

# Newtown Church of England Primary School



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

**Newsletter  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

## Message from the Head

We are pleased to share how spirituality continues to grow at Newtown Church of England Primary School. Rooted in our vision Growing together in strength, love and wisdom, we shine, spirituality shapes how we learn, live and support one another.

Spirituality at Newtown is for everyone – children, staff, families and our wider community. It is the deepening of our relationships with ourselves, others, the world and something greater than ourselves. To make this meaningful for pupils, we will use a simple shared language: In, Out, Up.

### What It Means

#### IN – Looking Inward

Helping children understand who they are - their thoughts and feelings – which builds inner strength, confidence, reflection and emotional awareness.

#### OUT – Looking Outward

Focusing on relationships and our place in the world which develops empathy, kindness, respect for diversity and responsibility for community and creation.

#### UP – Looking Upward and Beyond

Encouraging awe, wonder and exploration of bigger questions which includes our Christian values and openness to faith and mystery.

This shared language helps all pupils recognise and express spiritual moments in age-appropriate ways.

### Why Spirituality Matters

Through this approach, children grow in resilience, wisdom, empathy, creativity and joy – helping every child shine.

### How This Looks in School Life

Teachers plan for awe, wonder and big questions in all subjects - from ethical discussions and debate to creativity in the arts and curiosity in science.

Our In, Out, Up model guides daily worship, reflecting on Christian values, hearing Bible stories and exploring life's joys and challenges.

Spirituality is lived out through kindness, restorative approaches, celebrations of uniqueness and valuing each person.

Classrooms include reflection areas, with wider school displays encouraging prayer, stillness and spiritual exploration.

### A Spirituality That Helps Everyone Flourish

Our approach supports the wellbeing and growth of the whole school community. By embedding In, Out, Up in all aspects of school life, Newtown continues to be a place where everyone feels valued, supported and inspired to grow in strength, love and wisdom.



### School Holidays in Term Time

I would like to remind all families about the rules surrounding term-time holidays and the responsibilities that schools have in enforcing government attendance guidance.

As a school, we fully understand that family time is important and that holiday costs can rise significantly outside of term dates. Taking a break is something we all value. However, government legislation is very clear that headteachers may only authorise term-time leave in *exceptional circumstances*. Family holidays, for whatever reason, do not meet this threshold.

Because of this, any unauthorised holiday taken during term time may result in a fixed penalty notice issued to parents or carers. This is not something we want to do,

**Executive Headteacher:** Mr Ben Crompton

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but it *is* something the school is legally required to enforce.

Each term, our school is visited by the Education Welfare Officer, who carefully monitors attendance and checks that we are following national guidance. As part of this process, attendance patterns and unauthorised absences are reviewed. Where persistent or significant unauthorised absence is identified, the school must take action.

We would much rather work with families to avoid these situations. Excellent attendance ensures that your child does not miss valuable learning and helps them to feel settled and confident in school. If you are experiencing difficulties that may affect your child's attendance, please speak with us as early as possible so we can help.

### School Term Dates for This Year and Next

#### Current School Year 2025 - 2026

<b>September 2025</b> M 1 8 15 22 29 T 2 9 16 23 30 W 3 10 17 24 Th 4 11 18 25 F 5 12 19 26 S 6 13 20 27 Su 7 14 21 28	<b>October 2025</b> M 6 13 20 27 T 7 14 21 28 W 1 8 15 22 29 Th 2 9 16 23 30 F 3 10 17 24 31 S 4 11 18 25 Su 5 12 19 26	<b>November 2025</b> M 3 10 17 24 T 4 11 18 25 W 6 13 20 27 Th 7 14 21 28 F 8 15 22 29 S 9 16 23 30 Su 1 8 15 22 29	<b>December 2025</b> M 1 8 15 22 29 T 2 9 16 23 30 W 3 10 17 24 31 Th 4 11 18 25 F 5 12 19 26 S 6 13 20 27 Su 7 14 21 28	<b>January 2026</b> M 1 8 15 22 29 T 2 9 16 23 30 W 3 10 17 24 31 Th 4 11 18 25 F 5 12 19 26 S 6 13 20 27 Su 7 14 21 28
<b>February 2026</b> M 2 9 16 23 30 T 3 10 17 24 W 4 11 18 25 Th 5 12 19 26 F 6 13 20 27 S 7 14 21 28 Su 8 15 22 29	<b>March 2026</b> M 1 8 15 22 29 T 2 9 16 23 30 W 3 10 17 24 31 Th 4 11 18 25 F 5 12 19 26 S 6 13 20 27 Su 7 14 21 28	<b>April 2026</b> M 6 13 20 27 T 7 14 21 28 W 8 15 22 29 Th 9 16 23 30 F 10 17 24 S 11 18 25 Su 12 19 26	<b>May 2026</b> M 1 8 15 22 29 T 2 9 16 23 30 W 3 10 17 24 31 Th 4 11 18 25 F 5 12 19 26 S 6 13 20 27 Su 7 14 21 28	<b>June 2026</b> M 1 8 15 22 29 T 2 9 16 23 30 W 3 10 17 24 31 Th 4 11 18 25 F 5 12 19 26 S 6 13 20 27 Su 7 14 21 28
<b>July 2026</b> M 5 12 19 26 T 6 13 20 27 W 7 14 21 28 Th 8 15 22 29 F 9 16 23 30 S 10 17 24 31 Su 11 18 25	<b>August 2026</b> M 3 10 17 24 31 T 4 11 18 25 W 5 12 19 26 Th 6 13 20 27 F 7 14 21 28 S 8 15 22 29 Su 9 16 23 30	<b>Shropshire Council</b> School Day 190 + 2 School Holiday 8 Bank Holiday 3 PD Days 3	<b>2025/2026</b> Autumn 1st Half 39 days Autumn 2nd Half 39 days Spring 1st Half 29 days Spring 2nd Half 29 days Summer 1st Half 29 days Summer 2nd Half 31 days Staff Total 193 days (Pupils required to attend for 190 days)	<b>2025/2026</b> NB: Sep, Jan & July PD days are recommended for all schools across the UK. Three further PD days (or equivalent twilight(s)) are available for schools to use at their discretion from the school days.

#### Remaining School PD Days 2025-2026

- Monday 20th July

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#### School PD Days - Children not in 2026-2027

- Tuesday 1st September 2026
- Wednesday 2nd September 2026
- Monday 4th January 2027
- Monday 12th April 2027
- Monday 7th June 2027

### Photography Club Weekly Winner

This week's winner is Elsie Roberts.

This photograph transforms a simple stand of winter trees into a striking study of upward movement and quiet drama. By choosing a low, skyward angle, Elsie turns the trunks into towering columns, their textured bark rising like the pillars of a natural cathedral. The branching limbs, stark against the vivid blue sky, form an intricate lattice that feels both delicate and purposeful.

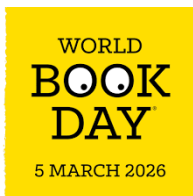
Light and negative space work together to create depth, with the bright sky illuminating the fine tracery of branches as though painted in ink. The unusual perspective invites the viewer to look *through* the trees rather than *at* them, capturing a sense of curiosity and awe. In doing so, Elsie elevates an ordinary subject into something contemplative, architectural, and quietly majestic.

Well done Elsie!



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### World Book Day Is Coming!

For World Book Day this year - 5<sup>th</sup> March - we will be celebrating with a Vocabulary Parade!

Instead of dressing as book characters, children choose an interesting or powerful word and wear a simple costume, prop, or badge to show what their word means.

Examples:

- If your word is magical, you might come as a *fairy* or *wizard*.
- If your word is brave, you could wear a *cape* or *shield*.
- If your word is sparkly, you might add *glittery accessories*.
- If your word is sleepy, pyjamas work perfectly!

This is a fun and creative way to build vocabulary while avoiding pressure to buy costumes.

### Upcoming Forest School Dates

Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Falcon Class
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Hawk Class
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Kestrel Class
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Falcon Class



### Weekly Attendance Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow...

Owl Class – 92%  
Hawk Class - 93% ★  
Kestrel Class – 98.7% ★★  
Falcon Class – 99.05% ★★★

Average – 96%

School target – 97%

Well done all!



**Class Dojo Champs  
Owl Class**  
Daisy, Ruben & Lacey

**Hawk Class**  
Kit, Tommy F & Archie

**Kestrel Class**  
Olly M, Archie & Isla

**Falcon Class**  
Mercedez, Lodan & Percy



**Values Awards**  
*as chosen by our values ambassadors  
Harriet, Marni and Mercedez.*

**Strength**  
The Tag Rugby Team for braving the cold weather at  
Ellesmere College

**Love**  
Teddy for being so kind to the younger members of  
our school

**Wisdom**  
Chloe for being a great friend and offering great  
advice



### Shining Stars of The Week!

**Owl Class**  
Ruben for being a brilliant listener

**Hawk Class**  
Edward for his great effort in everything he has done

**Kestrel Class**  
Ellie for settling so well into Newtown life

**Falcon Class**  
Freddie for his great persistence in maths

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### Outside Achievements

Emmie for her Pony Club Award

Kit for his multiple awards in martial arts



### Headteacher's Award

Miss Whittaker and Miss Morris for remaining undetected, treacherous staff members throughout the whole duration of the staff version of The Traitors which concluded with the children on Wednesday.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Yours sincerely,  
Mr Crompton.

### Key School Dates

#### February

February 13 <sup>th</sup>	Break Up for Half Term
February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Return to School

#### March

March 5 <sup>th</sup>	World Book Day
March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Year 3,4,5 Flaxmill Maltings Trip
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Service – 2pm
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Break Up for Easter Holiday

#### April

April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Return to School
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 London Trip



## February Holiday Clubs

at The Croud Meadow, SY2 6ST

For children aged 5 to 11, our holiday clubs are open to all abilities with a focus on fun and sports! Groups of mixed age and ability.

16th to 20th February at The Croud Meadow, SY2 6ST

Scan the QR code or visit our website to book a single day for £18

[foundationstfc.co.uk/fun](http://foundationstfc.co.uk/fun)

Get in touch

E: [admin@foundationstfc.co.uk](mailto:admin@foundationstfc.co.uk) T: 01743 289177 opt 6



# DINOSAUR DISCOVERIES

**February Half Term Family Activity**  
2pm - 3.30pm  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February

£5 per accompanied 4 - 11 year old

Make a dinosaur skeleton to take home. Look at the size of dinosaurs and their feet. Learn the meaning behind some dinosaurs' names, other dinosaur theme crafts and much more!

[shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.uk](http://shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.uk) **»**

Book Online **»**

[info@shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.uk](mailto:info@shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.uk)  
01588 676060

## CALLING ALL JUNIOR HEROES

### BRIGHT SPARKS

Presents **FREE**

## HALF TERM HOLIDAY FUN

FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

**DATE:**  
Wednesday  
18 February

**TIME**  
2pm- 4.30 pm

**VENUE:**  
Ellesmere Town Hall

GAMES  
CRAFT  
BIBLE STORIES  
QUIZ

Scan here to sign up or collect a registration from  
More Than a Sundae, Cross street

Hosted by  
The Cella Church

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