



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 - January 2025

A message from Mrs Brett

We have had a wonderful start to the new term. It has been a joy to see the children so engaged in their learning. Thank you for all you do as parents, carers and friends to support the school in this.

This half term, we have begun to reflect on the Christian value of truth and truthfulness in our worship. We have thought about: what it means to tell the whole story; living without lies; and making the right choices.

In Key Stage 2, we are continuing to focus on what it means to be a courageous advocate and we have thought about those who are advocates for our world: those who speak out encouraging us to take care of our environment and endangered animals.



Thank you

We are incredibly grateful to all of the families who donated to our Christmas Reverse Advent Calendar. It was heartwarming to witness the generosity of the community - particularly at such an expensive time of the year. We are proud to support the work of Hull Foodbank. At the top of their webpage is the quote: "The foodbank was there when we really needed it, it was an absolute lifeline." We have seen this in action- the charity has been instrumental in helping families from our school so it is good to be able to help them in their mission.

We are delighted to announce that your donation was enough to make **274 meals**. It took a team to transport the items to the collection van. Please see the certificate below:



Thank you!

Newland St John's Academy

For your wonderful food donation of 115.3kg. This is enough to make 274 meals!

Your dedication and support have made a huge difference to the lives of people living in poverty.

Russ Barlow
Foodbank Manager

Registered charity number 1144286. Registered in England and Wales.

January Highlights

This half term has been incredibly busy and it is great to see how focused the children are on their learning.

Our children in Foundation Stage have had the wonderful opportunity to investigate dinosaurs. Dinostar brought their museum to the school. The young palaeontologists were given the opportunity to get 'hands on' and dig for fossils. Some of them were even brave enough to put their heads between the jaws of a dinosaur.

A virtual visit to the British Museum took place in Year 5 where our children were able to learn about Ancient Egypt. They contributed enthusiastically to the discussion and were a credit to the school.

Another highlight was when the year 6 children took part in a virtual visit and became arctic explorers. Over the course of the day, the children learnt all about the arctic: the tundra biome (climate, soils, flora, and fauna), the people that live there, the impact of climate change upon this fragile region and its inhabitants, and how we can reduce our own carbon footprint here in the UK to ensure the sustainability of our planet.

Our Year 3 children have begun a short training programme designed to improve their pedestrian skills. The children's behaviour was exemplary. They listened carefully and were sensible throughout. We hope that you will see them put their new skills into action.

Free School Meals - Please do apply

The Department for Education has permanently extended free school meal eligibility to children in all households. This includes households with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)*, subject to maximum income thresholds. We would encourage all eligible families to apply for free school meals - even those in Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2, who do not have to pay for their meals as part of the universal offer.

Every successful application makes a huge difference to the provision that we can offer to your child. All of those children who are eligible for school meals will receive a £15 shopping voucher for each week of the school holidays from the local council.

You can apply using the portal: [Free school meals | Hull](#)

*Eligible groups include, but may not be limited to children of:

- Zambrano carers
- families who have no recourse to public funds with a right to remain in the UK on grounds of private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights
- families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 who are also subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction
- a subset of failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Chen carers
- families holding a [BN\(O\) passport](#)
- spousal visa holders
- work visa holders
- student visa holders
- those with no immigration status

More information about applying for free school meals will follow in the upcoming weeks.

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 at NSJ

We take our safeguarding responsibilities extremely seriously at Newland St. John's Academy. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns about a child. We can offer support in school and also signpost you to different agencies who may be able to offer help and guidance.

Our Safeguarding Team



Mrs Brett

Principal

Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mr Kenningham

Deputy
Headteacher

Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Miss Jones

SENCO

Safeguarding
Officer



Ms Briggs

Class
Teacher

Safeguarding
Officer



Mrs Williams

Wellbeing
Officer

Safeguarding
Officer

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.

Safety on site at the end of the day.

Thank you for informing the office when somebody different collects your child at the end of the day. Please remember, we cannot release a child unless we have been given permission from a parent or carer for them to go with someone else. This can be given by calling the office on 305740.

Please remain vigilant on the playground and ensure that you keep your children close and in sight, especially pre-school children. The playground can be a busy place. We kindly request that you do not allow children to play on the trim trail before or after school.

SENDCo Spotlight - Miss Jones



Speech, Language and Communication Difficulties

Speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) is the term used to describe difficulties with: producing speech sounds accurately, stammering and voice problems such as hoarseness and loss of voice. Children's back-and-forth interactions from an early age form the foundations for language and mental development. The number and quality of the conversations they have with adults and other children throughout the day in a language-rich environment is crucial.

While all children develop communication skills at different rates, there are times when some children, despite best efforts, really struggle to obtain these skills. Speech and Language UK website (<https://speechandlanguage.org.uk/help-for-families/ages-and-stages/>) provides a really useful guide to developmental milestones for speech and language development and also advice on how to promote communication with your little ones.

When communication difficulties arise, referrals are usually made to speech and language therapists for assessment and support. In school, we will work with parents and these professionals to provide a consistent approach as we understand that difficulties in this area can often lead to gaps in learning in other areas.

For ideas and ways to support your child with developing their communication skills please see:

[Help for families - Speech and Language UK: Changing young lives](#)

[Children's Speech and Language Therapy - Connect NHS](#)

DfE Videos – although aimed at Early Years teachers, this video provides some really good advice:

[EYFS Communication and language - Listening & Understanding](#)

Useful contacts:

- **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.

Attendance and Punctuality- Mr. Kenningham

Research shows that every day- in fact every hour, matters. Please aim for your child to be in school everyday so they don't miss any learning. Our school attendance is currently 94%, just below our target of 96%.

Punctuality - Being on Time

It is equally important for children to arrive at school on time. This gives them the best chance of feeling settled in their classes in the morning and giving them the best start to the school day. We know that being late for school means missed learning during the core subjects of English and Mathematics can leave them feeling unsettled for the rest of the day. Being on time for school also teaches children that there are things they will need to be on time for in their adult life - being on time for a job, an appointment or an event etc. We carefully monitor lateness and may need to speak to you about support we can offer to improve your child's punctuality. We measure lateness by the number of minutes children are late for school.

The doors **open at 8:45am** and children should be in their classrooms and **starting lessons at 8:50am**. If you feel attending a breakfast club would help attendance or punctuality for your child, please speak to the school office - breakfast club starts at 8:00am Monday-Friday.

If you would like further support with attendance, please do not hesitate to email hello@nsj.hslt.academy or call 01482 305740 for an appointment with our Attendance Lead, Mr Kenningham.

Key Dates - Spring Term 2025

Date	Event
Friday 31st January	Stay and Play (Dormice)
Monday 3rd - 9th February	Children's Mental Health Week - activities in school
Friday 7th February	Year 4: Jorvik Virtual Visit
Tuesday 11th February	Safer Internet Day
Friday 14th February	School closes for half term
Monday 24th February	Return to school
Monday 24th February	Y6 Consultation day
Tuesday 25th February	Consultation Evening
Wednesday 26th February	Consultation Evening
Monday 24th February - 7th March	Year 4: Swimming
Friday 28th February	Year 6: Horniman Museum, Benin Virtual Visit
Thursday 13th March	Year 5: Colliderfest Science Festival
Thursday 3rd April	Year 3 Easter Service
Friday 4th April	Year 3: Virtual Volcanoes and Earthquakes Virtual Visit
Friday 4th April	School closes to children for Easter Holiday
Tuesday 22nd April	Return to school after the Easter Holiday

Parents are invited to attend the events highlighted in blue.

Reflection

As a school, we are continuing to reflect on what makes a courageous advocate. We have looked at the stories of Naomi and Ruth, Moses' Mum and Mary (the mother of Jesus). In this link, you can 'discover a helpful way to read and talk with your child about five inspiring mums in the Bible, who each came through very different challenges with the help of God.' Their faith, courage and love made them heroes then, and now... [Heroic Bible mums | The Church of England](#)

A prayer for Courageous Advocacy

Dear God,

Thank you that each person in the world is special to you and has something to offer to others.

Help each of us to notice injustice when we see it or hear about it and to be people of courage who can stand up for what is right.

Help each one of us to be people who are fair and just and who show compassion to those around us.

Amen