

HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER



Number 1: Tuesday 8 September 2026

A word from Mrs Toner and Mr Barfield

A very warm welcome back to you all and we hope you had a good summer break. It was great to see the children looking so smart, ready to start the new academic year last week. The staff team are excited to get to know their new classes in 2026-27 and we have got lots of great things planned for the children over the next term and beyond.



Welcome to the new children and their families in our Nursery and Reception classes and also to Psalm, Kishaanth and Zephaniah who have joined us in Year 3. All our new children have settled into school so well these past few days and we're sure they will be very happy here at The Good Shepherd. It will be a privilege to watch them flourish over the coming years.

Staffing news and updates

We have had something of a baby boom over the summer break! Both Mrs Shajpal and Miss Murphy safely delivered of their babies – a little girl called Lila for Mrs Shajpal and a baby boy called Theo for Miss Murphy.

Four of our staff also welcomed grandchildren – Mrs Sarno, Mrs Rowntree, Ms Yon and of course Mrs Murphy. Many congratulations to them all.



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 the corners of surrounding roads or over residents drives. It is not only dangerous but also affects our relationship with those who live around our school. Please also turn your engine off when parked.

Many thanks in anticipation of your support with this.

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

PE Days

PE days for 2026-27 are:



- Monday: Nursery, Reception and Year 6
- Tuesday: Year 1, 2 and 3.
- Wednesday: Year 1, 2 and 5.
- Thursday: Year 3, 4, 5, 6.
- Friday: Nursery and Year 4.

Birthday treats

A reminder that if you would like to send something in to mark your child's birthday, a small, sealed bag of sweets for each child to take home is sufficient.

These must include allergy information on the packaging and can be given out safely at the end of the day. No nuts please



Meet the teacher: Tuesday 15 September, in the classrooms 3.30-4.15pm

For children in Year 2 to 5, you will have the opportunity to meet your child's teacher via an informal drop-in session between 3.30 and 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 Yon will do a short presentation at 3.30pm to inform parents of the expectations in Year 1, and will explain how phonics is taught.

Year 6 parents are invited to a **meeting with Mrs Moore and Mrs Dougal at 5pm** where they will set out the expectations in Year 6 and discuss the up-coming events for the year ahead.



Reception Reading Workshop: Tuesday 22 September: 3.45-4.15pm

Reception parents are invited to attend a Reading Workshop on Tuesday 22 September from 3.45 to 4.15pm, to learn about how we teach reading and phonics. School staff will look after children for this to enable parents to attend. Come to reception and you'll be shown to a classroom.



Allergy safe practice - new guidance

In line with our new Allergy Safety Policy (updated September 2026 in line with new government guidance) and our commitment to keeping all members of our school community safe, we ask parents and carers to be extra vigilant by avoiding sending foods containing nuts. We have pupils and staff with severe allergies, and accidental exposure can have serious consequences.

As it is not possible to guarantee a completely nut-free environment, we ask everyone to work with us to minimise risks by checking ingredients carefully and avoiding products that contain nuts where practical. We also encourage families to be mindful that some personal care products, such as moisturisers, lip balms and shampoos, may contain nut-derived ingredients.

By working together, remaining vigilant and following our allergy-aware practices, we can help create a safer environment for all children, staff and visitors. Thank you for your support.

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

Attendance and Punctuality

As we start this new school year, I'd like 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 the Arbor app or by calling us by 9am at the latest. Attendance and punctuality 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.



School Uniform

Many thanks for sending your children back to school looking so smart and ready for the new school year. As you know, one of the key expectations within our Behaviour Curriculum is that we 'dress to impress', taking pride in both our appearance and our school uniform. We expect all children to arrive at school each day in full school uniform, including their school tie.

As we begin the new academic year, I would like to draw your attention to our PE kit requirements. On PE days, children should wear a white T-shirt or polo shirt (plain or with the school logo) and plain navy sports shorts. For colder weather, children should also have a plain navy tracksuit, or one with the school logo. Trainers should be predominantly black or white.

Our PTA Preloved Shop has a wide selection of good-quality uniform available for a small fee. We will keep you posted about when the next sale will take place. Alternatively, you can contact the PTA directly via goodshepherdpta@hotmail.com, and they will be happy to put together a uniform bundle for you.

Before and after school

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

Dates for your diary

Please note that these are preliminary, and new dates may be added as the term goes on. Please keep an eye on the Weekly roundup and school calendar on the website for updates.

September	- Friday 11th - Flu vaccinations - NHS vaccinations will contact you directly to consent / opt out. - Friday 11th - 9am in the school hall - new Reception parents coffee morning. - Tuesday 15th - Meet the teacher - see above for details. - Friday 18th - PTA Back to School Foam Party - tickets £3 on Arbor School Shop. - Tuesday 22nd - Reception Reading workshop - 3.45pm school hall.
October	- Monday 5th -Year 3 trip to Creswell Craggs - Thursday 15th - Year 4 Egyptian Day - information to follow.