Newbald Primary School

Friday 27th June 2025

Welcome to our bonus Summer Term Newsletter

As we approach the end of another busy and exciting school year, I wanted to share a few final messages before we all head off for a well-earned summer break.

This is always a time for reflection, and I continue to be amazed by the dedication, resilience and achievements of our wonderful pupils. They've worked incredibly hard, and we're so proud of everything they've accomplished.

While there's much to look forward to including the new school year and the opportunities it brings, this is also a moment to say some fond farewells to a few treasured members of our school community. They will be very much missed, and we wish them all the very best.

Thank you, as always, for taking the time to read our newsletters. Your interest, support and encouragement mean a great deal to us all here at school.

Wishing you all a safe, restful and sunny summer holiday!

Newbald Primary School
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Murphy's Message

Well, my lovely humans... I've got some *paws-itively* big news to share. After years of belly rubs, sneaky treats, and being the top dog around Newbald Primary, it's time for me to hang up my school lanyard and trot off on a new adventure!

My human (you might know her as Mrs Rees – she does lots of important grown-up number stuff) has got a brand-new job at Willerby Carr Lane Primary starting in September. And where she goes... I go! Let's be honest – she'd be lost without me taking her for walkies.

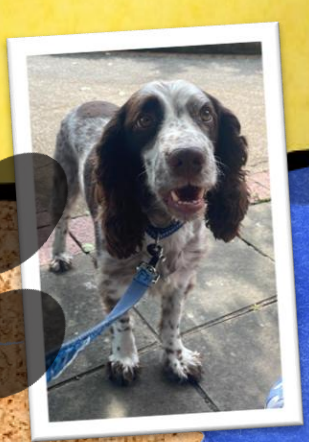
So yes, I'll be saying (or barking) goodbye at the end of term too. I'll miss the fantastic readers and especially all the tasty bits that just *happened* to fall off your sandwiches.

Mrs Rees and I have absolutely loved being part of this amazing school. You've all made me feel like one of the gang – even though I do have four legs and a tendency to snore during staff meetings.

Thank you for the love, the strokes, and the muddy adventures. We'll both miss you all terribly.

Big tail wags and happy summers,

Murphy (and a little woof from Mrs Rees too!)



A Fond Farewell to Mrs Rees (and Murphy)!

As Murphy has just let you know in his own cheeky way, we will soon be saying goodbye to both him *and* his devoted human, Mrs Rees, as she takes up an exciting new role at Willerby Carr Lane Primary School this September.

Mrs Rees has been a treasured member of the Newbald team for many years, and her contribution to school life has been nothing short of exceptional. As School Business Manager, she has been the quietly brilliant force behind so many of our successes – always keeping us on track, balancing budgets with a calm head and a sharp eye, and bringing organisation, efficiency and a good dose of humour to everything she does. We're not quite sure how we'll manage without her spreadsheets and her endless patience especially putting up with all my really bad jokes!

While we're sad to say farewell, we're delighted to announce that Mrs Somerset will be stepping into the role of School Business Manager from September. This is a well-deserved promotion, and we know she will be outstanding in the role. Although Mrs Rees leaves behind some big (and quite possibly smelly) shoes to fill, Mrs Somerset is more than ready and more than capable. Although she might not be as tolerant to my awful jokes. We're excited to see her thrive in this next chapter and bring her own warmth, skill and dedication to the role.

We wish Mrs Rees and Murphy all the very best in their new adventures – they will both be greatly missed by staff, pupils and parents alike.

Sports Day & Multi Sports Morning

It's been a fantastic few weeks of sport at Newbald, with two brilliant events that showcased our pupils' energy, teamwork and determination.

Our annual Sports Day was a huge success – full of cheers, sprints, smiles and a little friendly competition! The sun shone and the children gave it their all in every event. We were so proud of their enthusiasm, determination and team spirit. A special congratulations to Respect Team, who claimed the Sports Day trophy by just one point, a true photo finish! Thank you to all the parents and carers who came along to support, to our governors for their expert scoring, to FONS for the fabulous refreshments and raffle, and to Mrs Somerset for capturing it all on camera.

We must also give a big shoutout to Miss Alcock, who orchestrated the whole day with her usual flair and fantastic organization, it was, once again, a highlight of the school year.

The fun didn't stop there! Pupils also enjoyed a brilliant Multi-Sports Morning, where they had the chance to try out a wide range of sporting activities. It was a great opportunity to get active, discover new talents and, most importantly, have lots of fun. The event was filled with smiles and energy, and we were impressed by how our children approached every event determined to do their very best!

Well done to all our pupils, you continue to make us proud both on and off the track.

Sports Videos

We're excited to let you know that two brilliant Sports Day videos are now live on our school YouTube channel!

🏃 **First up**, we've got a full replay of the races from sports day, captured on our video camera – ideal for anyone who couldn't join us on the day, or for those who fancy reliving some of the action (and seeing a few sprint finishes in slow motion!).
📹 Watch the race replay here: https://youtu.be/4kAj7eJjoWE?si=g4kccbW-o3m8wXzS

📸 **Next**, enjoy a short and snappy video filled with fantastic pictures, captured by the magnificent Mrs Somerset – she really *snapped* up the best moments!
🖼️ View the picture montage here: https://youtu.be/EY8oKMDoW7I?si=qclYboGdDIuaWkh0

Teacher Arrangements for September

As promised, I'm pleased to share the updated teaching arrangements for the 2025/2026 academic year which will be as follows:

Class	Teachers
Class 1 – Hedgehog Class Nursery & Reception	Mrs Drinnan
Class 2 – Squirrel Class Year 1 & 2	Mrs Taylor (Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday) Mrs Killerby (Thursday & Friday)
Class 3 – Fox Class Year 3 & 4	Miss Alcock
Class 4 Otter Class Year 5 & 6	Miss Morris

The children will have a transition morning on Thursday 3rd July where the pupils, who are moving to new classrooms can get a feel for their new environment, meet their new teachers and classmates.

Congratulations to Mrs Killerby

We're delighted to share the news that Mrs Killerby will be stepping into a new role from September as the Squirrel Class teacher on Thursdays and Fridays, working alongside Mrs Taylor, who will continue to teach the class on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Mrs Killerby is already a familiar and much-loved face at Newbald, having worked as a fantastic Teaching Assistant with Otter Class. She's also an experienced and talented teacher and we are thrilled that she'll be bringing her skills and expertise to Squirrel Class next year.

We have been incredibly lucky to have Mrs Killerby supporting pupils so brilliantly in her TA role, and we know she will be just as brilliant in Class 2, teaming up with Mrs Taylor to give our Year 1 and 2 children a joyful, creative and inspiring experience in Key Stage 1 as they all strive to achieve beyond expectations.

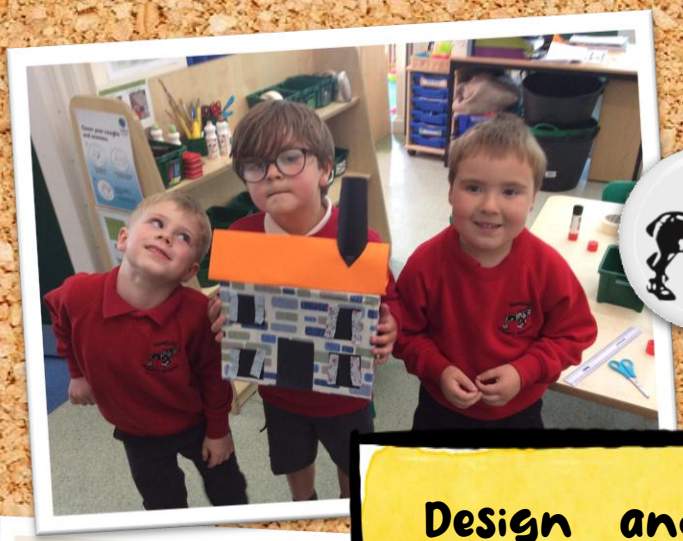
We're very proud of her and excited for what's ahead. Lucky Squirrels indeed!

Topics for the Year Ahead

As we start to look ahead to the next academic year, we're excited to share the topics that each class will be exploring. You'll find a helpful overview in the grid below. If you'd like to find out more about what your child will be learning, we have full details of our bespoke curriculum available on the school website. You can explore the curriculum for each year group and find out how we bring learning to life at Newbald by following the link below:
https://newbaldprimary.org.uk/curriculum/curriculum.html
We're looking forward to another exciting year of learning, curiosity and discovery!

2025-26 Topics

	Hedgehog Class	Squirrel Class	Fox Class	Otter Class
Autumn 1	All About Me	Transport Through Time	World War 2	World War 1
Autumn 2	Space	The Polar Regions	U.S.A & North America	Brazil & South America
Spring 1	Julia Donaldson	The Great Fire of London	The Romans	Ancient Greece
Spring 2	Newbald	Pirates & the Oceans	Volcanoes, Earthquakes & Natural Disasters	Human Rights Activists
Summer 1	Minibeasts	An Island Home (Scotland)	Forests	The Mayan Civilisation
Summer 2	Beside the Seaside	Kings & Queens	Middle Ages	Maps & Rivers



Design and Technology Week

Our pupils *nailed it* once again during Design and Technology Week

🦔 **Hedgehog Class** became mini-architects, using all sorts of materials to build houses strong enough to withstand the huff and puff of any big bad wolf. Need some home renovations? They've got you covered!

🐿️ **Squirrel Class** got to grips with pneumatics and hydraulics, designing and building working cranes. Engineers in the making!

🦊 **Fox Class** built fully functioning lighthouses, coding real Crumble circuit boards to match the flash patterns of the originals. Talk about *bright ideas*!

🦦 **Otter Class** finished off the term with a fabulous (and fashionable) belated DT project, using sewing machines to create groovy, 1960s-style tie-dye tote bags.

We've included a selection of photos across these two pages. Enjoy seeing our designers, builders and inventors hard at work!

Phenomenal Attendance

We started the school year on the right foot with 100% attendance for the first two weeks of the Autumn Term! That brilliant start to the year laid the foundations for what's been a *record-breaking* year. In fact, the latest figures show that Newbald Primary is now in the top 10% of schools nationally for overall attendance!

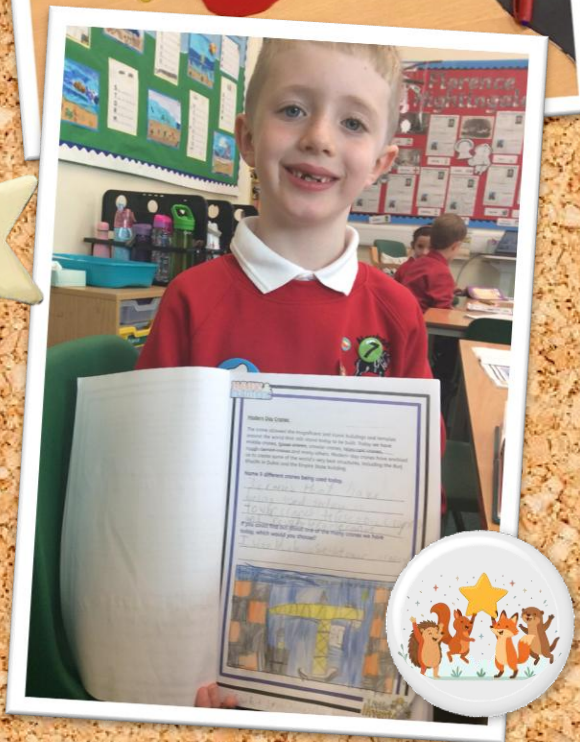
Not only that, but we've also seen a reduction in persistent absences, which is another big step in the right direction.

The first few weeks of September are especially important. Research shows that children who miss the start of term are much more likely to have ongoing attendance issues. One study found that just a few days off in the first weeks of the school year was strongly linked to future absence rates and a greater likelihood of persistent absence.

That's why a strong first fortnight, like the 100% attendance we had at the beginning of the year, helps lay the foundation for consistent learning and success throughout the year. So, let's go for gold again and aim for 100% attendance in those vital first weeks of the new school year.

A huge thank you to all our families for your efforts in making attendance a priority.

We'll soon be awarding our attendance badges: pupils with 97% or higher will receive a *silver star*, and those with an incredible 99% or better will receive a *gold star*. With so many children achieving outstanding attendance, we might need to order a few more!



Some Outstanding Attendance Data

We're delighted to share that Newbald Primary is in the *top 10% of schools nationally* for attendance. This is a fantastic achievement and a real testament to the commitment of our children, families and staff. Thank you for being part of this brilliant team effort!

While we're proud of the progress we're making, we're still working hard to reduce unauthorised absences, particularly for pupils receiving SEN support. The Department for Education reminds us that good attendance is closely linked to future achievement, so it's vital that children are in school every day they are well enough to be. We'd hate for anyone to miss out on the exciting learning and opportunities happening each day!

Let's keep working together to give every child the very best chance to thrive.

National Attendance Data Comparison (12/06/2025)
Data from DFE – Compare Your Attendance

Overall Attendance	Your overall attendance 97.2%	You are in decile 1, the top 0-10% of schools
Overall Attendance for SEN Pupils	Your overall attendance 97.5%	You are in decile 1, the top 0-10% of schools
Overall Attendance for Pupils with Free School Meals	Your overall attendance 99.6%	You are in decile 1, the top 0-10% of schools
Overall absence	Your overall absence 2.8%	You are in decile 1, the top 0-10% of schools
Authorised Absence	Your authorised absence 2.1%	You are in decile 1, the top 0-10% of schools
Unauthorised Absence	Your unauthorised absence 0.7%	You are in decile 2, the top 10-20% of schools
Unauthorised Absence for Pupils with SEN	Your unauthorised absence 1.0%	You are in decile 4, the top 30-40% of schools
Persistently Absent	Your persistent absence 1.5%	You are in decile 1, the top 0-10% of schools

Fond Farewells to Mrs Cockin and Miss Debenham

As we near the end of term, we also prepare to say goodbye to two much-valued members of our school community, Mrs Cockin and Miss Debenham.

This year, Mrs Cockin stepped into Squirrel Class with warmth, energy and commitment, ensuring the children had a happy and successful year in the absence of Mrs Spencer. She has truly embraced *The Newbald Way*, bringing creativity and care into her teaching. The children have thoroughly enjoyed her lessons and benefited enormously from her calm presence and positive approach. We are so grateful for all she has brought to the team and wish her every happiness in her next chapter.

We're also saying a heartfelt goodbye to Miss Debenham, who has been a dedicated Teaching Assistant in Otter Class. She has provided patient, thoughtful support to some of our older pupils, always bringing a kind and encouraging presence to the classroom. Beyond the classroom, Miss Debenham has been our Chess Champion, founding Newbald's first ever chess team and leading them to victory in a local league, an incredible achievement and one that brought great pride to the school.

Miss Debenham has also been a driving force behind FONS (Friends of Newbald School), giving her time and energy tirelessly to raise much-needed funds and help bring our school community together. Her dedication and enthusiasm have made a real difference.

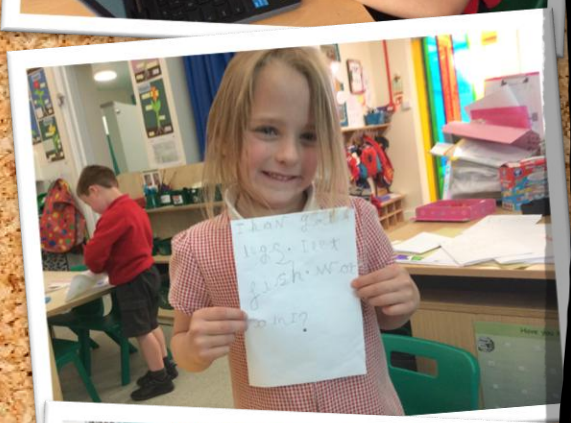
Both Mrs Cockin and Miss Debenham have left a lasting impression on Newbald. They will be greatly missed by staff, pupils and parents alike. We thank them for everything they have done and send them off with our very best wishes and plenty of Newbald love.

Arbor - School Management System

As part of ongoing improvements, we're moving to a new school management system called Arbor, with the changeover taking place on Thursday 3rd July.

Thank you in advance for bearing with us during this transition. While change can feel a little daunting, we're excited to embrace a system that will benefit both school and families in the long run. Arbor will help make communication and everyday tasks much simpler and more efficient.

We'll be in touch soon with more details about what this means for you, including how to get started with the Arbor app.



Summer Improvements

We're delighted to share that a number of improvement projects are planned for over the summer. These upgrades will help us make the school site even safer, more welcoming and better suited to the needs of our children.

New fencing will be installed at the front of the school, along the playground and car park boundary. Additional fencing at the rear of the school will replace the small section currently adjoining neighbouring gardens. These works, which we've waited a long time for, are being carried out by the Local Authority and will help further improve site security.

We're also saying goodbye to the large container on the front playground, which will free up valuable space for play. The old shed, which has sadly seen better days, will be replaced with a brand new one.

Our Hedgehogs area is getting some attention too, with a new floor surface being laid to improve their outdoor learning and play space.

All of the work is due to be completed before the children return in September. We're excited to see these changes take shape and can't wait to welcome everyone back to a refreshed school site.

End-of-Year Celebrations – Mark Your Calendars!

As we near the end of term, there's lots to look forward to – and a few tissues may be needed along the way!

📚 **Pupil Reports – Friday 11th July**
We're aiming to send out pupil reports on **Friday 11th July**. A huge amount of thought and care has gone into making them both informative and memorable – a keepsake to look back on with pride. We hope you enjoy reading them and celebrating your child's achievements.

🎭 **Year 5 & 6 Production – Wednesday 9th July, 5:30pm**
Our brilliant Year 5 and 6 pupils are hard at work rehearsing *The Amazing Adventures of Super-Stan*! The performance for families will take place on **Wednesday 9th July at 5:30pm** – details about tickets will be shared soon. It's sure to be *super*.

🏆 **Summer Awards Assembly – Friday 11th July, 9:15am**
Join us to celebrate the achievements of our amazing pupils at our end-of-term Awards Assembly. While all are welcome, we'll be in touch with families of those receiving certificates and trophies soon. It's always a proud and heart-warming event.

🎓 **Year 6 Leavers' Assembly – Friday 18th July, 9:15am**
It's almost time to say a fond farewell to our fabulous Year 6s. Their Leavers' Assembly will be held on **Friday 18th July at 9:15am**, and families of our Year 6 pupils are warmly invited to join us as we send them off in style.

Diary Dates

(We will let you know about any forthcoming dates as soon as possible)

July 2025

Thurs 3rd July	Transition Day (am)
Thurs 3rd July	Class 4 History of Newbald Workshop (pm)
Mon 7th July	Classes 1 & 2 at the Little Big Sing at Bridlington Spa
Tues 8th July	Classes 3 & 4 at the Big Brid Sing at Bridlington Spa
Wed 9th July	Class 4 Production Performance
Fri 11th July	Awards Assembly (9:15am)
Fri 11th July	Reports to Parents
Mon 14th July	Class 3 Trip to Jorvik Centre and Dig in York
Fri 18th July	Leavers Assembly (9:15am)
Fri 18th July	Break for Summer Holidays

September 2025

Tues 2nd Sept	Return to School for Autumn Term

Regular Dates for this half term

Daily
Sunshine Morning Club
Sunshine Club After School Session
Sunshine Club After School Late Session

Mondays
School Council Meetings

Tuesdays
Bark & Read with Murphy
Specialist French teacher sessions in Fox & Otter Classes
Guitar & Music sessions in Fox & Otter Classes

Wednesdays
After School Chess Club
After School Gardening Club

Thursdays
Bark & Read with Murphy
After School First Steps Football Club

Fridays
HSS Sports & Gymnastics specialist sessions for Hedgehog & Otter Classes
Special Mention Celebration Assemblies

Link to the 2024-2025 term dates:
https://newbaldprimary.org.uk/_documents/%5B919809%5DTerm_Dates_2024_-_2025.pdf

Link to the 2025-2026 term dates:

https://newbaldprimary.org.uk/_documents/%5B1012065%5DTerm_Dates_2025_-2026.pdf

Sequence
Summarise
Retrieve

Newbald Primary School

At Newbald Primary School, we do things 'the Newbald way!' We are dedicated to creating a nurturing and inspiring environment where every child thrives and aims to achieve beyond expectations. Impossible is just an opinion!

NEWBALD

- Nurturing a child-centred approach, inspiring a love for lifelong learning
- Empowering every child with the confidence, knowledge and skills to reach their potential
- Welcoming diversity and inclusion
- Building values, of respect, kindness, positivity and determination
- Achieving, beyond expectations
- Learning with imagination and innovation, through a high-quality, broad and balanced curriculum
- Developing a culture of where we take appropriate risk

Together, we strive to achieve excellence at Newbald Primary School!