

# HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER



## Number 10: Thursday 25 July 2025

### A word from Mrs Toner

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe we are about to close the doors for a well-deserved rest this summer – the year has just flown by – though the last few weeks have dragged a little! The children have already spent some time with their new teachers and are well and truly ready to take the next step on their educational journey in September.

It's certainly been a busy few weeks with an Ofsted visit thrown in for good measure! Unfortunately, their report will not be available until we return in September.

Your children are a credit to you and they have worked hard to achieve the high standards we set ourselves here at The Good Shepherd. We work very hard to promote positive behaviour and ambitious expectations and sincerely acknowledge the support we receive from you, our parents. So, as we prepare to close the doors for the holidays, I thank God for the privilege to serve you as headteacher of The Good Shepherd Academy. We hope you can join us at our Leavers' Mass today at 9.45am in Church. I look forward to seeing you all back in school on Wednesday 3 September. I wish you a very happy and safe summer holiday. Yours sincerely, Celine Toner

### Goodbye Year 6

I would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to Year 6 who will be leaving us on Friday. They have been such a hard-working and motivated group of children and they will be sorely missed by all in school. We wish them well at their secondary schools and hope that they continue to achieve their best and follow Jesus in all they do. [Please see their end of year video here](#) – I think is one of our best yet!



### Goodbye and thank you to Mrs Burke

We say a special thank you to Mrs Rebecca Burke who steps down as foundation governor this term. Mrs Burke has worked tirelessly for the Good Shepherd community for the past 12 years as Chair of Governors and we all very much appreciate her steadfast commitment. She has been an invaluable support to me and has always gone above and beyond for the children and staff here. She will continue to support the babies and toddlers at Little Lambs on a Monday though, so I'm sure some of you will see her there.

Dr Kuras, Mrs Lewis, Mrs Davison and Mrs Clark also left our governing body this academic year, and I thank them for their service too.

### Goodbye to Mr Walters

We are very sad to say goodbye to Mr Walters (aka Mr Tom) at the end of this academic year. Mr Walters has truly lifted the Catholic Life of our school through his music – bringing great joy to everyone. Mr Walters has secured an amazing job as Worship Lead for the Church of England Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham where he will be bringing contemporary worship to churches across the diocese. Thank you so much Mr Walters, for everything. You have left your mark on The Good Shepherd and will be truly missed.



## End of Year Results

Over the year, the children have worked extremely hard and we are very pleased with our end of year results across the school. The table below shows the percentage of our children at the end of Key Stage 2 who achieved the expected standard (EXP) and also those who achieved higher than the expected standard (GD). We don't yet know the national averages, but judging by last year, we look to have achieved better than national standards in every area.

End of Year Data 2024-25	Reading		Writing		Spelling and Grammar		Mathematics	
	EXP	GD	EXP	GD	EXP	GD	EXP	GD
End of KS2	86%	50%	84%	16%	90%	33%	81%	27%

In addition to the above results, 85% of our Reception students reached a Good Level of Development, 87% of our Year 1 children passed the National Phonics Screening and our Year 4 children scored an average of 21.3 out of 25 on the multiplication tables check. Again, we predict that all of these will be above national averages. For these results I would like to thank the children for all their hard work, you, their parents for supporting at home and the staff who have been unfaltering in their commitment to our pupils.

## The Ark

Some of you may have heard that we have been having some building work done on our IT Suite this past term. We are excited that in September, we will be opening an enhanced provision called 'The Ark'. This offers a safe space for children who need additional support to engage more fully with school life and their learning journey. Mrs Brown, our SENCO, will be running the Ark alongside some of our teaching assistants.

## OPAL big build

We are so grateful for all the parents and carers who came to help us build OPAL items out of wooden pallets on Monday.

We know that the children will LOVE playing with all the cool things that you built. [Here's a link to a video Mrs Dickson made of the day!](#)



## 2025-26 PE Days

- Reception: Mondays
- Year 1: Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Year 2: Tuesdays and Fridays
- Year 3: Tuesdays and Wednesdays
- Year 4: Wednesday and Fridays
- Year 5: Wednesday and Thursdays
- Year 6: Mondays and Thursdays

## Thank you to...

The members of our PTA who have worked hard to organise a wide range of events for us all to enjoy this year. Particular mention must go to them for another fantastic Summer Fayre. It was a truly wonderful event with a great spirit of community, fun and laughter - not to mention the £3,632 raised for school. Without such a committed and enthusiastic bunch of people, our children would not enjoy so many of the extra things they provide that our school budget cannot stretch to.

All of you who have supported the school in its drive to bring the OPAL project to life across our school. From the beginning of the year, where so many of you came in to tidy up the grounds in preparation, to now, where so many of you helped with 'The Big Build' on Monday... it really has come so far! Special thanks to the Gethings-Smith family for all your contributions - especially Grandad Gethings who built our beautiful sandpit. This whole project is testimony to the wonderful community we have here at GSA.

The team of parents who volunteered to take part in 'Swimwatch' and help supervise the Year 3 children poolside. They have enjoyed their swimming lessons on Thursday afternoons and this could not have happened without you.

Those who have volunteered to support with reading in school this year. We are so grateful for the time you have given up to listen to so many of our children read each week.

The members of the school Diversity and Inclusion Forum who have met on two occasions so far to discuss how we can support our school to be a place of welcome for all. Please look out for a questionnaire from them early in the new year, seeking your views on the topic.

Contact us at [office@goodshepherd.notts.sch.uk](mailto:office@goodshepherd.notts.sch.uk)