

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER



Number 10: Wednesday 22 July 2026

A word from Mrs Toner

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 of intense heat have certainly 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. 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 on Friday 24 July at 9.45am in Church. I look forward to seeing you all back in school on Thursday 3 September. I wish you a very happy and safe summer holiday.



Smart Phone Free Childhood - no phones in September

Following the recent questionnaire and subsequent parent meeting, the overwhelming majority of parents supported a change to our current policy regarding children bringing smartphones into school.

From September 2026, Year 6 pupils will no longer be permitted to bring smartphones onto the school site. For families wishing their child to walk to and from school independently, we recommend the use of a GPS tracker to help monitor their journey. Alternatively, children may bring a basic mobile phone ('brick phone') that allows calls and texts but does not provide access to the internet or social media. [You can read about some recommended devices](#) here.

For those who were unable to attend the parent meeting a couple of weeks ago, [you can view the presentation here](#).

We also encourage you to [sign up to our school's Parent Pact](#) and [join the WhatsApp group](#) to stay informed and connected with our school community around this issue.



**SMARTPHONE
FREE CHILDHOOD**



Goodbye to Miss Degasperi

One of our teaching assistants, Mrs Degasperi, leaves us at the end of this term to pursue a teaching career. We wish her all the very best for the future and thank her for her commitment to GSA over the past four years.

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 [click this link](#) to see their end of year video which I think is one of our best yet!



Goodbye and thank you to our school governors, Mrs O'Hara and Mr McGuiness

We say a special thank you to Mrs O'Hara and Mr McGuiness who step down as foundation governors this term. I thank them for their service and commitment to the children and staff here at GSA.

We will be balloting for a new parent governor in September, so please do give this some thought over the summer. Also we are always looking for foundation governors to join our team. So if you are a practicing Catholic and are interested in joining the governing body, please let me know.

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 a higher than the expected standard (GD).

End of Year Data 2026-26	Reading		Writing		Spelling and Grammar		Mathematics	
	EXP	GD	EXP	GD	EXP	GD	EXP	GD
End of KS2	85%	31%	78%	10%	76%	31%	81%	15%

In addition to the above results, 85% of our Reception students reached a Good Level of Development, 93% of our Year 1 children passed the National Phonics Screening and our Year 4 children scored an average of 20.6 out of 25 on the multiplication tables check.

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.

Thank you to...

My very sincere thanks 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 the Summer Fayre, a truly wonderful event with a great spirit of community, fun and laughter - not to mention the £3302 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.

Many thanks also to those parents whose children are leaving us this year and who will therefore be stepping down from the PTA. In particular, I would like to thank Mrs O'Hara and Mrs Danby for their dedication and support as valued members of the PTA committee over the years. We are incredibly grateful for all they have contributed to our school community.

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

To 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.

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