

# HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER



Number 9: Wednesday 6 May 2026

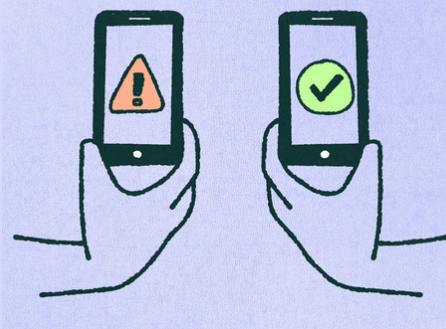
## A word from Mrs Toner

It is hard to believe we are already three weeks into the last term of this school year... and it is certainly a busy one.

In this newsletter you will find lots of information about upcoming dates and exciting events, so please do ensure you add them to your diary. I hope that many of you will be able to support us with them. Kind regards, Mrs Toner.

## Smartphone Free Childhood - Beginning the Conversation - complete our survey

Over recent months, we have been reflecting carefully on children's use of smartphones, not only in school but more broadly. In line with current Department for Education (DfE) guidance, which states that schools should operate as mobile phone-free environments by default, we would like to begin a conversation with you, our parents, about the idea of a smartphone-free childhood.



At GSA smartphones are not permitted for use during the school day. They are only allowed to be brought to and from school by children who walk independently. However, year-on-year we are increasingly dealing with a high number of issues linked to children's online activity outside of school hours (including on the walk to and from school). These often have a direct impact on pupils' wellbeing, relationships and behaviour in school, reinforcing the need for a shared approach between home and school. So, in line with the National focus on smartphones for children, I wanted to have this important discussion together as a school community.

National guidance and inspection expectations now place clear emphasis on strong, consistently applied mobile phone policies as part of promoting pupils' wellbeing, behaviour and safety. Evidence suggests that school rules alone are not sufficient; positive impact is greatest where families and schools work together. Our interest is not simply about restricting devices, but about supporting healthy habits, reducing online risks and protecting children's wellbeing.

We recognise that families will have different views on this. We are therefore seeking your feedback and would be grateful if you could share your views by completing the short questionnaire linked below. This will help inform our next steps and ensure any future approach reflects the needs of our community.

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

## Cultural Diversity Week - Thursday 11 - Saturday 20 June

Following a planning meeting with the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion parent forum, we are delighted to announce that we will be celebrating Cultural Diversity Week from Thursday 11 June to Saturday 20 June. During the week, children will enjoy a range of exciting activities led by external providers and members of our school community, including Global Dance, Indian Dhol drumming and African wooden mask painting workshops to name a few!

We will share full details of the week closer to the time. For now, we are writing to ask for your support and to highlight opportunities for you to be involved. Your contributions make this week truly special, and we would be very grateful for your help.

If you, or someone you know, would be happy to share their culture with our children in the ways listed, please complete the forms below by Mon 18 May.

### Kick-off celebration and sharing Assembly

Children (and/or parents) are invited to share something from their culture - such as a song, dance, instrument or short performance (1-2 minutes). Families are welcome to collaborate. Please click [here](#) to sign up.

### Share a story

Parents, carers or family members can visit school to share a traditional tale or storybook from their culture with a class during the week. If you are able to contribute in this way, please complete the share a story form, [here](#).

### Live cooking demonstration

We are looking for volunteers to share a live cooking demonstration of an international dish with a year group. This will be shared live, under a visualiser, with the class. To support in this way, please complete the form [here](#).

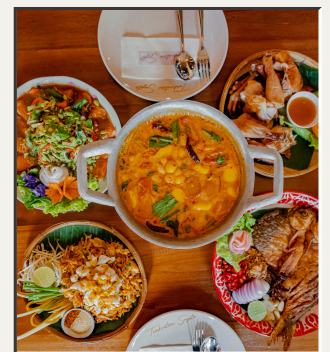
### International Cuisine Event - Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June

This popular event returns to the school hall! If you are able to prepare a dish and attend on the day, either individually or as part of a group, please sign up using the form [here](#). Tickets will be available on Arbor in due course for those that wish to attend but not prepare food.

### Key dates for your diary

- Thursday 11 June - Kick off celebration and sharing assembly at 9:05am.
- Friday 12 June - Colour Run, school playground at 2.15pm for Nursery, Reception and KS1 and 3pm for KS2. All are welcome to come and join this event in the playground and take children home straight afterwards. This will be a sponsored event for a local charity LCH - more info to follow.
- Date TBC - Adult and child Zumba session with Charm Daley on the school field - 3.45 - 4.30pm. Free to attend - limited ticket, information to follow.
- Friday 19 June - Dhol Drumming sharing session, 3pm, all welcome.
- Saturday 20 June - International Cuisine Event, all welcome. This will not be a paid event, but donations will be welcomed to reimburse the cost of the food.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to celebrating our wonderful school community together.



## Hot topic: School Uniform

As we move into the summer term, I would like to take this opportunity to remind families of our school uniform expectations. For PE, children should wear plain navy or black shorts and a plain white polo shirt. Logoed items are not permitted. We are also noticing an increase in children wearing jewellery and make-up to school. Please note that jewellery is not allowed, with the exception of single stud earrings, and make-up should not be worn.

As the weather becomes warmer, please ensure your child comes to school with a sun hat and that sunscreen has been applied at home. We ask that children do not bring sunglasses into school, as these are easily lost or broken, which can cause unnecessary upset.

## Dates for your diary

May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 11th-14<sup>th</sup> - Year 6 SATS week - Y6 welcome at 8.15am for 'SATS breakfast'</li><li>• Friday 15<sup>th</sup> - Wear it Green day for Children's mental health week - see below.</li><li>• Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> - last day of term for children.</li><li>• Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Inset day - school is closed.</li></ul>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> - First Holy Communion in Church</li><li>• Monday 15<sup>th</sup> - New Reception parents meeting, 6-7pm</li><li>• Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Class Photos - all children in full summer uniform please</li><li>• Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Nursery Sports Day, 2.45pm</li><li>• Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> - Reception Sports Day, 9.15am.</li></ul>
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Y4 Trip to Attenborough</li><li>• Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Reception trip to Twycross</li><li>• Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Year 5-6 Sports Day, 9.15am.</li><li>• Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> - Year 1-2 Sports Day, 9.15am.</li><li>• Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> - Year 1 trip to Mansfield Museum</li><li>• Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> - Year 3 trip to Magna</li><li>• Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> - Year 3-4 Sports Day, 9.15am</li><li>• Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July - Summer Fayre - 3.30-6pm</li><li>• Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> - Year 2 trip to Sherwood Forest</li><li>• Friday 17<sup>th</sup> - Year 6 Leavers Disco</li><li>• Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Year 2 Beach day - more info to follow</li><li>• Friday 24<sup>th</sup> - Leavers Mass.</li></ul>

## Wear it Green Day - Friday 15 May

As part of our ongoing commitment to Children's Mental Health, it's our annual 'Wear it Green' Day on Friday next week. Children are asked to come to school wearing green - as much or as little as they wish - donations of £1 per child requested in aid of Young Minds.



## WOW: walk to school challenge

We just wanted to say 'Keep up the good work' with walking to school - we gave out loads of badges in April so we are so proud of you all!



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