

Newtown Church of England Primary School



**Growing together
in strength, love and wisdom,
we shine.**

**Newsletter
Monday 9th December 2024**

Message from the Head



On Friday afternoon we all visited the Theatre Severn for the wonderful performance of Sleeping Beauty. The children – and staff – had a fantastic time and it was great to see the faces of the children as they absorbed everything that a pantomime has to offer!

It is a great for the children to experience a professional production of the quality on offer in Shrewsbury and it certainly got everyone into the Christmas spirit!

Swimming Gala

A number of our Year 5 and 6 children attended the swimming gala at Ellesmere Primary last Wednesday where they competed against a number of other schools in the pool.

A huge well done to Alfred, Lola, Summer and Hayley who swam with great speed and determination in all the races they competed in. They were a credit to the school.

Deva Roman Trip

Last week also saw our Year 3 and Year 4 children visit Chester and learn all about the Romans as part of the work they are doing in history this half term.

Visits such as this really enhance our curriculum offer and is why we are so keen to give the children every opportunity to be out of the classroom and learning by doing. We really appreciate parents financial support for such trips and truly believe in the educational value they bring.



Outdoor Shelter

Mr Reincke has been extremely busy this week building our outdoor shelter as part of our Forest School provision. The only reason we were able to afford to enhance our environment like this was due to the generosity of the Friends of Newtown and their agreement to fund the project. Of course this is a result of the support that is given by families to PTA events throughout the year and it is great for parents to be able to see what the money goes towards. The shelter will be completed next week.

We must also thank our local Jewson's Branch for offering a reduction on the materials required for the project. Their financial support for this has been greatly appreciated by the school and we hope to continue this partnership moving forwards.



Executive Headteacher: Mr Ben Crompton

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Website: www.newtowncofeprimary.co.uk **Instagram:** [Newtown_Primary_Wem](https://www.instagram.com/Newtown_Primary_Wem) **X:** [@NewtownCESchool](https://twitter.com/NewtownCESchool) **Facebook:** [Newtown C of E Primary School](https://www.facebook.com/Newtown_C_of_E_Primary_School)

Festive Wreath Making



Last Friday evening, parents and children had an evening of festive fun which centred around the creation of Christmas Wreaths. As you can see, the wreaths that were created were wonderful and both parents had a lovely evening.



Big thanks again to the Friends who organised and ran the event and also to those who attended raising important funds for the school.

Supporting Your Child at Home

Thank you to all those parents who spend time at home supporting the children's learning. It makes a big difference in school and helps children to progress quickly academically, improving confidence within the classroom.

As a reminder, we ask that parents support their children with their homework including spellings, arithmetic skills and reading. This really does make a difference to the children's progress. Thank you.

Safer Schools



It was a pleasure to welcome Shropshire Safer Schools Lead, Ian Bartlett, to Newtown where he met members of our School Parliament to discuss being safe in school.

Our children spoke really well and were able to share their views, as well as those of the children they represent, with Ian. They came up with a couple of initiatives that they would like to introduce at Newtown including a Buddy Bench for children who may feel lonely at break times.

Rearranged Sporting Tournaments

In the last couple of weeks, we have had two sporting tournaments – hockey and girls' football – postponed due to the weather.

Unfortunately, due to diary clashes before the end of term, we are unable to attend the on the new dates given.

We hope there will be further opportunities for the children to compete in the new year.

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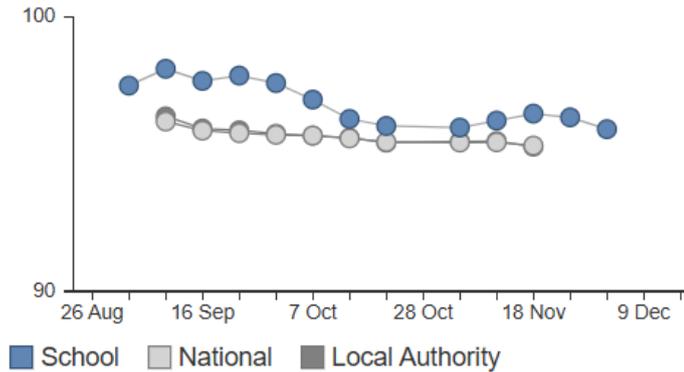
Attendance

You may have seen in the media last week concerns regarding school attendance being raised by Ofsted.

The "alarming" level of children missing school has become a "stubborn and damaging issue", according to the chief inspector of Ofsted, England's schools regulator.

At Newtown we have had much improved attendance over the last couple of years but we have seen a gradual decline during Autumn Term.

Newtown School Attendance 2024-25



Of course, some absence is unavoidable, but please do all you can to bring your children to school. Thank you.

Attendance Ladder

How close is your child to 100%?

0 days off school	100%	Perfection
Equates to 2 days off school each year	99%	Excellent
Equates to 5 days off school each year	97%	Good
Equates to 10 days off school each year	95%	Slight Concern
Equates to 20 days off school each year	90%	Concerned
Equates to 30 days off school each year	85%	Very Concerned

This is some way short of our whole target of 97%. If you need with getting your child into school, please contact Mrs Hordern, our Pastoral Lead. Thank you.

After School Club

On the 16th and 17th December, after-school club will only run until 4:30pm due to the Christmas performances at the church. For those who have already paid until 5:30pm, please be advised that you will be refunded for the 4:30pm to 5:30pm session.

Stay and Play at Newtown

Thursday 12th December 9:00am to 10:30am

Newtown Church of England Primary School

At Newtown, every day is 'Open Day'

Get in touch to arrange a tour

Place available from 3 years +

The hidden gem in the heart of the countryside
E: admin@newtown.shropshire.sch.uk T: 01939 233353

HAF Free Christmas Holiday Activity Days

The Christmas Holidays are fast approaching and we have great news! The Department of Education has funded places for the HAF programme. If you're eligible, you can book free of charge via the link below for The Embrace Group Holiday Club at Meole Brace C of E Primary School in Shrewsbury, Shifnal Primary School in Shifnal, and St Peter's CE Primary School in Wem.

Children aged 5-13 can participate in sports activities such as Dodgeball, Football, Tag Rugby, Basketball, Cricket, Rounders, Hockey, and fun wide games. All activities are planned and delivered by qualified sports coaches and teachers.

The Department of Education funds the HAF program for 4 hours, but The Embrace Group offers the opportunity for young people to extend sessions for longer at no additional cost.

Please click the link below for more information. Don't miss out!

<https://us20.campaign-archive.com/?u=755824695eb950260bd7444f9&id=10c935da41>

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Inspire Days

Over the next two weeks we have our Inspire Events. As always, these are designed to be informal and enjoyable events which give parents an opportunity to come into school and share in classroom experiences with their children.

These events happen every term so please don't worry if you can't make them – we accept that they are during the working day.

If you have children in different classes, and Inspire Events are at the same time, parents are very welcome to move between the classrooms.

Christmas Dinner and Party Day

After Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, the children will enjoy a party afternoon in their classes. For that extra festive flavour, children are invited to come to school in their party outfits!

Christmas Jumper Day

On Wednesday, children are invited to come to school in their Christmas jumpers. Children should wear their school uniform as normal, but instead of their school jumpers / cardigans, they can wear a Christmas Jumper!

Your sincerely, Mr Crompton.



Christmas Crafts and Santa's Grotto

This Christmas, visit us for a Santa craft experience! Join Santa's elf to make a tree decoration, a puffy paint picture and more. Meet Santa in his grotto and receive a gift.

Saturday 14th December
Hourly slots available between 11am – 3pm
£10 per child
Booking essential on our website

Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre
the home of Grow Cook Learn

info@shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.uk
01588 676060
School Road, Craven Arms SY7 9RS
Grow Cook Learn, a registered charity: 1158795

Key School Dates

December

11th December
12th December

Christmas Dinner & Party Day
Stay & Play – Christmas Special

9:00am – 10:30am
Owl Class Inspire
1:15pm

12th December

12th December
16th December
16th December

Christmas Jumper Day
Christmas Shop Event

EYFS and KS1 Nativity
5pm. Parents Welcome.

17th December
17th December

Christmas Shop Event
KS2 Christmas Concert

5pm. Children Welcome.
Hawk Class Inspire

18th December

1:30pm

19th December

Kestrel & Osprey Class Inspire
1:30pm

20th December

Christmas Church Service
2:00pm – Parents Welcome

January

6th – 8th January

Year 5 & 6 Residential Trip
Robinwood

March

13th – 14th March

Year 3 & 4 Residential Trip
Condoover

May

12th – 15th May
16th May

Year 6 SATs Week
Summer Camp Out

June

8th – 13th June

Phonics Screening Check
Year 4 Multiplication Check
Summer Ball

20th June



STUDY SMART
Free Online Courses

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Education & Skills Funding Agency

Fully Funded School Support Course

Available in Levels 1, 2 & 3

*Please go to our website for more detailed information.

6 Week Course Mon - Fri Daily sessions
1st session 9:30 - 11:30am
2nd session 12:30 - 2pm

www.studysmartuk.online

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Shropshire Hills
Discovery Centre

NEW YEAR'S EVE FILM

ILLUMINATION'S
**DESPICABLE
ME 4**

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TICKETS
Adult - £6
Child - £4

**TUESDAY
31ST
DECEMBER**
FILM STARTS
AT 3PM

Cinema snacks &
themed crafts

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL
BOOK ONLINE**
www.shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.uk
01588 676 060

**NEW YEAR'S EVE
FAMILY FUN**

Join us to celebrate 2025 in our
New Year's Eve family activity.

Make a balloon animal, bake a new
years treat, make a confetti popper
plus more.

**Tuesday
31st Dec**
Drop in between
11am and 3pm

£4.50 per child
Recommended age 4 - 11 years

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the home of Grow Cook Learn

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