



# Newsletter

WORK TOGETHER - GROW TOGETHER - FLOURISH TOGETHER

## **Welcome from Mr. P**

This fortnight, our school has much to celebrate, and I couldn't be prouder of our pupils, staff, and families who make our community such a vibrant and inspiring place to learn and grow.

We are delighted to share that our school has achieved the RHS Level One School Gardening Award. This recognition is a testament to the passion and commitment of Mrs. Butterfield, whose hard work has encouraged pupils and staff alike to embrace gardening as a way of enriching education, wellbeing, and sustainability. Gardening brings so many benefits – from building teamwork and responsibility to deepening our connection with nature – and this award marks just the beginning of an exciting journey. We look forward to developing our green spaces further and working towards the next level together.

Our sporting year is already off to a strong start. The boys' football team opened their season with an energetic performance against Gamston, showing true determination and teamwork. Despite the 3–1 scoreline, their resilience shone through, with a superb goal from Parker lifting the whole team. Equally exciting was the girls' first football match of the season against Langold, which was a gripping contest from start to finish. Both teams displayed fantastic skill and enthusiasm, and we are incredibly proud of them all.

Music is also filling our school, as the choir prepares for Young Voices 2025. Rehearsals are already bringing a wonderful buzz on Tuesday evenings, and the excitement is growing ahead of the big event at Sheffield Arena in February. I know the 'Wicked' medley will be a particular highlight, and it promises to be an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

Our links with St. Luke's Church continue to enrich school life. Through this partnership, children explore faith, values, and creativity in ways that complement their learning. The Bible Buddies workshops, led by Ginny, are a wonderful example. Recently, Creswell Class enjoyed learning the story of creation and expressed their ideas through colourful collage artwork. These sessions combine faith, storytelling, and creativity in ways our children find both inspiring and joyful. We are grateful for the continued support of St. Luke's and look forward to building even stronger links in the months ahead.

There have also been exciting opportunities beyond the classroom. On Thursday, we visited Waterstones in Lincoln to choose books for our new library. The day began with a workshop of book-related activities led by the Waterstones team, sparking ideas about how we can continue to promote a love of reading. The highlight was, of course, carefully selecting – and investing heavily in – a wide range of exciting new titles. We can't wait to see our children enjoying these once they arrive.

Meanwhile, Clumber Class stepped back in time with a visit to Creswell Crags. The children explored the caves, learned about the people and animals who sheltered there nearly 12,000 years ago, and handled replica Stone Age tools. In the afternoon, they developed survival skills by building shelters and practising spear throwing, just like Stone Age hunters. It was a fantastic, hands-on day that deepened their understanding of history.

Finally, thank you to everyone who supported our Macmillan Coffee Morning. It was wonderful to see so many families come together for such an important cause, and your generosity helped us raise £300.50 for Macmillan Cancer Support – a brilliant achievement.

As always, I feel privileged to be part of such a caring, dynamic community. Thank you for your continued support in helping our children flourish both inside and outside the classroom.

## **Book Fair**

The Book Fair is coming! From Monday 13th October, during the final week of this half-term, we're excited to welcome the Scholastic Book Fair back to school. The fair will be open both before and after school each day, as well as during both Parents' Evening events, giving plenty of opportunities to browse and buy.

Payments can be made by cash or card, making it as easy as possible to take home some new reads. Last year, thanks to your amazing support, we raised enough money through book sales to purchase brand-new dictionaries and thesauruses for the children. We look forward to seeing what we'll be able to add to our school resources this year.

Thank you, as always, for supporting reading in our school and helping us share the love of books with every child.

## **Ukulele Recital**

As we welcome back Mr Bottley and his fantastic ukulele lessons with Year 3, we are also excited to invite parents and carers to a one-off showcase of the children's work. Clumber Class will be performing a special ukulele recital on **Tuesday 16th December at 2.45pm**, giving families the chance to enjoy their progress and join in the festive spirit. We look forward to seeing you there for what promises to be a wonderful celebration of music and learning.



## **Harvest Assemblies & donations**

We are very much looking forward to our Harvest Festival celebrations this year. Parents and carers are warmly invited into school to watch their children take part in our pupil-led Harvest worships – always a special moment in the autumn term. We are also delighted that the team from St. Luke's Church will be joining us to celebrate together.

As in previous years, we will be supporting Bassetlaw Foodbank with our Harvest donations. We kindly ask for tinned or packeted goods only (please do check expiry dates carefully), as fresh produce cannot be accepted. Your generosity makes a real difference to families in our local community, and we are so grateful for your continued support.

Please check the list of diary dates for your child's time and date. We look forward to celebrating this season of thankfulness with you all.



## **Rock Star Day**

On **Friday 3rd October**, we invite every child in school to come dressed as a rockstar to help raise the profile of TT Rockstars! This is the fun and engaging app we use to practise times tables, where children can compete against their peers – and even staff – while building speed and accuracy.

Times tables are especially important for our Year 4 pupils, who will take part in the statutory Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) in the summer term. In this online test, children are asked 25 quick-fire questions up to  $12 \times 12$ , with just six seconds to answer each one. Regular practice on TT Rockstars helps children build the fluency and confidence they need to succeed.

We are so proud of Miss Tomlinson and Thoresby Class, who absolutely smashed the MTC this year, with our school ranking 35th across all primary schools in Nottinghamshire for the number of pupils achieving full marks. What an incredible achievement! We hope to continue this success in the year ahead, and Rockstar Day will be a fantastic way to kick things off.

## **Uniform exchange and donations**

A huge thank you to all the parents who have donated to our School Uniform Exchange – your generosity and positive feedback have been wonderful. Please do keep sharing any spare or outgrown uniform you may have at home so we can continue giving it a new lease of life. Uniform items will also be available to browse during both upcoming Parents' Evening events.

## Parent's Evening Appointments

Our first Parent/Teacher meetings of the year will take place on Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th October. Each appointment will last 10 minutes and will be held with class teachers in classrooms. The focus will be on how children are settling into the new school year, with time for parents to share any information. Appointment slots will be allocated on a first-come basis and all appointments can be made via Arbor (following feedback last year). A letter regarding this has been emailed to parents earlier this week.

Don't forget  
parents  
evening!



## Christmas Card Competition

We are delighted to announce that Jo White, MP for Bassetlaw, has invited our school to take part in her annual Christmas Card Competition. Open to all primary-aged pupils, the winning design will feature on her official card, which is sent to over 20,000 households and even to the King and Queen. Entries must be drawings or paintings (no glitter or attachments) and should be returned to school by Friday 10th October 2025. We look forward to seeing our children's creative designs!

## Sherwood Class Staffing Update

From the week beginning 22nd September, there will be a small change to staffing in Sherwood Class. Miss Tomlinson will be reducing her teaching commitment from four to three days each week, allowing her greater capacity to fulfil her wider responsibilities as Deputy Head Teacher and SENDCo.

We are delighted that Mrs Cushing, already a familiar face to the class, will be taking on an additional teaching day, meaning she will now teach Year 5 on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Miss Tomlinson will continue as the main class teacher, overseeing planning, assessment, and progress, with Mrs Mills remaining as full-time teaching assistant.

This arrangement ensures continuity and strong support for the children, while also strengthening leadership across the school. We are confident it will benefit both pupils and staff, and we thank you for your continued support.

## Welcome to Ms. Cheung

We are delighted to announce that Ms. Cheung has joined our team as our new midday supervisor. She comes to us with excellent recommendations and impressed us greatly during the interview process, where her warmth and enthusiasm shone through.

The decision was not an easy one, as we had three very strong applicants, but we are confident that Ms. Cheung will be a fantastic addition to our school community. She brings energy, care, and commitment to supporting our pupils during lunchtimes, ensuring that this important part of the day is safe, happy, and enjoyable for everyone.

Please join us in giving her a very warm welcome – we are so excited to have her as part of our team.



## Building & Site Improvements

Work has now begun on upgrading the school fence along the car park and back field – over 100 metres in total! This project will take the next few weeks to complete.

From Tuesday 14th October, contractors will begin installing a new entrance gate, with work expected to last around three weeks. After a year in planning, we are delighted to see this long-awaited project underway.

We have also started plans with the LA and Diocese to extend the school hall, reconfigure the office area, and make improvements to Creswell, Elmtun, and Rufford Classes. Once we have more details and timelines, we will share them with you.

## **Silent Disco!**

We are thrilled to announce that St. Luke's will be hosting a White & Neon Silent Disco on Thursday 6th November – and it promises to be an unforgettable evening of music, colour, and fun.

The event will feature three competing music channels to choose from in your headphones, UV lights, neon face painting, tattoos, and plenty of glowing fun. Children are encouraged to wear white t-shirts, which we will decorate with UV pens to create bright, glowing masterpieces. Hotdogs, crisps, and drinks will also be included.

Times for the evening are:  
**FS2 & KS1:** 4.15pm – 5.15 pm  
**KS2:** 5.30pm – 6.30 pm

Tickets are **£6 via Arbor**, which covers entry, headphones, food, and all the activities.

## **Nativity & World Book Day Costume Exchange**

As we look ahead to Christmas productions and prepare for World Book Day in the spring, we know that costumes can sometimes be tricky and expensive to source. To support families, we are setting up a Costume Exchange.

We warmly welcome donations of any unwanted or outgrown costumes, whether nativity outfits, storybook characters or accessories. These will then be made available for other families to borrow or reuse, helping everyone to take part without added expense.

This is a wonderful way to recycle costumes, reduce waste and ensure all our children can enjoy these special events. If you have costumes to donate, please send them into school over the coming weeks. We will share further details soon about how families can access the exchange.

## **2025/26 Key Assessment Dates**

Just a reminder that we expect the children to be in school for the following statutory assessment dates:

### **Year 6 SATs:**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May to Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2026

### **Year 1 & 2 Phonics:**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2026

### **Year 4 Multiplication Tests:**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2026

## **Diary Dates: An updated list!**

### **September**

29<sup>th</sup> – Black History Week

30<sup>th</sup> – Y5 & Y6 Harvest Assembly @2.45pm

30<sup>th</sup> - Boy's football match vs. St. Joseph's (away)

### **October**

1<sup>st</sup> – Y3 & Y4 Harvest Assembly @2.45pm

1<sup>st</sup> – Phonics Parent's Workshop @5.30pm

2<sup>nd</sup> – Y1 & Y2 Harvest Assembly @2.45pm

3<sup>rd</sup> – FS2 Harvest Assembly @2.45pm

3<sup>rd</sup> – TT Rockstars Day. Dress as rockstars!

7<sup>th</sup> – Elmton to Weston Park

8<sup>th</sup> – Rufford Class to Yorkshire Wildlife Park

8<sup>th</sup> – FS2 Weights & Measures (Letters to follow)

8<sup>th</sup> – Reading Parent's Workshop – 5pm

9<sup>th</sup> – Girl's football match vs. Clarbrough (home)

9<sup>th</sup> – FS2 *Story, Rhyme & Song time* day

13<sup>th</sup> – Book Fair Week

13<sup>th</sup> – Fire Engine Visit & Fireworks Safety Workshop

14<sup>th</sup> – Parent's Evening

15<sup>th</sup> – World Mental Health Day (Non-uniform)

15<sup>th</sup> – Parent's Evening

16<sup>th</sup> – Sherwood Class to National Coal Mining Museum

17<sup>th</sup> – Red Card to Racism (Wear red)

17<sup>th</sup> – Last Day

### **November**

3<sup>rd</sup> – Children return

4<sup>th</sup> – Thoresby Class to Leeds Imperial Museum

6<sup>th</sup> – Book & a brew @8.30am

6<sup>th</sup> – Silent Disco

10<sup>th</sup> – Odd Socks for Anti-Bullying Week

13<sup>th</sup> – World Kindness Day

14<sup>th</sup> – Non-uniform day in exchange for chocolate

18<sup>th</sup> – Maths Parents Workshop – 5pm

18<sup>th</sup> – Individual Photos

19<sup>th</sup> – Welbeck Class to Kelham Island

20<sup>th</sup> – EYFS Stay & Play: Phonics. 9am – 10.30am

21<sup>st</sup> – Children in Need. £1 Donation.

25<sup>th</sup> – Year 6 SATs Meeting @ 5pm.

28<sup>th</sup> – Rainbow Raffle Donation Day. Non-uniform.

### **December**

3<sup>rd</sup> – Adults Christmas Bingo @6pm.

4<sup>th</sup> – Carol Concert @3.15pm

4<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Fayre @4pm

8<sup>th</sup> – KS1 Nativity @ 2pm

8<sup>th</sup> – KS1 Nativity @5.30pm

9<sup>th</sup> – Creswell Nativity @2pm

9<sup>th</sup> – Creswell Nativity @5pm

10<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Craft afternoon @1.30pm

11<sup>th</sup> – Whole- School Panto Trip