

# HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER



## Number 1: Wednesday 3 September 2025

### A word from Mrs Toner



Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome back to you all. I hope you had a fun, and I'm sure busy, 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 to know their new classes and have got lots of great things planned over the next term and beyond. A warm welcome to the new children and their families starting in our Nursery and Reception classes this week. I'm sure you will all be very happy here at The Good Shepherd and it will be a privilege to watch your children flourish over the coming years. Yours sincerely, Celine Toner.

### Ofsted Outstanding!

I am thrilled to finally be able to share the outcome of our recent Ofsted Inspection with you which took place from 1-2 July.

The school was awarded the top grade of 'Outstanding' in every area – Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, Early Years and Leadership and Management.

[Please click here to read the full report.](#)

Some particular highlights from the report are:

- Pupils feel incredibly fortunate to attend this joyful school.
- Pupils show a great love of learning and are exceptionally well prepared for their next learning steps.
- Pupils with SEND access the same ambitious curriculum as their peers – they absolutely thrive at the school.
- Staff work tirelessly to create an environment where every child feels respected, happy and safe.
- Pupils' behaviour is exemplary... learning takes place within an atmosphere of calm.
- Children receive an outstanding start to their education... they enable every child to flourish.



I would like to take the opportunity to thank the whole GSA community for the part they played in achieving this wonderful result – the children, their families and our fantastic staff team and Governors.

Follow our brand new Instagram account at [www.instagram.com/GoodShepherdCatholicPrimary](https://www.instagram.com/GoodShepherdCatholicPrimary).

## Meet the teacher – upcoming opportunities to come into school

### Monday 15 September: 3.30–4.15pm

For year groups 2, 3, 4 and 5, you will have the opportunity to meet your child’s teacher via an informal drop-in session between 3.30 – 4.15pm. Prior to this, you will receive the class newsletter via Arbor so that you can prepare any questions you may have about the term ahead.

For children in Year 1, Mrs Dickinson and Miss Clarke will do a short presentation at 3.30pm to inform parents of the expectations in Year 1, as well as looking at how phonics is taught.

Year 6 parents are invited to a meeting with Mr Barfield and Mrs Moore at 5pm where they will set out the expectations in Year 6 and discuss the upcoming events for the year ahead.

### Tuesday 23 September: 3.45–4.15pm

Reception parents are invited to attend a Reading Workshop on Tuesday 23 September from 3.45 – 4.15pm to learn about how we teach reading and phonics.

## Beginning and end of the school day

All children, except Nursery pupils, should enter school via the main gate on Somersby Road. Only Nursery children are permitted to enter via the small 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.

## Parking around school

Please, let us start this year as we mean to go on and park responsibly around school. No parking on double yellow lines, zig-zags, on corners, or over residents drives. Don’t leave engines running when stationary also.

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.



## Nuts in school

We are a nut-free school. We have several children and staff members who have severe nut allergies.

Please ensure you do not pack any foods that contain nuts or traces of nuts. Also be aware that some shampoos/ moisturising products may also contain traces of nut, so please be vigilant with this. Many thanks for helping to keep our community safe and nut-free.

## Attendance and punctuality

As we start this new school year, I want to 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 email or 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 leave of absence is only authorised in exceptional circumstances. Thank you.

## Dates for your diary

### September

- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> – PTA coffee morning for new Reception parents – 9am, school hall
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Meet the teacher presentation for year 1- 3.30pm
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Meet the teacher drop ins for years 2 to 5 – 3.30-4.15pm
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Meet the teacher presentation for year 6 – 5pm, school hall
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> – Year 4 Egyptian Day
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> – flu vaccinations – information to follow.
- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Reception reading workshop, 3.45pm, school hall