



19th January 2026

We have had a wonderful start to 2026. Heather from St Peter's Church came in to lead worship on the Epiphany: this marks the anniversary of the Three Wise Men who followed a star to find baby Jesus in Bethlehem.

### **Welcome Miss Shephard**

Last term we said goodbye and good luck to Mrs Taylor as she moved to a new role. We welcome Miss Shephard to our school community as the Year 1 class teacher.

### **Forest School**

We are very excited that all our classes now have a weekly Forest School session. Children are to come in their normal school uniform as they all have wellies in school. We ask that they have a waterproof coat in school on this day—apologies in advance that they may get a little muddy!

Monday— Year 5, Year 3 and Year 4

Tuesday— Year 2, Year 1, Year 6 and Elm Class

Wednesday—Foundation Stage

### **Uniform**

A reminder that school uniform is :

- grey skirt, pinafore or trousers. (Shorts in the summer term.)
- Light blue polo shirt
- Red cardigan or jumper
- Grey or black tights / grey, white or black socks
- Plain black footwear with no visible logos.

PE kit:

- Plain navy or black shorts, jogging bottoms or leggings.
- Plain white t shirt
- Red school jumper or cardigan
- Plain black trainers.



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### **Uniform**

If you need support with uniform, we have a large selection of pre-loved uniform waiting for a new home. Please ask at the school office.



## ESAFETY

With the increased access to AI and the current media coverage of the danger of AI, this weeks safety attachment focuses on AI-generated videos.

As a school, we are currently reviewing our computing curriculum and internet safety to ensure that we teach children the advantages and disadvantages of AI and how to keep themselves safe.

## KEY DATES FOR THIS HALF TERM

15.01.26 School swimming (Y3)

15.01.26 Y5 Bible Explorers

19.01.26 School pantomime (afternoon)

21.01.26 Year 3 and Year 4 Bikeability

22.01.26 Year 1 and Year 2 Planetarium

22.01.26 School swimming (Y3)

22.01.26 Y5 Bible Explorers

23.01.26 OPAL grounds session (please note the date has changed).

29.01.26 School swimming (Y3)

29.01.26 Y5 Bible Explorers

02.02.26 Y5 and Y6 Cyber security workshop

05.02.26 School swimming (Y3)

05.02.26 Y5 Bible Explorers

12.02.26 Reception & Year 6 NHS Height and Weight—please look out for a separate letter.

13.02.26 Last day of term

# Do I need to keep my child off school?

<b>Chicken Pox</b> Until all spots have crusted over	<b>Conjunctivitis</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Diarrhoea &amp; Vomiting</b> 48 hours from last episode	<b>Glandular Fever</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Hand, foot &amp; mouth</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Impetigo</b> Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
<b>Measles or German Measles</b> 4 days from onset of rash	<b>Mumps</b> 5 days from onset of swelling	<b>Scabies</b> Until after first treatment	<b>Scarlet Fever</b> 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	<b>Slapped Cheek</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Whooping Cough</b> 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
	<b>Flu</b> Until recovered	<b>Head Lice</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Threadworms</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Tonsillitis</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	

## ATTENDANCE

Our current attendance is 93.77% for this academic year. Our aim as a school is for 95% attendance. We would like to thank you for your continued support in getting your children to school every day.

We understand that there are times when your child is too unwell to attend school. Please ensure you contact the school office by 8.30am if your child is going to be absent. We will also contact you should your child become unwell in school.

In line with our attendance policy, please note that term-time holidays will not be granted unless for exceptional circumstances: supporting evidence is required.

The Public Health Agency have created the helpful guide above for deciding whether your child is well enough to go to school.

**Following our safeguarding audit, monitoring letters will be sent every 3 weeks if your child's attendance falls below 90%. If you require any support or would like to discuss your child's attendance, please make an appointment to see Mrs Thompson or Mrs Kaluza.**

The following illnesses can be managed safely with self-care and do not require to see a GP routinely.

The web pages below offer clinically approved information on how to recognise them:

Conjunctivitis: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/conjunctivitis/>

Hand, foot and mouth disease: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/hand-foot-mouth-disease/>

Chickenpox: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chickenpox/>

Common cold: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/common-cold/>

## Year 3 and 4 Dodgeball

Well done to the children who attended the Dodgeball event at West Notts College. They thoroughly enjoyed playing against other schools and developing their skills!



## Earth and Space

Year 6 are learning about Earth and Space in Science. This week, they created a scale model of the planets using fruit just to understand how vast the solar system is. Using the knowledge and understanding, they created their own model in forest school, using materials and objects they could find outside.



## Forest School

Year 2 have had lots of fun in Forest School this week. They were developing their understanding of writing in the past tense to write about their Forest School fun!

## Pantomime

The children have thoroughly enjoyed the pantomime in school today. They have laughed, sang, booed, hissed and cheered at the dance off... oh yes they have!



## OPAL build day—Friday 23rd January 1pm.

We are inviting parents who have their own tools and can make different things out of wood to come in for the afternoon to create things for the children to enjoy at play time. We will provide the wood! We ask that you bring your tools (drill, saw, screw driver etc). You can work with your child on a project together. If you can attend and would like your child to join you, we will ask you to sign them out so that you are responsible for them. Please let the school office know if you would like to attend.

## Bringing in items from home

We kindly request that children do not bring in any toys/game etc. from home. These often get damaged or go missing which is very upsetting. If these get broken or damaged, school do not take responsibility for them.

## Cashless School

From Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026 we will be a cashless school. ALL payments will need to go through ParentPay. We have tried for a long time to reduce the amount of cash we receive in school. However, due to a change in how we can pay in money to the bank and post office is it no longer feasible to have cash in school, so have decided that from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026 we will no longer accept any cash payments. Please contact the school office if you are unsure of your ParentPay log in details.

## Thrive Together

Thrive Together is a nurse led support service meeting in the community centre every Tuesday.

**What we do:**  
Nurse led specialist support offering :

- Neurodiversity advocacy
- 1:1 and group support tailored to individual and family needs
- Advice on diagnosis pathways, EHCPs, PIP/DLA and hospital passports
- Support to access qualifications, volunteering opportunities and employment

**Thrive Tribe**  
Support for Neurodivergent Individuals & Families (no diagnosis required)  
**Everyone welcome**  
South Mansfield Community Centre NG18 4NG  
Tuesdays 9.30-12.30 (term time)

**For more information**  
Facebook: ThriveTogetherNeurodiversity  
Email: hollychamberlain@thrivetgether2020.onmicrosoft.com

**We are Here to Help**  
Thrive Together provides a safe and supportive space where you can gain knowledge, confidence and practical help. Children are welcome.

disability confident

## **PARENT AND CARER DROP-INS**

These drop ins are a chance for parents and carers of autistic young people to come along and meet others who understand caring for an autistic child. We will be able to discuss strategies and give suggestions of how to support at home, as well as developing a deeper understanding of autism and neurodiversity.

Sessions are very relaxed, and everyone is free to either join in the conversation, or listen in and soak it all up.

Again, we do have a focus for each session, but this is flexible, and if there are other things that crop up, or that people would rather talk about, that is not a problem. We want the sessions to support parents and carers in the way that works best for them.

<b>Term &amp; Date</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Meeting link</b>
<b>Spring a</b> Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February 11 – 12am	This session, we will focus on <b>communication and how we can support our young people</b> . We will think about the <b>double empathy</b> theory, and also look at some resources and strategies that you can use to help unpick what your child is really thinking, and how you can use this to make sure you get the right support in place.	<a href="#"><b>Join the meeting now</b></a>  Meeting ID: 378 312 628 116 7  Passcode: agyD69KN
<b>Spring b</b> Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 11 – 12 am	<b>What do we mean by information processing and differences in executive functioning?</b> We will look at the impact of neurodiversity on executive functioning, and also think about some of the skills that we often see in our autistic young people.  We will also hopefully have a chance to look at some <b>frequently asked questions</b> – so if you do have any questions. Please bring them along to the session!	
<b>Summer a</b> Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> May 11 – 12 am	In this session, we will look at <b>what it means to have an internal presentation</b> . We will talk about <b>masking</b> , and how we can support young people through <b>energy accounting</b> . We will look at what energy accounting means and how do we go about doing it.	
<b>Summer b</b> Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 11 – 12am	In our final session we will think about an <b>external presentation of autism</b> , what this means and how we can support. We will also think about our summer plans; what are your plans for the <b>summer holiday</b> ? How can you meet the needs of everyone in the family, and make sure you all get through the summer!	



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