

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER



Number 2: Friday 20 September, 2024

A word from Mrs Toner



Dear parents and carers,

The new school year has got off to a flying start and the children are working very hard across school. We have decided to call this academic year 'A Year of Service' with each year group thinking carefully about how they can serve others, both in school and across the wider community.

Consequently, we have decided to rename the Friendship Award received in celebration assembly. From this week, it will be called 'The Service Award', in recognition of children who strive to help others - whether that be in school or through charitable acts. Please speak to your children at home about what they might do this year to serve others.

Update on OPAL Play

Many thanks to everyone who has already donated resources to our OPAL play project. We are excited to introduce them to the children over the coming weeks as we prepare for our official launch after the half term break. The children are getting used to the new system and we are having weekly OPAL assemblies with them to discuss what is going well and what we can do to make it even better.

We still need more items, **particularly donations of toys or play equipment please.** Next week, your child will be given a 'bingo list' of items specific items we'd love to receive. Please bring any items to the Nursery shed at the start/end of the day. Thank you.



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

Hot topics

This year, each newsletter will contain a 'Hot Topics' section where I will share any particular concerns arising in school that I feel would be useful for you to discuss at home with your children.

This month's 'Hot Topic' is Racism. In recent weeks there have been a few incidents of children being unkind to others due to the colour of their skin or their background. Please do speak to your children about this and the importance of celebrating each other's differences. At The Good Shepherd, we are proud of our diverse community and will not tolerate racism in any of its forms.

The NSPCC and UNICEF websites are a great place to find resources to start this conversation with your children - links on email.

Emailing teachers

As per the home school agreement, please note that all emails intended for class teachers should go through the office: office@goodshepherd.notts.sch.uk in the first instance.

Please be advised that teachers will not pick up emails received after 4pm until the next working day and will always endeavour to respond to you in a timely manner.

Office hours are 8am to 4pm. Thank you.

First Reconciliation and Holy Communion



For those of you who would like your child to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion this academic year, there will be a parents' meeting with Fr Philipp and the catechists on Wednesday 16th October at 7pm in the parish centre. At this meeting, you will hear about the programme and what commitment is required from you and your children.

You will have the opportunity to sign up to the programme at this meeting, or alternatively after mass over the following 3 weekends. Please note that all those who wish to receive the sacraments will need to attend the children's enrolment mass on Sunday 1st December where the Good Shepherd School will be leading the Liturgy of the Word.

Please note that the date for Holy Communion is Saturday 21st June 2025. First Reconciliation will take place over the first three Saturdays in Lent – 8th to 22nd March.

'Tea and Talk' – Tuesday 10th October – 3.30pm

We hope you can join us for our 'Tea and Talk' event after pick up on 10th October in recognition of World Mental Health Day. Mrs Brunton will be available for you to talk to and the Year 5 'Mini-vinnies' will be serving drinks and cakes – all prices either 50p or £1. Please send donations for the cake sale in that morning – no nuts please.

In addition, the Gedling Mental Health Support Team will be joining us at our parents evening on 16th October and is available for anyone who wishes to talk to them about children's mental health.

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

Dismissal at the end of the day

Please ensure that you keep your children with you after they have been dismissed at the end of the day. All gates, including the car park, are open at this time and it is crucial that children are not allowed to leave you and make their way out of the gates on their own.

Smart watches and phones in school

We have noticed that a few children have been wearing smart watches in school and using them to send messages / play games. Please note that children should only wear analogue or basic digital watches please.

Phones are not permitted in school. Year 6 children who walk must bring their phone to the Office at the start of the day for safekeeping.

Dates for your diary

Month	Events
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 23rd – 27th: Peace week in school• 24th: Reception Reading Workshop – 3.45pm• 25th: Flu Vaccinations - parents to either consent/ not consent by Sunday 22 September• 30th: Mass to celebrate the new school year – 9.30am in school
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1st: Year 4 Egyptian Day• 3rd: Year 5 trip to The Space Centre• 7th: PTA AGM – 6.30pm in school – all welcome• 10th: Mental Health 'Tea and Talk' - 3.30pm in the school hall – all welcome• 11th: Bring your wellies for OPAL - more info to follow• 16th: Parents' evening – book your slot via Arbor• 18th: Last day of the half term – PTA non-uniform day & cake sale
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4th: Return to school• 5th: Individual and family photographs – full winter uniform• 8th: Y6 Remembrance Day Liturgy – 9.30am• 11-16th: Anti-bullying week – focus 'Choose Respect'• 22nd and 28th: Good Shepherd open mornings for prospective parents – see flyer for information• 29th: Non-uniform Day – bring a bottle for the Parish Christmas Fair• 30th: Good Shepherd Parish Christmas Fair: 10.30am -2.30pm in the Church Hall
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1st: Advent mass in Church – more information to follow• 2nd: Advent retreat day & reconciliation for years 4-6• 5th: PTA Christmas Discos• 9th: Nursery Nativity• 10th: Zoolab in for Year 1 (am)• 10th: Reception Nativity – 10am and Year 1 Nativity – 2pm• 12th: Y1 Nativity – 10am and Reception Nativity – 2pm• 16th: Choir to Valley Court care home• 17th: Christmas Dinner• 18th: Y2 Christingle service – 9.30am• 19th: Reception trip to the Theatre – more information to follow• 20th: Carol service in Church 10am and Christmas Jumper Day• 20th: Last day of term – return to school on Monday 6th January 2025!

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