



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 - October 2026

A message from Mrs Brett

Welcome to our October newsletter. As the autumn colours begin to appear, it is lovely to reflect on all that our children have been learning and sharing together half this term.

Our Harvest service was a wonderful celebration. It was carefully planned and beautifully led by the children in Owls Class and we are incredibly proud of all the children. Their enthusiasm, thoughtful contributions and the care they put into taking part made it a special occasion. The families who completed the survey after the service unanimously agreed that they 'loved it!' - with one parent commenting: *'Everything was wonderful: it's always lovely to see all the children growing and gaining confidence in their speaking.'* Thank you to the staff who helped prepare the children; Reverend Jake for making us feel so welcome and delivering the address; and to the families who joined us.

Harvest 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. An overarching theme of the parental feedback was that our children shine because they are kind and respectful. No where has this been more apparent than in our youngest children's determination to look after the hedgehogs - after finding an injured hedgehog on the school site. Playtimes and lunchtimes have been spent building hedgehog houses. Meanwhile, our older children have been thinking about how, as a diverse community, we can live together well. They have reflected on the trinity and how, if God as Trinity shows a loving relationship in which all are valued, then humans have been created to live in loving relationships where all are valued. They have been challenged to think about how they can actively stand up for justice and have thought about what it means to be anti-racist.

As we enter the second half term, 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.

October Highlights

The highlights of the month include:

Year 3 and 4 Times Tables Workshop for Parents

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the Times Tables Workshop for parents. Your support makes an enormous difference and it is wonderful for the children to be able to see you so involved in their learning.

The day Owls visited Anglo-Saxons and Vikings Museum

Our Year 4 children had the opportunity to visit Hull and East Yorkshire Museum for a Vikings and Anglo Saxons Experience. This gave them the opportunity to explore evidence and gain a greater insight into what life was like in this period. The staff reported that the children were extremely well behaved and loved having the opportunity to get 'hands on with the past'

The day Kingfishers became NASA Scientists

Our Year 5 children started our new book, Hidden Figures, with a very exciting day! They all received NASA and NACA lanyards and had to complete secret projects, like studying classified information and finding out about the history of the organisation. They even had a Top Secret sign on our classroom door!

The day Otters took part in the Justice System

This half term, **Year 6** had the fantastic opportunity to gain practical experience of the law and justice system when they visited **Hull Combined Court**. They met real-life judges and were bursting with questions about the law. Some of the children even wore robes and wigs. The children then had the opportunity to take part in a mock trial. They explored a case on cyberbullying; prepared for and presented a trial; took on all the courtroom roles; reached a verdict and explored sentencing options.

Quotes from the day:

'The defence witness got a particular grilling from the prosecution team. We listened to a heartfelt statement from the accused, who was expertly cross-examined by the prosecution'

'That was such fun!'

'Our jury foreperson stepped in at the last minute and announced the verdict. The judge gave a hash message about cyberbullying with the his 5-year sentence'

This brought the law to life and gave the oldest children in our school the opportunity to live out our Christian vision in a very practical sense:

Living together: Exploring a cyberbullying case helped the children consider how their actions affect others and why fairness, respect and accountability matter. They explored how the law protects people and the responsibility we share to treat others with dignity, including online.

Learning together: Preparing and presenting a trial required children to collaborate, listen carefully, weigh evidence and consider different perspectives before reaching a verdict. Meeting a judge and

legal professionals deepened their understanding of justice and broadened their aspirations.

Shining together: Taking on courtroom roles gave children opportunities to develop confidence, express their views and discover their strengths. Considering the consequences of cyberbullying encouraged them to reflect on how they can protect others and challenge harmful behaviour.

Rooted in **Matthew 5:16**, “**Let your light shine before others,**” this experience encouraged children to see that shining includes using their voice and making responsible choices that contribute to a fairer, kinder community.

The day Dormice, Hedgehogs and Squirrels Performed in a Poetry Recital

Our youngest children had the opportunity to share their gifts, bring joy to others and help their peers shine through encouragement and support when each class performed their poem in front of a large audience. Thank you so much to everyone who joined us. It was wonderful to see the children's enthusiasm.

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](https://www.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.

Help for Families

Help for Families - a reminder the cost of living crisis is having an impact on all families in our community. We would like to signpost some sources of support that may help.

Food Banks:

[Hull Foodbank](#)

[Hull Vineyard Church](#)



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.



Half-Term Fun for Everyone

As half term begins, we've put together a list of free and low-cost activities and events for children and families to enjoy over the break, with options to suit a range of interests and needs.

Hull BID Pumpkin Trail – FREE Halloween Trail around Hull city centre runs Saturday 24th October to Sunday 1st November. 15 cheeky pumpkins and their fiendish friends are hiding around Hull city centre. Follow the clues to collect the 15 letters and unscramble them to reveal the hidden message. Pick up a copy of the trail guide from the Welcome Hub at Hull Interchange to take part, and return it there to be entered into a free prize draw. The trail starts in St Stephens, goes across to Prospect Centre, Princes Quay, Old Town and on to Humber Street.

Prospect Shopping Centre Hull has free, family Halloween events. Free, just drop in.

- 28th October – Meet our skeleton stilt walkers
- 29th October– Meet Jack Skellington & Oogie Boogie
- Both days – Face painting, Arts & crafts, Games and a Halloween Trail.

Trinity Market Hull free family magic show – Celebrating with the Hull Magicians' Circle the commemoration of the world famous magician and escapologist Harry Houdini's 100 years anniversary with 'It's Astonishing'! A free family friendly magic and juggling show on 28th October at 1pm, with live magic, juggling and fun on stage and close-up, under-your-nose surprises in the audience! Free to attend.

The World of Wonder at Oasis Hub Hull is 10 years old! Join us this October half term to celebrate. Free, no booking needed, just drop in. World of Wonder (WOW) is a series of magical rooms with play equipment to spark the imagination including, a play kitchen, a faraway tree, a hobbit hole, sensory room and Narnia props. No upper age limit but under 5s will get the most out of the experience. WOW will be open and extra themed crafts also available on –

- 27th and 28th October 10am-5pm
- 29th October 2026 9.15am-12noon
- Also on 29th October 10.30am-12noon there will be a bouncy castle and birthday cake.

Oasis Hull Community Church, 310 Newland Avenue, Hull, HU5 2NB

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](tel:01482467541) Email: hullsendiass@kids.org.uk



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.

Marvellous Maths

Maths in Early Years

We teach early mathematics through a resource called 'Mastering Number'. These daily sessions help children gain a deep understanding of the size of numbers within 10. Children also have a chance to practice their maths in areas of provision, throughout the day, based on what they have been taught in Mastering Number. At home, it is helpful to play board games (reading the number on dice and counting the number of moves on a board game track); count everyday objects, e.g counting ingredients when cooking or baking, and practice writing numbers with the correct formation.



Number Facts in Year 1 and 2

In Year 1 and 2, we continue to secure a deep understanding of number, using 'Mastering Number'. Children learn to work out a number of objects by looking at them, rather than counting them; add and subtract numbers practically, know how to double numbers, and also how to compare numbers. Through these lessons, they learn to recall additive number facts with confidence and speed, e.g. $5+2=7$ or $7-5=2$. Here is a link to the mathematics section of our website where you can view our curriculum. For KS1 children, the One-Minute App is very helpful in practicing and securing these key number facts. Download it [here](#). To keep screen time to a minimum, just a few minutes on this resource will help build confidence. Knowing these number facts, helps children to be successful in mathematics during KS2.



Times Tables

We start learning times table facts in Year 2. By Year 4, all children should know all times table facts to 12x12, by heart. We start to teach each times table by counting, e.g. counting in 4s (to learn the 4x table). We then develop verbal memory by chanting the times tables facts - this helps the facts to 'stick' in the memory. Knowing the times tables facts is vital for success in maths during Year 5 and 6, and beyond in secondary education. You can help at home by encouraging your child to count in the times table they are learning in school, and letting them practise their facts with you. Times Tables Rockstars (TTRS) is a great resource that children enjoy. Encourage your child to test their times tables facts by joining a 'battle' each week. We announce the winning class on Fridays. Click here to see [TTRS](#).

New Beginnings

It is with great sadness that we say 'goodbye' to Miss Sciberras and Mrs Dunn. Mrs Dunn has been lunchtime supervisor at the school for 11 years. She has shown great commitment to the school and has often volunteered to support activities in school in her own time. She will be greatly missed.

Miss Sciberras has worked at Newland St. John's for the last 15 years. She is a fantastic teacher and she has supported many children throughout the time she has been with us. We wish her well in her new job working for the local council. She has written a short message to say goodbye:

'After many wonderful years at NSJ, the time has come for me to move on to a new chapter.

I have loved my time at NSJ and feel so lucky to have been part of the school community for so long. Saying goodbye is bittersweet, as I will be leaving behind so many special memories and some very special children and families.

I wish all our children, families and staff the very best in whatever journeys lie ahead. You will all be missed dearly and I will look back on my time at NSJ with so much love.

Thank you for everything.

Lots of love,

Miss Shib (Sciberras) ❤️'

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)	Y5	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
<i>Half Term</i>	
Monday 2nd November	School opens to the children
Wednesday 11th November	Remembrance Service (at school)
Thursday 12th November 3:30pm	Handwriting Workshop for Parents of children in Year 2
Monday 16th November	Anti Bullying Week: Break the Silence
Monday 16th November	Odd Socks Day
Tuesday 17th November	FS2 - Year 6 Follow-up Flu Vaccinations
Thursday 19th November 3:30pm	Handwriting Workshop for Parents of children in Year 3
Friday 20th November	Year 3: Pedestrian Skills 10:30-11:30 (part 1)
Thursday 26th November	School Photographer - Individuals & Siblings
Friday 27th November	Year 3: Pedestrian Skills 10:30-11:30 (part 2)
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.**