Newsletter

Friday 23rd October 2026

Roundhouse Way, Harlow, Essex, CM17 9SF

NEWHALL PRIMARY ACADEMY

N E W H A L L

A Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a fantastic first half term this academic year at Newhall. Our new children have settled in really well and the progress they have made with the daily routines has been fabulous to see.
Our attendance has been a real strength this half term and it is so important that we all continue to work together to ensure the children miss as little learning as possible. Children who have attendance above 97% are four times more likely to gain good GCSEs in English and maths. We want this for all our children at Newhall.
Our children in Ash, Juniper and Birch have performed their class assemblies and they did brilliantly. Not only did their confidence shine through, but also their enjoyment of performing in front of an audience. It was lovely to hear lots of children stating that reading is something that makes them happy. Reading is the key to everything!
I've seen some wonderful work across the school and in particular our Year R children focusing on correct letter formation and our Year 1 children remembering capital letters and full stops. Acquiring these basic skills will ensure solid foundations for future leaning.
At lunch time, it has been wonderful to see some of the imaginative and creative play on display. One group of children created their own obstacle course out of tyres and cones and had great fun timing each other. Our children continue to embrace an active lifestyle at lunchtime and lots of our children, both boys and girls, enjoy playing competitive sports together, including football and basketball.
Have a wonderful half term with your family and friends.

Mr Duffy

A Message from the Nursery Manager

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fantastic half term we have had, welcoming both returning children and many new families to our nursery community. Across all three rooms, the children have been learning all about themselves and we have loved getting to know everyone.
We are incredibly proud of Miss Pocock, who achieved her Level 5 qualification with a distinction, and Mrs Tudose, who achieved her Level 3 qualification with a distinction. As Miss Pocock begins her maternity leave and Mrs Tudose moves on to new opportunities following the completion of her apprenticeship, we wish them both every happiness and success.
For those of you in our Bluebell Room, school applications start soon. If you are thinking of deferring your child's school place, please do speak with me before Friday 6th October 2026.
You can apply for primary (Year R) school place at an Essex primary school between 9 November 2026 to 15 January 2027.
https://www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/primary-school-places
Thank you to everyone supporting our ongoing nursery improvements and curriculum development. If you have any of the books at home that Mrs O`Neill has asked for, we would be most grateful!
We wish all our families a wonderful half-term break and look forward to a fun-filled week with those joining us over the holidays!

Ms Pike

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Blossom

In Blossom, the children have been developing their personal, social, and emotional skills by exploring their five senses: sight, smell, sound, taste, and touch. The children have explored sensory play such as cornflour & water, shaving foam, lavender, baking, crushing leaves, and rice play. We have also been enhancing our provision areas with different resources to allow the children to express their preferences and decisions. The areas are construction, reading, small world, mark making, play dough, and role play. These areas give our children the opportunity to develop their personal, social, and emotional skills by providing different imaginative ideas for them to discover. In the play dough area, the children were making "herby cakes" to develop their understanding of their senses. We crushed leaves, smelled herbs, and manipulated the dough. The children have also been learning about their body parts and who lives in their family may be different to other families.

Year R

This half term has been a significant milestone for our youngest children in school as they began their big school journey in Cherry and Willow classes. It has been a busy and exciting half term, filled with learning each other's names, making new friends and settling into life at school. We are incredibly proud of how well the children have adapted to their new routines and embraced the opportunities around them.

Our topic this half term has been 'All About Me', and the children have loved sharing special items in their Chatterbox Bags, talking about their families and homes, and looking at photographs showing how they have changed and grown over time.

In science, we have enjoyed finding out about our bodies and learning about how exercise affects us. The children investigated what happens to their breathing and heart rates when they are active and discussed ways to keep themselves healthy.

One of the highlights of the half term has been beginning to learn how to read! The children have shown great enthusiasm for phonics and have worked hard to learn lots of new sounds. We are amazed at how much progress they have already made and how confidently they are beginning to use their sounds for reading and writing.

Year 1

This half term, Year 1 have been busy with lots of exciting learning across the curriculum. In English, we enjoyed reading *After the Fall* and used the story as inspiration for our writing. We wrote simple sentences, created a recount of events and practised describing a character using interesting vocabulary.

In science, we have been learning about the seasons and how shadows are formed. We even went outside to investigate our own shadows and drew around them to see how they changed. We also made windsock birds to see how wind direction changes.

In art, we explored self-portraits, creating both abstract and realistic pieces while developing our drawing skills and creativity.

In maths, we have been developing our number skills by using a range of concrete resources independently to support our learning. We have been comparing numbers using the language of greater than and less than, as well as finding 1 more and 1 less than a given number.

In history, we have been learning about the past and present, comparing toys, schools and other aspects of everyday life to discover how they have changed over time. To bring our learning to life, we enjoyed a fantastic trip to Harlow Museum, where we explored artefacts from the past and learned more about life long ago.

We are very proud of all the hard work and enthusiasm Year 1 have shown this half term!



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Year 3

What a fantastic start to Year 3 it has been! This term, the children have immersed themselves in a wide range of exciting learning experiences. In history, they explored the Stone Age and enjoyed creating their own clay Stonehenge models, learning about how this remarkable monument was constructed. In art, they studied Cubism and produced their own imaginative and colourful masterpieces inspired by this unique style. Our Rocks and Soils workshop was a real highlight, finishing with an exciting volcanic explosion that sparked lots of curiosity and enthusiasm. In English, the children developed a keen interest in researching and creating fact files, while also learning to use the key features of a diary entry through writing in role as Mary Anning. The children have shown enthusiasm, creativity and a wonderful eagerness to learn, making it a brilliant and successful start to Year 3.



Snowdrop

What a fantastic first half term we have had in Snowdrop Class!

Our topic this half term has been All About Me, and it has been wonderful getting to know all of the children and their families. We are incredibly proud of how well the new children have settled into nursery life and how well the children that moved up from Blossom room have transitioned. They have been learning new routines, making friendships and exploring all of the exciting experiences that Snowdrop Class has to offer.

It has been lovely to watch their confidence grow week by week. Their little personalities are really beginning to shine through, and we have enjoyed seeing their interests, sense of humour and curiosity develop as they become more familiar with their new environment.

Throughout the topic the children have explored what makes them special and unique. We have talked about our bodies, our feelings, our families and the things we enjoy doing. Our stories have helped us celebrate our similarities and differences and learn about ourselves and others.

The children have enjoyed creating self-portraits, making faces from playdough and loose parts, exploring sensory materials, sharing stories, singing songs and taking part in lots of exciting outdoor learning. They have also been developing their physical skills through activities such as balancing, climbing, tyre rolling, throwing and catching, whilst building confidence and independence in their everyday routines.

We have been particularly impressed by the children's enthusiasm during our phonics sessions, where they have enjoyed listening games, rhyming activities and exploring different sounds. In maths, the children have been developing their counting skills through number rhymes, songs and practical activities.

Thank you for your support during your child's first half term with us. We are looking forward to another exciting topic after the half term and can't wait to see what the children achieve next!

Year 5

Year 5 have settled in brilliantly with their new teachers and routines and have made an excellent start to the year. Our English unit this term has been linked to our story Wonder which has enabled us to explore the themes of kindness and how to be welcoming and inclusive, no matter our differences. The children have produced some wonderful reports and stories. In art, we have been inspired by the work of David Hockney and explored the technique of digital collage with some beautiful final pieces produced. We have been fortunate this half term to have Eva from MIND visiting us and doing many activities focussed on our well-being.

In science, we have been learning all about the properties of materials. We have been receiving video challenges from a local athlete and carrying out experiments to help him prepare for his upcoming Arctic Marathon! The children are becoming more familiar with the scientific method and more confident in planning experiments and interpreting their results. In maths, we have been recapping and building on our knowledge of place value and applying it to a range of calculations. The children have shown great commitment to their homework booklets; long may this continue! The children have been very enthused about our history topic and have explored life in Tudor times through research, drama and cookery. Wishing you all a relaxing half term break.





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Year 2

This half term, Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about Sir Frederick Gibberd in history. The children were fascinated by his architecture and famous designs, including discovering that he played a key role in designing Harlow. They loved exploring the Gibberd Garden firsthand, searching for sculptures and learning about why Sir Frederick Gibberd was such an important figure and the lasting impact he has had on our local area.

Back at school, the children explored the key features of a town and had the opportunity to design their own town layouts, using inspiration from what they had learned. Below are some photographs from our fantastic and memorable trip to the Gibberd Garden, which was enjoyed by everyone.

Year 4

This half term, we have been very busy learning lots of new skills across the curriculum. In maths, we focused on place value and practised adding numbers with up to four digits. In English, we used *The Velveteen Rabbit* as our stimulus to write a character description, an information text and a recount. In art, we explored the work of William Morris and used his designs as inspiration for our own printing. We even created our own wallpaper patterns using potato stamps. In geography, we learnt about mountains and their features, while in science we investigated the water cycle and how water moves around our environment. In PE, we developed our gymnastics skills by practising a variety of rolls and jumps. We are very proud of all the hard work and enthusiasm the children have shown this half term.

Bluebell

Our topic "Me, myself and I", focuses learning all about themselves, their feelings, their families and what makes each of us special. Through a range of fun, hands-on activities, the children have been developing their confidence, communication skills and understanding of their emotions. We have enjoyed sharing stories such as *The Colour Monster*, helping us recognise and talk about different feelings, *The Birthday Invitation*, encouraging conversations about birthdays, celebrations and friendships, and *Owl Babies*, exploring family relationships, love and feeling safe. The children have also been encouraged to express their own ideas, share experiences and celebrate what makes them unique, all while learning through play, creativity and lots of exciting activities!





Year 6

Year 6 have made a wonderful start to the new school year! Our learning this half term has focused on the World Wars, and we have used our art lessons to explore the topic in a really creative way. The children have studied portraiture, learnt how to draw faces and figures using accurate proportions, and experimented with colour, composition and watercolour techniques to create different moods. After carefully planning their artwork, they created atmospheric backgrounds before drawing and adding their soldiers to produce their finished pieces. The results are absolutely fantastic and show just how much thought the children have put into everything from the pose of their soldier to the colours and details in the background. We hope you enjoy seeing some of their finished artwork!

Newhall Sports Round-Up from Coach M

This half-term has been all about football, football, football! Newhall has been busy competing in the Boys' Years 5 & 6, Girls' Years 5 & 6, and Mixed Years 3 & 4 football competitions.

Our Boys' Years 5 & 6 team performed brilliantly, reaching the finals and securing an impressive third-place finish. Meanwhile, our Mixed Years 3 & 4 team had an outstanding tournament, beating every team they faced and keeping a clean sheet throughout. What a fantastic achievement!

Away from the football pitch, a few of our pupils also took part in the Sporting Heroes event, enjoying an exciting boxing training session led by a professional boxer. This was a great opportunity to try a different sport, develop new skills and build confidence.

A huge well done to all our pupils who took part and represented Newhall. We are incredibly proud of their teamwork, determination and fantastic sporting spirit!

NEWHALL

Safeguarding—Bonfire and Firework Safety

Bonfire Safety

- Site the bonfire well away from houses, garages, sheds, fences, overhead cables, trees and shrubs
- Never leave the bonfire burning unattended
- Build the stack so that it is stable and will not collapse outwards or to one side
- NEVER use flammable liquids, such as paraffin or petrol, to light the fire
- Don't burn foam-filled furniture, aerosols, tins of paint and bottles
- Keep everyone away from the fire, especially children who must be supervised at all times
- Pour water on the embers before leaving



Fireworks Code

- Only buy fireworks marked CE
- Don't drink alcohol if you're responsible for setting off fireworks
- Keep fireworks in a closed non-flammable box
- Follow the instructions on each firework
- Light them at arm's length, using a taper
- Stand well back
- Never go near a firework that has been lit. Even if it hasn't gone off, it could still explode
- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them
- Always supervise children around fireworks
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves
- Never give sparklers to a child under five
- Keep pets indoors
- Don't set off noisy fireworks late at night and never after 11pm



Anti-Bullying Week 2026 – Monday 16th November to Friday 20th November 2026

Anti-Bullying Week 2026 will take place from Monday 16th to Friday 20th November, and this year's theme is 'Break the Silence'. The week will begin with Odd Socks Day on Monday 16th November, when children and adults are encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate individuality and the unique qualities that make us all different. Throughout the week, pupils will take part in activities designed to promote kindness, respect and inclusion. Bullying is defined as the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where there is an imbalance of power. We say it is **'several times on purpose'**. It can be physical, verbal or psychological and may occur face-to-face or online. Anti-Bullying Week provides an important opportunity to raise awareness, encourage children to speak out, and reinforce the message that bullying is never acceptable.



NEWHALL

A Message From Essex Police

Working Together to Keep Children Safe

If your child is involved in a problem at school, please tell the school first!

Schools are responsible for looking into concerns, keeping children safe, and taking action when needed. Many problems between pupils can be dealt with by the school without the need for police involvement.

Schools can:

- Speak to pupils and witnesses.
- Look at evidence and find out what happened.
- Give sanctions such as detentions, behaviour agreements, suspensions, or exclusions.
- Put plans in place to keep children safe.
- Refer children and families to support services, including Children's Services, mental health services, and other specialist agencies.
- Contact the police or social care if a situation becomes serious or a child is at risk.

Where a school has fully assessed and managed an incident in line with its policies, and there are no safeguarding concerns or aggravating factors, the matter may be most appropriately addressed by the school rather than through a police investigation.

The police will usually become involved in more serious situations, such as where there is a risk of harm, safeguarding concerns, criminal exploitation, serious violence, serious sexual offences, hate crime, weapons, drug dealing, or where wider investigation powers are required.

If a child is at risk of harm or vulnerability is identified, schools will work closely with police, social care and other partners to ensure the right support and safeguarding arrangements are in place.

Schools and Essex Police work closely together to ensure concerns are managed by the most appropriate agency and that children receive the help, support and protection they need.

Book Request

As part of our review of the Early Years curriculum, we are updating some of our topics and refreshing the books we use to support children's learning and foster a love of reading.

To help us build our collection, we are looking for specific book titles linked to our new curriculum themes. We would be incredibly grateful if you could help us source these books. I have spent many hours searching through libraries and sitting on the floor of charity shops hunting for bargains, but I'm hoping our wonderful families might be able to help us complete our collection.

If you already own any of the titles listed below and no longer need them, we would be delighted to receive them as a donation. Alternatively, if you would like to support us, these specific books can be purchased through our Amazon Wish List and sent directly to school.

Any books purchased or donated for the school will have a donation sticker placed inside to acknowledge the contribution and your support.

Please note that, due to limited storage and curriculum requirements, we are currently seeking only the books listed below.

Thank you for your support in helping us provide high-quality reading experiences for our children. Every donation, no matter how small, is greatly appreciated.

Amazon Wish List: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/JVKHF0M6DBVW?ref_=wl_share

Thank you

Mrs. O'Neill

PTA news

Thanks to the incredible support, hard work and dedication of our PTA and wider school community, we are delighted to announce that an amazing **£10,839** has been raised for the school. This fantastic achievement is the result of numerous fundraising events, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who has contributed their time, effort and generosity. The funds raised will help to provide additional resources and opportunities for our children, enriching their learning experiences and making a positive difference across the school. A huge thank you to our PTA and all those who have supported their fundraising efforts.