

Newsletter

Friday 19th December 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're delighted to start this newsletter with some wonderful news: Mrs. Smart, our SENDCO, has welcomed a beautiful baby boy! Both mum and baby are doing well, and we send them our warmest congratulations.

It's been a truly musical season at Newhall! Over the past few weeks, we've enjoyed two incredible iRock concerts featuring our newly formed bands—children rocking out on electric guitars, keyboards, drums, and vocals. We also celebrated three enchanting carol concerts, including a heartwarming performance from our Bluebell nursery room.

A standout moment was our annual production of *Whoops-a-Daisy Angel* by our two Reception classes. Their performances were nothing short of magical!

The generosity of our community continues to shine. Together, we raised an amazing **£1,600** for St Clare Hospice. Our Year 5 pupils even visited the hospice to spread festive cheer with Christmas carols. Thanks to the fabulous organisation of our PTA, we also raised £3,400—all of which will go directly towards funding exciting opportunities and resources for the children.

As we wrap up the term, we wish you a joyful festive season filled with love and laughter. Here's to a happy and healthy 2026.

Mr Duffy



A Message from the Nursery Manager

What a wonderful first term!

Behind the scenes we have had lots going on. Blossom room staff team have just started to learn sign language; this will help the children to develop their communication skills even before they have all their words. We are very pleased that Sophie Grieve has just past the Teaching Assistant level 3 in SEND after over a year of hard work.

It is with great pleasure that I would like to announce that Rowanna Almond will be stepping up as room leader in the holidays. She will be based in Snowdrop during the holidays to support Snowdrop and Bluebell children.

I hope you join me in congratulating her in her achievements. If your child has Miss Almond, then please speak to Miss Cook who will tell you who their buddy key person is in the holiday period.

If your child is in Bluebell (Preschool) then please ensure that you have applied for a school place.

The Preschool children really enjoyed their walk to the post-box to post their letters to Santa. We learnt all about crossing the road and all the children walked beautifully. As you walk past the rooms the Christmas singing is wonderful and has got everyone ready for Christmas!

I have really enjoyed watching Snowdrop pop on their wellies and go outdoors in the rain. The worm hut was so much fun, and the children loved looking for the worms. Snowdrop have made some fantastic decorations; my favourite is the Santa Sleigh.

Blossom have had great fun with all their activities my favourite is their keep's sake of their ribbon in a bauble just for you to see how much they have grown every Christmas!

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year and I can't wait to see your children grow and develop further through 2026!

Ms Pike

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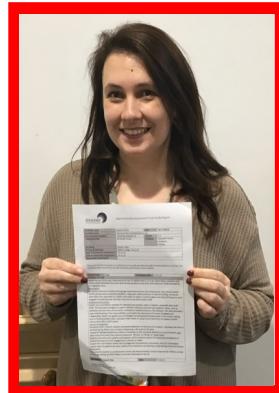
Year 1

This half term in English Year 1 have been working on the Polar Express. We wrote recounts, letters and character descriptions as well as taking a trip to Audley End to meet Santa and ride a train like in the story. We raised money for St Clare Hospice by participating in the reindeer run. We completed a 25 challenge for Children in Need and attempted 25 sketches in 25 minutes. In geography we have been learning all about the UK and looking at maps. We took our learning outside and drew maps to show a new member of school how to get around the playground.

Year 3

Year 3 have had a fantastic second half of autumn term! One of the highlights was our visit to St Mary's Church, which helped us explore our unit on *"Has Christmas lost its true meaning?"* The children really enjoyed learning in a real-life setting and had a great time asking thoughtful questions. In English, we loved reading *'Fortunately, the Milk'* and even wrote our own imaginative versions of the story—full of creativity and fun twists! In maths, we've been working hard on addition and subtraction, focusing on exchanging across tens and hundreds.

In science, we enjoyed discovering how magnets work and exploring their fascinating properties. In geography, we've been naming countries and cities across Europe, building our map skills and learning more about the world around us. It's been wonderful to see the children's confidence grow across all subjects. We're proud of their hard work and can't wait for an exciting spring term ahead!



Bluebell

This half-term, Bluebell Class has been learning all about People Who Help Us in our community! The children explored the important roles of firefighters, doctors, nurses, police officers, and other community helpers. Through stories, role play, and creative activities, we discovered how these amazing people keep us safe, healthy, and happy.

A huge thank you to the firefighter and police officer who visited our class! The children loved seeing real-life heroes in action, asking questions, and even trying on some special equipment. These experiences helped bring our learning to life and showed us how teamwork and kindness make our community strong.

As we head towards the festive season, we enjoyed a lovely walk in our community to the post box to send our letters to Santa. The children were so excited to post their special wishes! We also celebrated with a wonderful Carol Concert, which was a big success—thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make it magical.

We look forward to seeing you all in January, when we set off on a brand-new adventure as Dinosaur Detectives! Get ready for some roaring fun and exciting discoveries.



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Year 2

There is much excitement in Year 2 as the end of term draws closer, but to their credit, the children have remained engaged and focussed on their learning. Our English unit this term has been linked to our story Cinnamon which has enabled us to explore the wonders of India, combined with finding out what it is like to be blind. The children have produced some wonderful reports and stories, but most amazingly, with your help, we raised £354 for the Guide Dog association through our bake sale. Thank you so much for your support!

In science, we have been learning all about the properties of materials and how to choose the best material for the job – the children really enjoyed making their playground toys from household materials. In maths, the children are becoming more confident with adding and subtracting numbers as well as measuring length and height. The children are looking forward to building their terrific towers to end this term's design and technology unit. Wishing you all a joyful and restful Christmas Holiday.



Year 6

Year 6 had an unforgettable experience when *Fab Science* visited our school to deliver a fascinating workshop on the circulatory system. The children were captivated as they learned how the heart pumps blood around the body, and they were especially excited to take part in a real heart dissection! It was a brilliant opportunity to bring science to life, sparking curiosity and deepening their understanding of how our bodies work.

Snowdrop

This half term, our topic "Twinkle Twinkle Here We Are" has taken us on a wonderful journey through some of our favourite nursery rhymes. The children have enjoyed exploring songs in playful, hands-on ways through music, sensory experiences, storytelling and creative activities.

We have had fantastic fun singing and acting out rhymes such as Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, Incy Wincy Spider, Five Currant Buns and many, many more.

One of our favourite activities this half term has been baking our own currant buns. The children loved helping to mix the ingredients, roll the dough and shape their buns before baking and, of course, eating them! It has been lovely to see their independence, confidence and enthusiasm growing throughout.

We are so proud of how well the children have engaged with our nursery rhyme theme, taking part in a wide range of arts and crafts, exploring new materials and showing great curiosity in their learning every day.

As we come to the end of the term, we would like to wish all our Snowdrop families a wonderful and restful winter break.

When we return in the new year, our topic will be "Our Furry Friends", where the children will be learning all about different animals, including pets, farm animals and much more. We can't wait to begin another exciting term of discovery and play.



Year 4

We've had an amazing and fun-filled half term in Year 4! Our focus on times tables has been exciting, especially playing our favourite game, *Pumpkin Pie*. In English, we explored the story of the Titanic using VR headsets and combined this with our class book, *Kasper, Prince of Cats*, to create fantastic newspaper reports. In DT, we had a blast making soda bread. In science we have been investigating electricity by building circuits and creating switches. One of the highlights was our trip to Colchester Castle, where we learned in depth about the Romans, it was such an inspiring experience! It's been a brilliant term, and we're already looking forward to what's coming next!



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Year R

What an exciting and busy term we've had in Reception! Our topic, **"To Infinity and Beyond,"** took us on an incredible journey through space. The children loved learning about the planets, the moon, and the stars, and our visit to the planetarium was a real highlight—bringing our learning to life in such a magical way.

We began our festive celebrations with a walk to the post box to send our special letters and enjoyed decorating the Christmas tree at Newground Café. The children have also been working so hard rehearsing for our nativity, **"Whoops-a-Daisy Angel,"** and we were so proud to see them perform so confidently for you all.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the term—it has made such a difference. We wish you a joyful holiday season and look forward to more exciting learning adventures in the new year!



Blossom

This term, our Blossom children have been discovering the magic of seasonal change! They've been observing how the environment transforms during autumn—exploring crunchy leaves, textured sticks, and the beautiful array of autumnal colours. Using these natural treasures as inspiration, the children have created wonderful artwork that celebrates the rich tones and textures of the season. It's been a fantastic opportunity for them to connect with nature and express their creativity in new and exciting ways.



Year 5

This term, the children have shown fantastic enthusiasm and resilience in their learning. Their positive attitude has shone through across all subjects. In mathematics we have continued to build upon our foundational facts. We have extended our understanding of multiplication and fractions, which is supported with a sound knowledge of times tables. In reading and writing, we have been exploring Philip Pullman's *I Was a Rat*. This text has encouraged the children to think critically about empathy, identity, and how society treats those who are different. The children have produced some fantastic narratives as a result of their enthusiasm and engagement with this text. In geography we have focused on rivers - how they are formed, their features, and their importance for sustainability. In RE we have been learning about Christianity, reflecting on how "truth" can be understood in different ways. This has encouraged the children to explore beliefs, values, and meaning in diverse contexts. In design and technology, the children designed and built bridges using a range of materials. The spaghetti bridge challenge tested their creativity and problem solving, with its emphasis on practical skills, the evaluating of designs and application of scientific knowledge. Beyond the classroom, the children took part in the Rudolph Run to raise funds for St Clare's hospice and as a year group both classes went to St Clare's hospice to sing and spread festive cheer.



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Safeguarding

If you're ever worried about the safety or wellbeing of a child, these organisations can help:

NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000

Childline (for children): 0800 1111

CEOP: Report online abuse at ceop.police.uk

Samaritans: 116 123 (24/7 emotional support)

YoungMinds Textline: Text YM to 85258



Cheerleading Festival

Last week, twenty pupils from Years 3 to 5 proudly represented our school at the Cheerleading Festival held at Mark Hall School. Over the past half term, the group has dedicated themselves to learning and perfecting a full routine. Their hard work truly paid off as they delivered outstanding performances, both to their peers and parents, as well as in front of other participating schools. We are immensely proud of their commitment, enthusiasm, and teamwork.



Have Your Say on the Future of SEND Support

The government is planning some big changes to the SEND system, and a Schools White Paper will be published early next year. Ahead of this, the Department for Education has opened a national conversation to gather real experiences and ideas from families and school communities.

They want to hear from as many people as possible — especially parents and carers — about what's working, what isn't, and what children and young people truly need. Your voice can help shape a system that better supports every child. After this national conversation, there will also be a formal public consultation when the White Paper is released.

How you can get involved:

Join an online event: There are five open sessions where you can listen in, ask questions and hear more about the principles guiding SEND reform. You can join any (or all!) of them. Sign up here: [link](#).

Share your views online: You can add your thoughts and experiences directly through the DfE website [here](#).



Newhall Farmers' Market

A massive thank you to Newhall Farmers' Market who made an incredibly generous donation to our school this half-term - buying ALL of the books from our Amazon Wishlist! We are incredibly grateful for their donation; it is lovely to see the enjoyment and excitement that the new books are bringing to children right across the school. The Wishlist has now been restocked! If you would like to help with our efforts to improve our library, please use this QR code to find our Wishlist.