for school?

UK Government NHS

Does your child have a high temperature (38ºC or more)?

YES Keep them off school until it goes away.

NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in

A cough, cold or sore throat

Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.

Threadworms

Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.

Should go in (let the school know)

Cold sores

Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.

Conjunctivitis

Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

Head lice & nits

You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.

Hand, foot & mouth disease

If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.

Slapped cheek syndrome

Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.

Seek treatment before returning to school

Impetigo

They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.

Ringworm

See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.

Scarlet fever

They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

Chickenpox

Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Keep them off (at first)

Ear infection

If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.

Measles

They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.

Vomiting & diarrhoea

Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'

Nottinghamshire School Holidays 2026-27

August 2026 to July 2027

Nottinghamshire County Council

2026/2027

August

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

School Holidays | Public Holidays | Administration Day

Autumn Term

1 September - 16October **6 weeks 4 days**

2 November - 18 December **7 weeks**

Spring Term

4 January - 12 February **6 weeks**

22 February - 25 March **4 weeks 4 days**

Summer Term

12 April - 28 May **6weeks 4 days**

7 June - 28 July **7 weeks 3 days**

INSET DAYS 2026 – 2027

Monday 2nd November 2026

Friday 12th February 2027

Monday 12th April 2027

Monday 7th June 2027

UNIFORM

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 our uniform supplier directly 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 our uniform supplier directly.

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 done, online here:
https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-milk
or over the phone (0300 500 80 80).
Parents of children in Oak, Maple and Pine class can also apply for free school meals if you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit.

Free School Meals
Are you entitled?

Qualifying benefits:

- Universal Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Income related Employment and Support allowance
- Receive the guarantee element of Pension Credit.
- Meet criteria set out in separate guidance for families with no resource to public funds

SCHOOL DINNERS – Pine, Maple and Oak Class

School dinners cost £2.95 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