

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER



Number 1: Friday 6 September, 2024



A word from Mrs Toner

Dear Parents and Carers, A very warm welcome back to you all. I hope you had a fun summer break. We have really missed the children over the holidays, and it is great to see them looking so smart ready to start the new academic year. The staff team are looking forward to getting stuck into 2024-25 and we have got lots of great things planned for the children over the next term and beyond.

Welcome to the new children and their families in our Nursery and Reception classes. All our new children have settled into school so well these past few days and I'm sure they will be very happy here at The Good Shepherd. It will be a privilege to watch them flourish over the coming years. I look forward to another successful year here at The Good Shepherd Academy.

Yours in partnership, Celine Toner, Head Teacher

Update on OPAL Play

Our OPAL project has got off to a great start! As with any new system, it takes time to embed and there will undoubtedly be teething problems along the way, so please bear with us as we continue to refine it. However, there is a real buzz around school as children are joyfully playing together, forming new friendships across different year groups. Last Saturday, we had a fantastic and productive day as parents, children, and staff came together to tidy, organise and prepare our school grounds for the upcoming OPAL launch in Advent 2. It was wonderful to see our community working hand in hand (and rake in hand) to create a vibrant, engaging play environment for our children. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who gave up their time to help —your support is invaluable as we move forward with this exciting project!

To make lunchtimes as engaging as possible for the children, we are seeking donations of toys or play equipment to enhance our outdoor play spaces; please bring any items to the Nursery shed on Monday 16 September. Lastly, if you haven't already, please complete the parent play survey to tell us your views (link in the email).



Contact us at office@goodshepherd.notts.sch.uk

Meet the teacher sessions

For all classes, excluding Nursery, you can meet your child's teacher via an informal drop-in session after school in the classroom on the following dates:

- **Reception:** reading workshop on Tuesday 24 September in school hall 3.45-4.45pm
- **Year 1:** Monday 16 September 3.30-4.30pm (there will be a short presentation first)
- **Year 2:** Monday 16 September 3.30-4.30pm
- **Year 3, 4, 5 and 6:** Tuesday 17 September 3.30-4.30pm

Beginning and end of the school day

All children, excluding Nursery, should enter school via the main gate on Somersby Road please. Only Nursery children are permitted to enter via the small green gate next to the staff car park. Children from Year 2 upwards should come into the school playground by themselves in the morning.

Keeping the children safe is our priority and staff will only dismiss children to a known adult at the end of the school day. Therefore, if someone different is collecting your child, please ensure you inform us in good time – ideally via your child's organiser.

As we begin the new school year, please be patient with staff at dismissal time as they are getting to know their new children and families.



Staffing News

Congratulations to Miss Shaw, our SENCO / Year 5 teacher who got married a few weeks ago and is now Mrs Brown.

Also, welcome back to Mrs Kitching from maternity leave. Mrs Kitching will be working in Nursery and Reception Monday to Wednesday.

We have also said farewell to some of our midday staff recently. Many thanks to Miss Norris and Mrs Paloka - we wish them well in their future endeavours.

Looking for midday supervisors: As a result, we are looking to recruit new members to our midday team. If you, or anyone you know is interested in applying, please contact Mrs Newson via the school office and keep an eye on the vacancies section of our website.

Home School Agreement

Attached on the email with this newsletter is the OLOL Trust Home School Agreement. Please take the time to read this through to ensure all stakeholders at The Good Shepherd have a clear understanding of the expectations placed upon us in order to maintain the positive relationships we have in our community.

Don't forget to label your uniform

Please help us to reunite lost property with your children by labelling everything clearly. Thank you.

Considerate parking

Let us start this year as we mean to go on and park responsibly around school. Please do not park on double yellow lines, zig-zag line, on the corners of surrounding roads or over residents' drive ways please. It is not only dangerous but also affects our relationship with those who live around our school. Many thanks in anticipation of your support with this.

Contact us at office@goodshepherd.notts.sch.uk

Many thanks to those of you who have made us aware of a new initiative Asda has launched where schools sign up to a genuine free cash pot.

Our school has already received £50 for signing up and then gets a further £1 for anyone who adds us on their ASDA rewards app. We will then receive 0.5% of any customer purchase when the reward card is scanned. This will not affect your personal points scheme.

How you can help: If you have the Asda Rewards app, look for 'cash pot for schools' and add The Good Shepherd (postcode NG54LT to make sure it's the right one). Encourage family and friend to do so too.

For more information go to www.asda.com/cashpotforschools

Attendance and Punctuality reminder

As we start this new school year can I remind you of the importance of arriving to school each day on time. The gates open at 8.45am and close promptly at 8.55am. If your child is too unwell to come to school, please inform the office via the Arbor app by 9am at the latest. Attendance is closely monitored across school and you will be asked to provide evidence of any medical appointments. Holidays during term time are not permitted and any leave of absence is only authorised in exceptional circumstances. Thank you.

PE days and kit

On PE days children should come into school wearing a white t-shirt or polo shirt (school logo or plain) with plain navy sports shorts. A navy tracksuit (plain or with school logo) is required on colder days and trainers should be predominantly black or white in colour.

Year	Days
Reception	Mondays
1	Wednesdays and Fridays
2	Tuesdays and Fridays
3	Wednesdays and Thursdays
4	Tuesdays and Thursdays
5	Tuesdays and Wednesdays
6	Mondays and Thursdays



Homework Policy

We have made a few minor tweaks to our homework policy following parents' feedback (policy attached to this email).

Please note that children will receive their first piece of homework w/c 30 September. Prior to this, please focus on their reading, spellings and times tables.

HA4K+ wraparound care

We are delighted at how well the new before and after school club provision has taken off, with over 25 children across school accessing both morning and afternoon this week.

There are still places available – for details contact jeanette.ha4k@googlemail.com or info@HA4K.co.uk