

Newsletter

Friday 24th October 2025

Roundhouse Way, Harlow, Essex, CM17 9SF



NEWHALL
PRIMARY ACADEMY AND NURSERY

N E W H A L L

A Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a fantastic start to the year here at Newhall!

Our new Reception children have settled in brilliantly. When I've visited their classrooms, it's felt as though they've been part of the school community for months rather than just a few weeks — a real testament to their adaptability and enthusiasm.

We've also enjoyed some wonderful class assemblies from Ash, Juniper, and Cedar. The children's confidence and passion for learning have truly shone through, and I've been especially impressed by their singing — such joyful performances!

As many of you know, Mrs Smart, our SENDCO, is expecting her second child and will begin her maternity leave on 28th November. We will update parents on the cover for Mrs Smart's maternity after half term.

At the start of the year we welcomed back Miss Andrews (our former deputy nursery manager) who is our designated safeguarding lead and family liaison officer. You will see Miss Andrews on the gate everyday.

Don't forget to check out our updates on X (formerly Twitter) to see what the children have been up to each week:

<https://x.com/NewhallPrimary>.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable half term with your families and friends. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 3rd November.

Mr Duffy



A Message from the Nursery Manager

Firstly welcome to all our new families who joined us in September. This autumn half term has been a fantastic adventure at the nursery as we venture into the busiest September ever here at the nursery. I am amazed by how well the children have settled into their new rooms and for some children their first ever time being left at nursery.

For those children staying at nursery next year, I will shortly be issuing out letters as to if there are any changes you would like. For those children in Bluebell (Preschool) that time has come where you need to start applying for school places. From 10th November 2025 until 15th January 2026, you must apply for a school place. This is the webpage for more information <https://www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/primary-school-places>. If you are thinking of deferring your child for another year, please do come and speak with me now. There are many myths out there when applying for places such as only put down one school. Please do not do this and use all your options. If you are not sure, please do come and see me.

It is with great sadness that Mrs Oserei from Bluebell leaves us at the end of term as Mrs Mulla is returning from maternity leave. Mrs Oserei is starting in another nursery, and we wish her the very best in her new role.

Ms Pike



N E W H A L L

Blossom

This term Blossom have had a brilliant start to their time at nursery and have been learning all about their senses and body parts through the topic Our-selves. The children have taken part in a range of activities to explore each sense, through cooking, sensory play, music and movement with instruments and scented play dough. Blossom have been learning about their body parts by taking part in activities of putting pieces of a picture of their own face back together and talking about their features.



Year 1

In Year 1 this half term we have been settling into our new routines. In English we have worked on a story called 'After The Fall' and have been practising using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. In PSHE we have been completing lots of circle time and talking about what a happy classroom looks like and how we can learn best. We have practised working as a team, sharing and helping our friends. In RE we have been learning about Christianity and how this links to responsibility at school by tidying and looking after our classroom. In art we have been making self-portraits in different style such as collage, oil pastels and abstract portraits. In computing we have been learning to log in and save our creations independently.



Year 6

Year 6 have thoroughly enjoyed diving into their World War 2 topic this term. They've explored the impact of propaganda, created their own ration books, and written heartfelt letters from the perspective of evacuees, bringing history to life in meaningful ways. Of course, there's always time for fun too- especially in PE, where the children loved challenging themselves to climb all the way to the top of the ropes, showing great determination and teamwork!

Which secondary schools did our Year 6 children go to last year?

Burnt Mill Academy	8 children
Chadwell Heath Academy	1 child
Colchester County High School for Girls	1 child
Coopersale Hall School	1 child
Epping St John's	1 child
Hockerill Anglo-European College	1 child
Leventhorpe	4 children
Mark Hall	25 children
Passmores Academy	3 children
Sir Frederick Gibberd College	1 child
St Mark's West Essex Catholic School	1 child
The Bishop's Stortford High School	2 children

Year 4

Year 4 have had a fantastic start to the school year! The children have settled brilliantly into their learning routines and have shown great enthusiasm across all subjects. In science, we've been exploring States of Matter, with lots of hands-on experiments to observe how solids transform into liquids. There's been plenty of excitement and curiosity! In maths, we've been strengthening our understanding of addition and subtraction using concrete resources to help embed key concepts. Meanwhile, in English, we've begun our journey with Kasper, Prince of Cats, which has inspired some incredible diary entries and imaginative stories. What a brilliant beginning to the year!



N E W H A L L



Bluebell

This half term in Bluebell, we've been exploring the exciting topic of "All About Me"! The children have loved learning more about themselves and each other through a variety of fun and meaningful activities. We began by talking about our names, families, and what makes us special. The children enjoyed sharing photos from home and creating their own 'who lives in my home' drawings.

Through stories, songs, and circle time, we've explored our feelings, likes and dislikes, and what our bodies can do. We've been practising naming body parts, talking about healthy habits, and even doing some yoga and movement games to celebrate how strong and capable our bodies are!

In play the children made self-portraits using mirrors, paint, and collage materials. It was wonderful to see how each child expressed themselves in their own unique way.

We've also been learning about friendship and kindness, using puppets and role play to explore how we can be good friends and take care of one another. The children have shown such warmth and empathy, and we're so proud of how they're growing socially and emotionally.

As we wrap up this half term, we're celebrating all the wonderful things that make each child in Bluebell Class truly one of a kind. Thank you for your continued support and for sharing your children's stories with us — it's been a joy getting to know them better!

Wishing you all a restful and happy half term break, and we look forward to diving into our 'People who help us' topic on your return!



Year 5

The children have been amazing this first, incredibly busy, half term. We have dived right into the deep end with our maths building on foundational knowledge from previous years. Within our writing and reading both classes explored the topic of diversity through the book 'Wonder' where the children used their skills to summarise and retell the story, while navigating the challenging dynamics of friendship. Our historical discoveries into the Tudor era have led every child to literally step into the shoes of Henry VIII and his time on the throne. While at the same time our RE and art learning journeys have been of huge interest to all. We are now expert digital photographers and have a significantly better understanding of how Sanatani's show their commitment to God.



Snowdrop

What a fantastic first half term we've had in Snowdrop Class! Our topic this half term has been 'All About Me', and it's been such a lovely way to get to know our new children and their families. The children have all settled in beautifully, and we've really enjoyed seeing their unique personalities begin to shine through.

We've been busy learning lots of new skills and growing in independence. The children have been practising putting on their coats all by themselves and learning the importance of sharing and taking turns with their friends. Everyone has been listening so well during story time, and it's been wonderful to see them so engaged and eager to join in.

A real highlight has been when the children shared photos of their families with their peers; it was lovely to see their pride and hear them talk about the special people in their lives. We've also created some fantastic self-portraits, which are now on display outside our classroom.

After the half-term break, our new topic will be 'Twinkle Twinkle, Here We Are', where we'll be exploring lots of favourite nursery rhymes and traditional songs through stories, play and creative activities. We can't wait for more adventures together!

Year 2

What a great start to Year 2! The children have settled into their new classes and routines well and have been learning lots of new things. The term began with a history topic on Frederick Gibberd, and the children enjoyed a wonderful trip to the Gibberd Gardens. In science, they have been learning about pollution and renewable energy as part of their studies on climate change, and in maths, they have focused on developing their understanding of number, number bond families, and counting in steps of 2, 5, and 10. Along the way, the children have also been practising new yoga poses that promote mindfulness and breathing techniques.



NEWHAL

Year R

This half term in Reception, we have been busy exploring the theme of "All About Me". The children have enjoyed learning about themselves, their families, and where they live. We've also been discovering more about the community around us, including a lovely local community walk where the children had the chance to observe familiar places and meet people who help us.

As part of our learning, we have also been exploring our bodies—naming body parts, understanding basic body functions, and discussing how to keep ourselves healthy and safe. This has included conversations around hygiene, exercise, and making healthy choices.

With the change in season, we've had lots of fun learning about autumn. The children have been noticing signs of the season, talking about changes in nature, and exploring seasonal colours, weather, and celebrations.

It's been a joyful and engaging start to the year, and we're so proud of how curious and enthusiastic the children have been in their learning.



Year 3

Year Three have had a fantastic start to the school year, diving into exciting learning across all subjects. In history, we've been exploring the fascinating time period, the Stone Age. The children have especially enjoyed creating their own clay Stonehenge, showcasing both creativity and historical understanding. In English, they've been busy writing non-chronological reports, developing their research and writing skills. Our science topic has focused on rocks and fossils, and a highlight was our recent Rocks and Fossils Workshop. The children had a brilliant time learning hands-on and even got to create their very own fossils—a truly memorable experience! We've also been inspired by our class story, Stone Girl, Bone Girl, which led to some wonderful diary writing in English. The children stepped into the shoes of the characters and brought their thoughts and feelings to life on the page.

Safeguarding – Online Safety

As children increasingly use technology for learning, communication, and entertainment, it is important that we work together to ensure they develop safe and responsible online habits. Below are some key tips to help keep primary-aged children safe online:

Supervise Online Activity

Encourage your child to use the internet in shared family spaces where you can monitor their activity and offer support when needed.

Use Parental Controls

Set up parental controls and filters on devices, search engines, and apps to restrict access to age-appropriate content and help manage screen time.

Encourage Open Communication

Talk regularly with your child about what they do online. Remind them to speak to you or a trusted adult if they encounter anything that makes them feel uncomfortable or worried.

Protect Personal Information

Teach your child not to share personal details such as their full name, school, address, or photographs with anyone they do not know in real life.

Stay Informed About Apps and Games

Take an active interest in the games, apps, and websites your child uses. Checking age ratings and reviewing content will help ensure suitability.

Establish Clear Boundaries

Agree on screen time limits and set appropriate times for device use, such as avoiding screens during meals and before bedtime.

Report and Block Inappropriate Content

Show your child how to block or report any online content, messages, or behaviour that is upsetting or inappropriate.

Useful Link: [Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)

