Newland St John's
CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Living Together, Learning Together and Shining Together in the Love of God.

'...Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.' **Matthew 5:16**

Newsletter - November 2026

A message from Mrs Brett

Welcome to our November newsletter. As the winter draws in, it is lovely to reflect on how our children are shining.

This month, we have taken time to reflect on the meaning of Remembrance. Our Kingfisher Class led us in worship and sold poppies to raise awareness and support members of the Armed Forces community and their families.

At 11 o'clock on 11 November, we gathered in school for our Remembrance and Peace Service. We used eight poppy colours to think about the different ways war affects people, animals and the world around us. **Red** helped us remember those who died fighting in wars, **orange** reminded us of veterans, and **yellow** prompted us to think about children affected by war. **Green** reminded us of the impact of war on the environment, **blue** helped us think about people recovering from the physical and emotional effects of war, and **purple** honoured the animals that served. The **black poppy** recognised the contributions of African, Black, Caribbean, Pacific Island and Indigenous communities, while the **white poppy** invited us to hope and work for peace.

Jesus' words, 'Blessed are the peacemakers,' encouraged us to think about how we can let our light shine by bringing peace to the way we live together.

Thank you to the staff who helped prepare the children and to Revered Jake for leading our act of remembrance.

Remembrance reminds us to pause, give thanks and think about how we can care for others. It brought our vision of **"Living together, learning together and shining together in the love of God"** to life, giving the children an opportunity to share their gifts and let their lights shine.

As we head towards the season of Advent, we look forward to more opportunities to learn, celebrate and make a difference together. Thank you for your continued support and for being such an important part of our school community.

November Highlights

The highlights of the month include:

The day the Choral Choir Sang at Hull Minster

On Monday 9th November, our school choir had a fantastic time taking part in a singing festival at Hull Minster alongside other schools. Although we were the smallest choir there, the children were thrilled to win the **Best Sound Quality Award**! They had the wonderful opportunity to listen to professional singers and receive feedback from a well-respected singer. The children also enjoyed listening to and helping to judge the performances of other school choirs. It was a brilliant experience for everyone involved, and we are so proud of the children's beautiful singing, confidence and excellent behaviour throughout the day. Well done to our amazing choir! It is fantastic when the children have the opportunity to share their gifts and bring joy to others- an example of them shining.
(Mrs Guzel)

Year 2 Handwriting Workshop

We welcomed Year 2 parents and carers to a handwriting workshop to share how we teach handwriting at Newland St John's. Families learnt how we help children form letters correctly, keep them a consistent size and leave clear spaces between words. We also shared simple ways to reinforce these skills at home. Thank you to everyone who joined us!

Foundation Stage Autumn Walk

Our Foundation Stage children went on an autumn walk to look for signs of the changing season. They spotted leaves turning yellow, orange and brown and listened to them crunch beneath their feet. Taking time to notice these small changes gave our youngest learners a moment of awe and wonder at the beauty of God's creation. As they shared their discoveries and found new words to describe what they could see, hear and feel, they brought our vision to life, **'Living together, learning together and shining together in the love of God.'**

The days Year 3 worked on their Pedestrian Skills

Year 3 put their pedestrian skills into practice as they learnt how to stay safe near roads. They thought carefully about where to cross and rehearsed stopping, looking and listening before crossing. It was a great opportunity to build confidence and develop habits they can use on their journeys to and from school.

Year 3- Courageous Advocates

Year 3 are letting their light shine this Advent by creating a reverse Advent calendar for Hull Foodbank. Each day, the children will add a donation to the collection to support local families.

If you're able to help, please bring a donation of non-perishable food to school. Tinned food, pasta and rice are all welcome. Thank you for helping Year 3 put their compassion into action.

Free School Meals

As a school, we are determined to ensure that families get the financial support they are entitled to. Eligibility for free school meals changed in September.

Eligibility

If you receive the following benefits your child is entitled to free school meals:

- Universal Credit
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit

If you think you are eligible for free school meals, you can apply online –

Apply for free school meals (opens in new window)

Free school meals **can** also be provided to families who have **No Recourse to Public Funds** if the annual income is less than:

- £22,700 (for families with 1 child)
- £26,300 (families with 2 or more children)

For more information about providing free school meals to families under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 who have no recourse to public funds, visit GOV.UK.

To apply contact school for the relevant documents

.**If you are interested in applying or are just not sure about how the system works, please do not hesitate to call the school in confidence: we will support you through the application process.**

Facebook

Are you a social media user? If so, please show our new Facebook page some love and attention! We've officially launched our new page and would love to get it off to a flying start.

If you have a spare minute, please pop over, give us a follow/like, and help spread the word. If you spot a post you like, feel free to give it a like, share it, or leave a comment.

https://www.facebook.com/NewlandStJohnsCE



Positive Mental Wellbeing

Big Feelings, Happy Homes: Supporting Family Wellbeing

Family life can sometimes feel a bit of a challenge. We want you to know that you are not on your own. We are always on hand to listen and offer ideas and support. However, beyond school, there is a high quality resource all families in Hull can access for **free**.

Hull City Council provides all local parents, carers, grandparents, and young people with **free, unlimited access to the online resource - Togetherness**.

Created by NHS clinical psychologists and real parents, Togetherness offers bite-sized, judgement-free online learning pathways designed to help you understand your child's emotional world, manage big feelings, and boost your own confidence.

Why families love it:

- **Short and sweet:** Each module takes just 15–20 minutes—easy to dip into with a cup of tea once the house goes quiet.
- **Go at your own pace:** There are no deadlines or tests, and once you sign up, your access never expires.
- **Something for every stage:** Explore topics covering everything from understanding your child's feelings and sleep, to navigating relationships and supporting teens.



How to get started:

1. Visit the Togetherness Hull portal.
2. Enter the exclusive Hull access code: **FREEDOM**.
3. Browse the pathways and pick whatever feels most helpful for your family right now.

We hope you find it useful. Remember to let us know if you found a course or piece of advice that was helpful so we can let other parents know.

Spotlight on Maths

Number Facts

Knowing number facts 'by heart' is key to being a confident mathematician. To help children learn and remember these facts we use a programme called 'Mastering Number'. Children in **Reception and Key Stage** 1 learn how numbers are built, for example 7 is made of 4 and 3. They also learn doubles, near doubles. You can help you child practice these number facts using the **1-Minute App.** One minute each day using this fun resource really helps. Here is the link to download the App,

In **Key Stage 2** we focus on times tables facts.. Children should know all the times tables (to 12 x12) by the end of Year 4. To make times tables more fun, we set a battle each week on **Times Tables Rockstars** (TTRS). Please encourage your child to take part and help their class win the battle. We announce the winning class in worship every Friday. Here is the link: TTRS.

We do a lot of counting in school. Learning to count in the multiples for each times table is really helpful. For example, when learning the 6 times table facts, count in 6s to secure these number facts: 6, 12, 18, 24, 30 etc. Write the multiples down on strips of paper and see if your child can place them in order and count them still when you remove the numbers. Each week, your child's class teacher will let you know what they are counting in, in the weekly email. Thank you for your support with this - have fun!

Attendance -Being here makes all the difference

Our attendance so far this year is much stronger at over **95.7%.** Our target is **97%** so we are almost there. Thank you to all children and families for supporting this - keep going!

Being in school every day and on time makes all the difference and means all children can be successful. Missing odd days throughout the year puts children at a disadvantage as they miss important learning. Research shows that strong attendance means children are more likely to be successful in life beyond school. Just to illustrate the impact of odd days of absence, **missing 10** days in a school year means losing over **50 hours** of learning time.

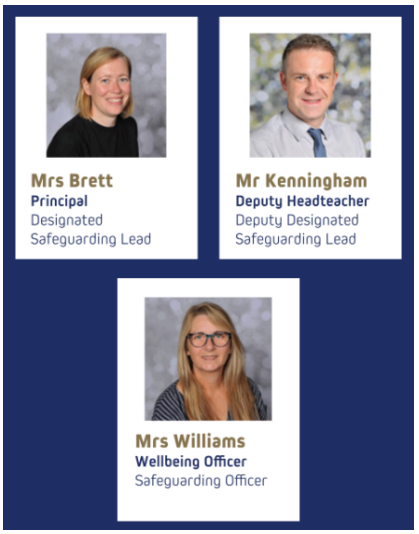
We are always available to talk about attendance. Let us know if you know of any barriers that may prevent your child from attending school - we are always keen to help.

If your son or daughter has a minor illness, like a cold, they can still attend. Just let the office team know and they will pass the information to their class teacher so they are aware.

At this time of year, viruses are more common. Good handwashing is even more important to reduce the spread of germs. We teach children how to wash their hands properly and remind them regularly throughout the day. Here is some NHS advice on proper handwashing. Here is an NHS video that may help your child learn how to wash their hands properly.

Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding Team:



What to do if you have a concern about a child:

During School Hours:

- Contact the school and speak to either Mrs Brett or another member of the safeguarding team, via the main office on 01482 305740.
- Contact the Access and Assessment team for Hull on 01482 448879

Out of school hours and during school holidays:
If your concern is urgent and there is an immediate risk of harm, then contact the police via 999

If your concern is less urgent but you are worried about the welfare of the child then contact the Early Help and Safeguarding Hub on 01482 448879 or the Emergency Duty Team 01482 300304 (After 5pm and weekends)

For more information, click on the link: **Worried about a child | Hull** Please remember that if a child discloses anything that is worrying them, we may need to speak to parents and carers. This is part of our duty of care.

Anti-Bullying Week

Odd Socks in Squirrels Class



During Anti-Bullying Week, we took part in **Break the Silence**, a campaign shaped by the voices of more than 200 children and young people. This year, we launched anti-bullying week with '**Odd Socks Day' -** an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique!

We were reminded of the Anti-Bullying Alliance's definition of bullying: *'The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online. talked about how to speak up about bullying, listen with kindness and ask a trusted adult for help'.*

This brought our vision of **'Living together, learning together and shining together in the love of God'** to life. We explored how standing up for others is an act of **courageous advocacy** and a way to live out Jesus' words, **'Let your light shine before others'** (Matthew 5:16).

For more advice and support, please click on the link:

Anti-Bullying Week 2026 Parent and Carer pack - Final.pdf

SEND

Understanding Sensory Needs

Following some recent training with our Local Authority, I wanted to share some helpful ideas about sensory needs.

Children experience the world in different ways. Some children enjoy lots of noise, movement and touch. Other children may find loud noises, bright lights or certain textures difficult.

This is called **sensory processing**. It is how our brains understand information from the world around us and from our bodies.

👀 **Did you know?**

We have eight senses!

As well as seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting and touching, we also have three other senses:

- Body awareness: Knowing where our body is and how it moves.
- Balance and movement: Knowing when we are moving, jumping, rocking or spinning.
- Body signals: Knowing when we are hungry, thirsty, tired, hot or need the toilet.

💡 **Try this at home!**

Some children enjoy activities that involve moving their bodies and using their muscles.

Why not try:

- Carrying the shopping (with suitable, light bags).
- Helping to tidy toys away.
- Dancing to music.
- Building a den with cushions.
- Playing animal walks, such as bear walks or crab walks.

These activities can help some children feel calm, comfortable and ready to learn.

🏡 **Top tips for home**

- Create a quiet space where your child can relax.
- Give your child time to get ready for changes.
- Notice if your child dislikes certain clothes, sounds or smells.
- Offer regular opportunities to move and play.
- Talk to your child about how they are feeling.

💜 **Remember**

Every child is different. What helps one child may not help another.

The most important thing is to understand your child's needs and find ways to help them feel happy, safe

and ready to learn.

🔎 **Want to find out more?**

Would you like to learn more about sensory needs?

Hull Parent Carer Forum has a helpful website for parents and carers. It explains the different senses, sensory processing and how sensory needs can affect children.

You can find out more here:

Sensory Processing Difficulties – Hull Parent Carer Forum

We want to hear from you!

At NSJ, we're always looking for ways to improve our SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) provision. Your feedback is vital in helping us provide the best support for your child.

Please take a few minutes to complete our online feedback form and share your thoughts on how we can enhance our SEND offer. Parent/Carer SEND Voice .

Your opinions matter and your input will help shape a more inclusive and supportive environment for all our students.

Thank you for your time and support!

Where can I get SEND advice?

- **Hull Local Offer** The Hull Local Offer website is where parents, carers, children and young people up to 25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can find information, advice and guidance about support, services and activities that are available to those living in Hull.
- **SENDIASS (Special Educational needs Independent Advice Service)** Telephone: 01482 467 541 Email: hullsendiass@kids.org.uk

The Local Offer Hull

If you have any queries regarding this update, or would like to speak to the SENCo about anything to do with your child, please do not hesitate to email hello@nsj.hslt.academy for an appointment.

New Beginnings

It is with great sadness that we say 'goodbye' to Mrs Havecroft. She has been a dedicated member of staff for over 30 years as a teacher, a senior leader and then the office administrator. Her dedication to the children

shone through throughout those years and we are so grateful for her service. Although she has left the school as an employee, you may still see her sometimes as she hopes to continue to volunteer. We wish her all the best in her retirement.

As a gift to the school Mrs. Havercroft has bought a beautiful wooden box to place the Bible, cross and candle in when we welcome all into worship.

Clubs Autumn 2026

Day	Time	Club	Led by	Year Group	Cost
Monday-Friday (daily)	8:00-8:45	Breakfast Club*	Staff	All	£1:50 per session
Monday-Thursday (daily)	Lunchtime	Lunchtime crafts and games	Mrs Williams	All	Free
Monday	3:15-5:15	NSJ Youth Theatre*	Hull Truck (Mrs Brett)	Y4/5	Free
Monday	3:20-4:20	Sport- multi-skills*	Coach Josh	Y1/2/3	Free
Tuesday	3:20-4:20	Girls Football*	Mrs Marszalek	Y4/5/6	Free
Tuesday	3:20-4:20	Boys Football*	Mr Lewis	Y4/5/6	Free
Thursday	3:15-4:00	Choral Choir*	@choralhull (Ms Briggs)	Y4, 5 &6	Free
Friday	Lunchtime	Scooter skills on the playground	Scooter Leaders	All	Free
Friday	3:20-4:20	Tag Rugby*	Coach Sonny	Y4/5/6	Free
Friday	3:20-4:15	Green Ambassadors* (Junior Apprentices)	Mr Kenningham	Year 3	Free

** Booking essential. If there are no places available, your child may be added to a waiting list.*

Key Dates - Autumn Term 2026

Date	Event
	Half Term
Wednesday 2nd December 2:45-3:15	Dormice stay and play
Monday 7th December	**Year 6:** visit to Hull Truck Theatre to see '**Wind in the Willows**'
Thursday 10th December (1pm)	**Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1:** visit to Hull Truck Theatre **'Hansel and Gretel'**
Monday 14th December	**Lower Key Stage 2:** Christmas Party
Tuesday 15th December	Nativity to Parents/ Carers at church
Tuesday 15th December	**Upper Key Stage 2:** Christmas Party
Wednesday 16th December	St. John's Newland (9:20-10:20) Christmas Service (Year 5) (Open to all parents/carers but especially those with children in Year 5)
Thursday 17th December	Key Stage 1 Christmas Party
Thursday 17th December	Foundation Stage Christmas Party
Thursday 17th December	School closes for Christmas

Reflection

As the autumn days grow shorter, All Saints' Day reminds us of those whose lives have shone with God's love. Their examples help us think about how we, too, can bring light into the lives of others.This reflection is taken from the Church of England website:

Share a Little Light

The website gives examples of things to do with children during the half term break and includes prayers that you may want to use with your children if they feel afraid:

Be with us, Lord,
and take away all fear,
may your angels protect us
and give us peace.
And bless us always.
Amen.



Open Days

Open Days for September 2027 starters

Is your child due to start school in September 2027?

We are holding open events for prospective families. We hope you can join us!

If you know a family looking for a school in our area, please share the information with them.

