



This half term we have:

- Welcomed our new children (and families) to Reception and Nursery
- Enjoyed using our new EYFS outdoor provision
- Used Wakefield Council's ballot boxes and polling resources to elect our school council representatives from each class.
- Interviewed and assigned our Head Girl and Head Boy plus a deputy Head Boy and Girl from Y6
- Our Year 6 and Reception buddies are in place - the children have enjoyed sharing books together for their first meeting.
- Continued with our Eco-Committee and welcomed new members
- Other leadership roles which are in place are Lunchtime helpers, reading leaders.
- Offered forest school sessions to all classes Y1-Y6
- Hosted a Future in Mind Aspirations group
- Offered a reading meeting for Reception parents/carers
- Offered a variety of clubs - singing, rugby, forest school, Elite sports clubs
- Visited Pontefract Castle (Y1 and Y2)
- Offered parent consultation meetings to all parents
- Offered an invite to all parents to meet individually with Future in Mind.
- Celebrated World Mental Health Day
- Celebrated Library Week
- Enjoyed a visit from Chartwells (our catering company) who led a session on how to use a knife and fork with our KS1 classes.
- Enjoyed Rocksteady and Get into Guitar lessons
- Hosted our Year 3 and Year 4 Parent Workshops - thank you for attending.

It has been a busy first half term at NHCS. As always, the children have earned lots of house points for following our Golden Rules.

We will always...

- ✓ keep everyone included
- ✓ keep everyone safe
- ✓ keep everyone learning
- ✓ keep being honest
- ✓ keep everyone's property safe

The event dates for 2025/2026 are listed at the end of the newsletter.



Telephone: 01924 303680

admin@newton-hill.org.uk

www.newtonhill.wakefield.sch.uk



Supporting Readers at Home

If you have any questions, please contact school.



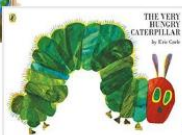
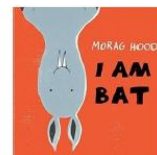
Open University research suggests there are three important ways to support readers and a love of reading.



Reading aloud to children shows them reading is a pleasure, not a chore. Older children can read to younger ones too.



Making time to read alongside one another helps develop children's reading stamina and interest. Let them choose what to read and relax together.



Children who read, and are supported as readers, develop strong reading skills and do better at school.



Book Chats encourage readers. Invite them to make connections and share their views. Join in with your thoughts too!



If a child is read to daily, they acquire 299, 660 new words by the time they are 5.



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NEW Communication Policy

Based on your feedback, we have been developing a new Communication Policy. The aim of this policy is to promote clear and open communication by:

- Explaining how the school communicates with parents/carers.
- Setting clear standards and expectations for responding to communication from parents/carers.
- Helping parents/carers reach the member of school staff who is best placed to address their specific query or concern so they can get a response as quickly as possible.

We hope you will find this policy useful.

Early Collections

If you need to collect your child early from school, please pass this message to the **school office** via email or phone call. This is to ensure that your child is ready for collection.

Pantomime - Beauty & the Beast (Y1-Y6)

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to the pantomime. The school is also subsidising the cost of the visit. If you can contribute £3.50 your donations would be greatly appreciated. There will be a different treat for our EYFS children.

Staffing Update

We would like to welcome Miss Brown as a new full time Special Needs Assistant and Mrs Chong as a new lunchtime supervisor.

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admin@newton-hill.org.uk

www.newtonhill.wakefield.sch.uk

Halloween Disco

The disco is a fund-raising event hosted by Friends of the School.

This is an **optional event** but as this is a fundraising event for school, if you do wish to attend, **you will need to purchase a ticket.**

Thank you in advance for your support.



Harvest Donations

Dear Parents/Carers,

As part of our Harvest celebrations we are going to be collecting food donations for St Catherine's Church. Please can you send any donations to school by Friday 7th November.

If you would like to donate items for the food bank, St Catherine's Shopping List is:

- Sugar
- Coffee
- Tea
- UHT Milk
- Tinned Meat
- Tinned Fish
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Rice Pudding
- Tinned Potatoes
- Tinned Vegetables
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Cooking Sauces
- Cereals



Thank you for all your support.

Year 6 Student Leadership Team

Book Fair



Thank you for your fabulous support during our Scholastic Book Fairs. We raised £505.39 with £237 in rewards for our school which takes our combined total to over £1000 to spend on new books. Mrs Whelerton and the Reading Ambassadors will be looking at spending our rewards on purchasing books for our exciting outside reading area, new graphic novels for KS1 & KS2 and board books for EYFS.

Have your circumstances changed?

If they have, you may be entitled to Free School Meals. You can visit <https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/schools-and-education/schools/free-school-meals/> for more information and to apply online. If you are entitled, the school receives additional funding and you will also receive benefits from the school – for example educational visits and residential visit costs covered by school. If you need any support, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Contact Details

Please can you ensure you notify us of any change of contact details (address and phone numbers). Please email admin@newton-hill.org.uk with any changes. As always, please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any questions or concerns.

Remember you can also follow our Facebook page, just search for Newton Hill Community School in your search bar. You can also visit our website for more information.

Wishing you a lovely half term. Polite reminder that Friday 24th October is an INSET day. School reopens on Monday 3rd November.

Kind regards,
Mrs Wheatley & the staff of Newton Hill.

Newton Hill Community School

Leeds Road, Wakefield, WF1 2HR - 01924 303680 - Website - www.newtonhill.wakefield.sch.uk

Email address – admin@newton-hill.org.uk



OPEN SESSION

For Reception Class 2026
Wednesday 12th November
4:30pm start until 5:30pm

Please contact school on 01924 303680
to book a place at our open session.
We look forward to meeting you.



Attendance

We monitor attendance each term and we are here if you require any support to improve your child's attendance.

Outstanding Attendance	97%+
Good attendance	95-97%
Requires Improvement	91-94%
Deemed as Persistently Absent	90% and below

Please let school know if your child is going to be absent from school. If your child is absent from school, please let the school office know as soon as possible by leaving a voicemail through the school telephone system or emailing admin@newton-hill.org.uk. There is an option to leave a message for all absences you do not have to wait until school is open. Thank you for your cooperation.



If we do not know the reason why your child is absent, we will follow our procedures - this is a telephone call to all contacts and if there is no response school will conduct a home visit. If we are unable to make contact with you, we will refer the absence to the local authority.

If you know your child is going to be absent, please complete an absence request form (available from the school office). Please note holidays in term time are not permitted. Following Local Authority guidance, penalty notices may be issued for holidays taken in term time. For more information see the poster below regarding penalty notices.

Please note - school receives no financial gain from referring holidays to the Local Authority.

Entry to School

School gates will be open just before 8:45am. School doors are open at 8:50am and close at 9:00am. The pedestrian gates on East Street and Fourth Ave will close at 9:00am. Please ensure you supervise your child/children in the playground before and after school. **Children who use bikes and scooters should dismount on school premises. Thank you.**

Local Residents

If you do drive to school, please be mindful of where you park.

Dogs

Please do not bring dogs on to the school site or tie your dog to the school gate or fence. Only assistance dogs are permitted. Thank you for your cooperation.

School Uniform

Thank you to everyone who follows our uniform expectations. The pre-loved uniform is always available - please contact the school office for further information or support through admin@newton-hill.org.uk. We have a range of uniform for all ages so please make use of the free uniform available - all requests will be dealt with confidentially.

Lost Property

All lost property will now be placed in the small plastic shed next to the Year 3/4 classroom. All named property will be returned to classes. If you have lost any items, please feel free to have a look through the items in the shed at drop off and pick up.

PE Kits

On PE days children can continue to wear their PE kit to school all day in 2025/2026. Please note that the PE kit should be a plain white T-shirt, plain navy/black shorts and a plain navy/black tracksuit top, football tops/kits are not permitted.

Packed Lunches

In line with our lunch box policy, only cold food can be brought to school. Hot food/liquids are not permitted. Please note that all unwanted food etc will come home in your child's lunchbox. This is to enable you to monitor the contents of your child's lunchbox.

Forms

There is a page on the school website under 'Parent Zone' which has useful forms and information.

Music

There are spaces available for Get into Guitar and Rocksteady for 2025/2026. If your child is interested, please contact the companies direct. Please ask school if you require the contact details. There is a leaflet attached for Rocksteady.

Get Into Guitar

Come for a Trial Lesson! Get Into Guitar have a limited number of spaces in their Guitar Rockers Lessons. They supply lots of suitably sized acoustic and electric guitars during lessons and use headphone amplifiers and guitar computer games. They also run Band Performances, Battle of the Bands video recordings and Solo Competitions. Lessons are £6 each. Please see some of their students' achievements - www.getintoguitar.co.uk/media/

Visit the link or scan the QR code to sign your child or children up.
www.getintoguitar.co.uk/sign-up/



Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns or need any support or advice, please do not hesitate to contact the school.



Our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) are: Mrs Wheatley, Mrs Whelerton, Mrs Luck, Mrs Myton, Miss Land and Mrs Walker.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

This website offers advice and guides for parents which you may find useful.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

If you need support or advice, you can also contact Wakefield Social Care Direct on 0345 8 503 503. There are other numbers you may find useful on our school website under Safeguarding.

Keeping Safe Online

You may find the following sites and information useful:

[Keep Children Safe Online: Information, Advice, Support - Internet Matters](#)

[What is the metaverse? - What parents need to know | Internet Matters](#)

[Social Media Checklists | SWGfL](#)

Mental Health Team

We have a number of staff members who are mental health first aiders who can offer advice and support. Please contact the school if you would like any support.



<u>Dates for your diary</u>	<u>Event</u>
Please see your Parent Hub account for Key Dates.	
INSET Days 2025/2026 (School is closed on the following days).	Monday 1 st September Friday 24 th October Monday 5 th January Thursday 7 th May (school is used as a polling station) Monday 20 th July

August 2025						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2025 (22 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2025 (18 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 2025 (20 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2025 (15 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2026 (20 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2026 (15 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2026 (20 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2026 (14 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2026 (15 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2026 (22 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July 2026 (14 Days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

= NHCS INSET Days

= Bank Holidays

= School Holidays

= District Council Election Day. Schools will need the authorisation of the Returning Officer if they are to be used as a Polling Station and wish to remain open on this day. Otherwise schools used as a polling station should be closed for INSET. Schools not used for election purposes may arrange alternative closures for INSET. Individual schools may decide the dates of the remaining 4 INSET dates.

Number of pupil days:	195
Less INSET days to be fixed:	5
Total number of pupil days:	190

PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ARE CHANGING!

With the introduction of the New National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force on 19th August 2024.

PENALTY NOTICES WILL BE ISSUED FOR

Term time leave: Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more consecutive days

10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period: A Penalty Notice may be considered/issued when a pupil has had 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week* period.

*School Week's

PER PARENT/PER CHILD

Penalty Notice Fines will continue to be issued per parent per child.

For example: 3 Siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

FIRST OFFENCE

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term Time Holiday or Irregular School Attendance the Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days of issue, reducing to £80 if paid within 21 days**.

SECOND OFFENCE (within 3 years of the First Offence)

Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second Penalty Notice to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first notice, the second Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 if paid within 28 days (no reduced fee for paying early).

(**Unpaid Penalty Notice's after 28 days may result in a parental prosecution)

THIRD OFFENCE (within 3 years of the First Offence)

On the third time that an offence is committed for either a Term Time Holiday and / or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, the case may proceed straight to Parental Prosecution under the Single Justice Procedure. If found guilty of the offence of 'Failure to send a child to school' the Magistrates can impose a fine up to £1000.