



Newbald Primary School

Newbald Primary School

Beverley Road,
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Tuesday 6th January 2026



Welcome Back and Happy New Year!

I hope everyone enjoyed a truly fantastic Christmas, and that Father Christmas was generous to all. I always ask Santa for a few points for Lincoln City, and I must have been extra good this year, with them picking up an impressive 10 points out of 12 over the festive period. Up the Imps!

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school, and there is already a real buzz around the building as we look ahead to an exciting Spring Term full of learning, laughter and new opportunities.

Thank you, as always, for the tremendous support shown during our festive events at the end of the Autumn Term. We are incredibly proud of everything the pupils achieved, and staff are already busy planning ambitious and engaging lessons and experiences to build on that success in the weeks ahead.



	Hedgehog Class	Squirrel Class	Fox Class	Otter Class
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 

Topics for the Spring Term

An overview of the topics for the forthcoming half term can be found above.

We aim to share as much information as possible about our curriculum and what the children will be learning as they progress through school. Please keep an eye out for the half termly class newsletters shared by teachers, which provide more detail about learning in each class. Further information about our curriculum is also available on the school website.

Some helpful links are included below for parents and carers who would like to explore this further:

2025 - 2026 Long Term Plan

[https://newbaldprimary.org.uk/documents/%5B1100259%5DNewbald Long Term Plan Cycle B Blue 2025 2026 Oct 2025.pdf](https://newbaldprimary.org.uk/documents/%5B1100259%5DNewbald%20Long%20Term%20Plan%20Cycle%20B%20Blue%202025%202026%20Oct%202025.pdf)

Curriculum Pages on the School Website

<https://newbaldprimary.org.uk/curriculum/curriculum.html>



Swimming

Parents of Children in years 3, 4 & 5 should have already received a letter about swimming sessions. Swimming lessons start on Friday 9th January and they will continue for 10 sessions. The last session will be Friday 20th March.



Tigers Trust Football Competition

We were incredibly proud of our Year 5 and 6 boys who represented the school in a recent Tiger's Trust football competition. In our section of the tournament, Newbald was drawn to play against schools with significantly larger numbers on roll, making it a real challenge from the outset.

I was bursting with pride as the Red Horses battled tirelessly, making every match fiercely competitive. While some games inevitably ended in defeat, the Newbald boys achieved a fantastic victory over our local rivals at Mount Pleasant Junior School, not once, but twice! A brilliant achievement, and local bragging rights firmly belong to Newbald.



Visits & Trips



Teachers have been very busy planning and organising some exciting trips and experiences for the children.

Pedestrian Skills

On **Tuesday 13th January**, our Year 4 pupils will be taking part in Pedestrian Skills training. During the session, they will learn how to stay safe near roads, including how to cross safely, recognise potential hazards and make sensible decisions when walking independently in the local area. These practical skills are an important part of helping children develop confidence and awareness as pedestrians.

KS2 Bradford Trip

All the children in Key Stage 2 have the exciting opportunity to learn more about the Sikh faith and visit the Gurdwara in Bradford on **Wednesday 21st January**. This is a great opportunity for our children to further build a clear understanding of the many different religions that exist in modern Britain and help enrich their RE lessons. The children will also have the opportunity to visit the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford as part of the trip.

Residential Visit and Information Meeting

We are all very excited about our forthcoming residential visit to Robinwood, Maes-y-Nant, Wrexham, Wales in April (April 20th - 22nd). We would like to invite parents and children who are going to join us in the school hall on **Wednesday 4th February after school at 3:30pm**. This will be a chance to learn more about where the children will be going and some of the exciting activities that they will be doing including archery, raft building, canoeing, zipwires, indoor caving and so much more. We will give you more information about what the children will need to bring with them and there will also be the opportunity to ask any questions. We want to make sure that all of our children are looking forward to what will be a memorable residential visit and any worries are replaced with anticipation and excitement. There will also be the opportunity to let us know about any important and relevant personal information such as any medication your child requires. Don't worry if you are unable to join us for the meeting as any information, handouts or documents will be passed on either physically or via our school website.



Personal Development Afternoon & Problem Solving Mini Topic

We are planning more opportunities for pupils to work beyond their own classes, encouraging them to develop their executive functioning (planning, organising and managing tasks) and metacognitive skills (thinking about how they learn).

This term, we have a Personal Development Afternoon on Wednesday 18 January, where Classes 2 and 4 will work together, as will Classes 1 and 3, exploring strategic board games.

After half term, on 18 and 19 March, pupils will take part in an exciting two-day problem-solving mini-topic. This will include a whole-school Whodunit-style team-building day led by Wise Up, followed by a second day where children apply their English and maths skills to a range of problem-solving challenges.



KIRFS - Key Instant Recall Facts

We are placing an increased focus on our KIRFs (Key Instant Recall Facts). These are essential number facts that children need to know securely in order to make strong progress in maths.

Each half term, teachers will share the specific facts that children are expected to learn, and pupils will be assessed towards the end of the half term. It is important that all pupils develop secure recall of each milestone, and we greatly appreciate the support of parents in helping children to practise these at home.

Regularly revisiting previously learned facts is also very helpful, ensuring they can still be recalled quickly, ideally within six seconds.

To view all of our KIRFs, please follow the link below to the KIRFs section of our school website:

<https://newbaldprimary.org.uk/curriculum/maths/kirfs.html>

Friends of Newbald School (FONS)

A huge thank you to our friends of the school team and our whole community for supporting their events. The money raised makes a huge difference to our school!

https://newbaldprimary.org.uk/parents/friends_of_newbald_school_fons/fons.html



Autumn Term FONS Events

It has been a very busy Autumn term for the Friends of Newbald School, including the Autumn Fair, a visit from Father Christmas and funding our Christmas performance by our friends at Magic Carpet Theatre. They also organised a fantastic Christmas raffle. Thank you for supporting this, with over 1,600 tickets sold and more than 70 prizes won. Fantastic! The funds raised will be put towards a new stage and replacing the stage lights, which currently do a very good job of gently cooking parents and carers during performances.



This Half Term's Clubs



This half term, there will be a Box to be Fit club as well as a First Steps Dance club. A reminder that clubs can be booked one session at a time, making it easy for children to try something new. Sessions can be booked up to 24 hours before they take place. Please do book early where possible, as some clubs are very popular and can fill up quickly. Booking in advance will help secure your child's place for each session.

Box 2 B Fit Limited to 14 places



Every Monday
starting 12th January - 23rd March
No session 19/1 and 23/2
Must be booked in advance via ParentPay up to 24 hours before the club starts. £5 per session

Every Thursday starting 8th January - 26th March 2026

Must be booked in advance via ParentPay up to 24 hours before the club starts.

FREE of CHARGE - Years 1 to 6



Free of charge!

STREET DANCE with First Steps
Limited to 20 places

Attendance Update



Thank you for continuing to support our aim of achieving the highest possible attendance for all pupils. Before Christmas, many children nationally were unwell and this was also felt at Newbald, with whole school attendance falling to 96%, which is much lower than our usual high levels. We fully recognise that when children are unwell, the best place for them is at home and they are always welcomed back as soon as they are well enough to return. We do, however, ask parents to be mindful of the combined impact of illness and term time holidays. While illness cannot be helped, holidays taken during term time can further reduce attendance and, over time, can have a significant impact on learning and progress. National and school data both show a clear link between high attendance and strong academic outcomes. Our most successful learners are also those with the best attendance. Every day really does matter and we are very grateful for the efforts families make to get children into school each day. Thank you also for arranging holidays, dental appointments and other non-urgent commitments outside of term time whenever possible.

Sharing Attendance Information

 We understand that parents may not always be aware of their child's attendance figure. To help raise awareness, we will now be sharing individual attendance statistics termly.

We will be sharing your child's attendance statistic shortly. Please do not be alarmed by this. This is purely to keep everyone informed and to support positive attendance. To help interpret the figures, a guide to understanding your child's attendance is included on the following page.

I will always contact families directly if I have any concerns, and we fully recognise that there can be many reasons which impact on a child's attendance. If you have any worries about your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I am always happy to discuss this and explore ways we can support together.



Every School Day Counts



 On the next page we have shared some of our school attendance statistics as well a guide to understanding your child's attendance

Some School Attendance Statistics

- The school's attendance for this academic year so far: 96.3% (National average is 95.3%)
- 60% of pupils are on track for an attendance of 97% or better 
- 29 pupils have 99% attendance or better
- Year 3  are the year group with the highest attendance with an impressive 98.6%! They also won our fun autumn term attendance league
- Reception  were victorious in our end of term, autumn term attendance knock out cup
- Fox Class  Are the class with the highest attendance so far this year with 98.1%

Attendance Guide:



	Attendance Descriptors	Details	Whole Days absent (approximate guide)
 Exceptional	Attendance is 99% or higher	Perfect attendance is always the aim. No (or very few) learning opportunities or experiences are missed.	0-2
Good 	Attendance is 97% or higher	At Newbald we have high expectations and aim for each child to have an attendance of 97% or higher. We have a class attendance trophy that is awarded to the class with the highest attendance in our weekly special mention celebration assemblies.	3-6
Room for Improvement	Attendance falls below 97%	We understand that sometimes children can be ill or emergencies happen and this can affect attendance. Statistically, attendance of less than 97% gives children less chance of success. Every effort should be made to improve attendance, for it to be as high as possible.	6-9
Poor / Below Average Attendance	Attendance falls below 95%	The DFE targets a minimum attendance of 95% attendance overall. Attendance below this may significantly impact a pupil's education. Pupils should be in school whenever possible and every effort should be made to raise attendance.	9-18
Cause for Concern - Persistent Absence	Attendance is below 90%	Attendance below 90% is considered poor attendance and is regarded as persistent absence by the Department for Education. Attendance below 90% has a serious impact on education. Attendance will be monitored closely and each individual case will be discussed with a Local Authority Educational Welfare Officer on a half termly basis.	19+

Messages from School Council

School Council



We have been very busy as a school council. We have met with the chair of the FONS team, and we have organised some fund raising for Children in Need (raising a fantastic £236.65) and The Poppy Appeal (raising £153.95). We have also been interviewing some children about some books they would like to recommend for everyone to read. We will be including these in the next newsletter. We were also very honoured to give our Autumn Term School Council award to Jessica, who is a much-deserved recipient of the trophy. We will be meeting again soon, and we will be organising events such as World Book Day on 5th March and Red Nose day, which will be on 20th March 2025



Ella & Olivia



Miss E. Laister & Miss O. Cheesman
(Joint Chairs of School Council)



World Book Day



WORLD
BOOK
DAY

5 MARCH 2026



World Book Day is coming soon!

We wanted to give everyone as much notice as possible that after half term, on Thursday 5th March, we are planning to celebrate World Book Day. Along with tradition, we would like to invite children to dress up as a book character for the day.

There is no need to go and spend on costumes. There are plenty of ideas online that don't involve having to buy an outfit, but it would be great if all the children could get involved.

World Book Day is the biggest celebration of books and reading and it provides a great opportunity for the children to talk enthusiastically about books. Once again, the teachers will be planning lots of exciting activities to help us celebrate reading!

As in previous years, children will be receiving a free £1 Book Token, which can be exchanged in all participating bookshops for one of twelve specially published £1 books. These books cater for a wide age group. If you wish, the token can be put towards the cost of a book with a value of over £2.99. **Top Tip! Keep your voucher safe to use at the school book fair in March!**

'The Newbald Way' - Our School Vision, Values and Aims



Below is our school vision, values and aims - capturing what makes Newbald Primary such a special place to learn and grow. We've worked hard to present this in a way that is clear, inspiring and meaningful for everyone in our community - pupils, parents, staff and friends alike.

We're incredibly proud to be part of Newbald Primary School. You'll often hear us talk about doing things "the Newbald Way". This is our road to excellence - the unique approach that brings us together and drives everything we strive to achieve.



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!

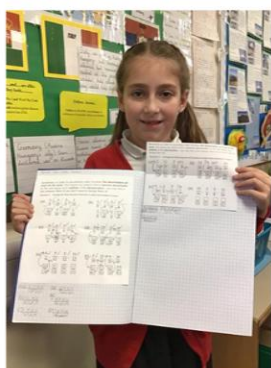


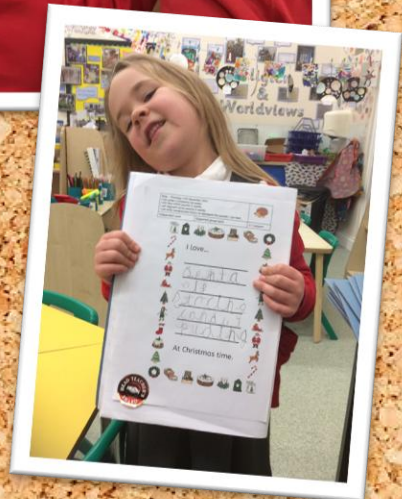
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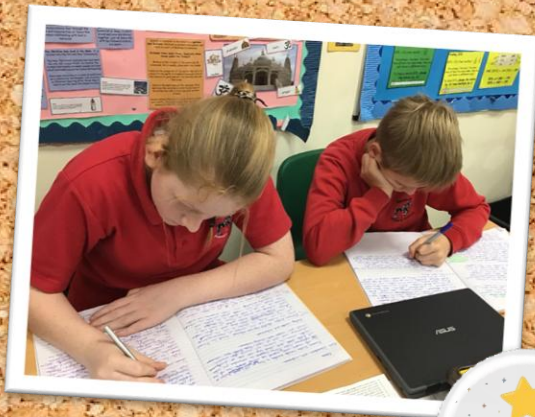
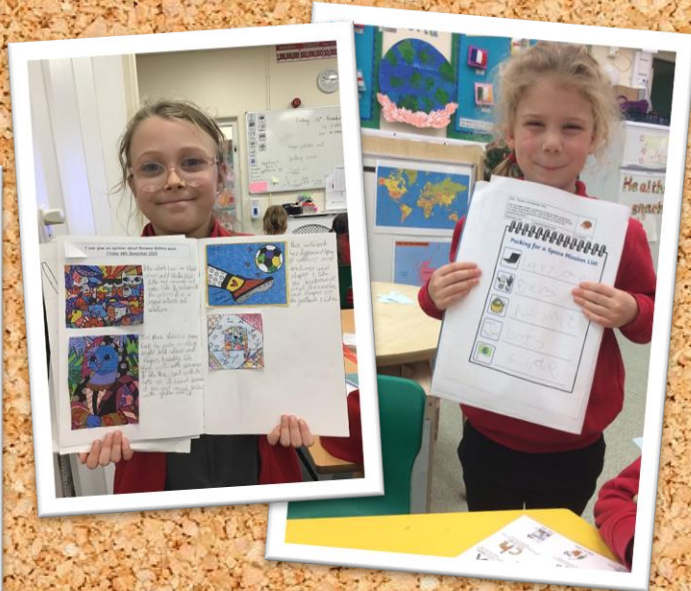
- Nurturing a child-centred approach, inspiring a love for lifelong learning
- Empowering every child with the confidence, knowledge and skills to reach their potential
- Welcoming diversity and inclusion
- Building values, of respect, kindness, positivity and determination
- Achieving, beyond expectations
- 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!









Diary Dates



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

January 2026

Tues 6th Jan
Fri 9th Jan

Tues 13th Jan
Fri 16th Jan
Wed 21st Jan

Fri 23rd Jan
Wed 28th Jan

Fri 30th Jan

Return to school after half term
Swimming begins for Years 3,4 & 5 (pm)
Year 4 Pedestrian Skills (am)
Swimming for Years 3,4 & 5 (pm)
Class 3 & 4 Bradford Trip Gurwara and National Science & Media Museum
Swimming for Years 3,4 & 5 (pm)
Whole School Personal Development Afternoon
Swimming for Years 3,4 & 5 (pm)



February 2026

Wed 4th Feb

Fri 6th Feb
W/c Mon 9th Feb
Fri 13th Feb
Fri 13th Feb
Mon 23rd Feb
Fri 27th Feb

Residential Visit Parent Information Evening 3:30pm
Swimming for Years 3,4 & 5 (pm)
Design & Technology Week
Swimming for Years 3,4 & 5 (pm)
Break for half term
Return to school after half term
Swimming for Years 3,4 & 5 (pm)



March 2026

Thurs 5th Mar
Fri 6th Mar
Wed 11th Mar
Thurs 12th Mar
Fri 13th Mar
Fri 13th Mar
Mon 16th Mar
Wed 18th Mar

Thurs 19th Mar
Fri 20th Mar
Fri 20th Mar

Mon 23rd Mar
Wed 25th Mar
Thurs 26th Mar
Fri 27th Mar

World Book Day
Swimming for Years 3,4 & 5 (pm)
Newbald Book Fair
Newbald Book Fair
Newbald Book Fair
Swimming for Years 3,4 & 5 (pm)
Full Governing Body Meeting
Problem Solving Mini Topic (Outdoor Team Building)
Problem Solving Mini Topic
Red Nose Day
Last Swimming for Years 3,4 & 5 (pm)
Spring Awards Assembly
Parents' Evening
Parents' Evening
Break Up for Easter



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
After School Box 2B Fit Club

Tuesdays

Specialist French teacher sessions in Fox & Otter Classes
Music & Guitar sessions in Fox & Otter Classes

Wednesdays

Thursdays

After School First Steps Dance Club

Fridays

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

Link to the 2025-2026 term dates:

Click on the dates below to see the term dates

2025 - 2026

2026 - 2027

April 2026

Tues 14th Apr

Return to school after Easter