

Newsletter November 2025

A Message from Mrs Harvey, Head Teacher

Well! Where did November go? Once again our pupils and staff have been extremely busy. Alongside our every day lessons, so many other wonderful things happen here at Netherton CofE that make me very proud.

During November, pupils have led class assemblies, raised money for charity, shown respect on Remembrance Day, taken part in sporting events, been on class trips or had visitors in, and we have welcomed parents into school for meetings and to join lessons.

As we approach the end of term, December will be just as busy if not busier! We look forward to all the joy and wonder that Christmas brings to a primary school and look forward to welcoming you in to see the Nativity or join us for Carols in the Playground & the Christmas Fair or joining us for the church service. Do keep an eye on Dojo for upcoming events. Thank you all for your support.

Mrs K. Harvey

Attendance Matters

Reminder: all absence must be reported.

If your child is absent, you should report their absence each day. The correct code can then be assigned for their absence.

There are a number of ways you can report an absence - via the absence line 01384 431810, Option 2; or via the email link on the website.

If we do not receive a message, school will phone / email you. If we do not receive a reply, the absence will be unauthorised and school may have to make a home visit.

DIARY DATES

Inset Days

5th January 2026

20th July 2026

Christmas Break

Mon 22nd Dec - Fri 2nd Jan

February Half Term

Mon 16th Feb - Fri 20th Feb

Easter Break

Mon 30th March - Fri 10th Apr

Whitsun Break

Mon 25th May - Fri 29h May

Summer Holidays

Tues 21st July - Mon 31st Aug

Autumn Term Dates

Dec / Christmas Dates

Weds 10th Dec - EYFS Nativity

Fri 12th Dec -Christmas jumper

Carols in the Playground

Christmas Fair

Mon 15th Dec - Christmas Dinner

Weds 17th Dec - KS2 Panto trip

Thurs 18th Dec - Christmas parties

Fri 19th Dec - Service at the church

- Break up for Christmas

Spring Term Dates

Mon 5th Jan - INSET - School closed to pupils

Tues 6th Jan - school reopens

Mon 16th Feb - Fri 20th Feb - Half term

Fri 10th April - break up for Easter

Please join your children on

Friday 12th December

for



Carols in the Playground @ 1:00pm

followed by our

Christmas Fair 1:30-3:00pm

Bottle Tombola

Christmas Novelties

Pin the nose on the snowman

Tombola

Toy stall

Human Fruit Machine

Chocolate Tombola

Book Stall

Refreshments

Filled Jar Tombola

Reindeer Hoopla

Christmas Photo Opportunities

Guess the name of the bear

Lollipop lucky pick

Raffle – Large Christmas Food Hamper, Medium Christmas Food Hamper, Family Safari Park Ticket, Baileys and Bayliss & Harding Dressing Gown Set, Drayton Farm Ticket, £15 Merry Hill Voucher, Ticket for Playtropolis, Bayliss & Harding & wine set, Game & Selection boxes set, Beauty Hamper, Candle & Wine set, Disney Mugs & Hot Chocolate set.

Focus Day

The first day back after each half term is a focus day.

On Monday 3rd November, each class focused on E-Safety

Festival of Lights Disco

On Wednesday 5th November, the children had a great time at our Festival of Lights Disco! And as if the disco lights were not enough, the children loved glowing batons, rings and bangles. Thank you for your support.



Parents Supporting Learning

We always like to invite parents in to school . It has been proven that children are more successful when school and home work together.

On 5th November, the parents of Year 6 pupils were invited to a meeting to find out about the KS2 SATs that the pupils will take next May.

On 12th November, we were delighted to welcome the parents of pupils from Reception to find out how phonics is taught and to sit in on a phonics lesson.

On 28th November, parents were invited to attend a maths lesson

Thank you to everyone who attended, it was great to see so many of you.

Heritage School Champion

Here at Netherton CofE we are extremely proud of our Heritage Project which combines History & Geography skills to learn about the local area.

Mrs Powell & Mrs Ryall-White worked with Historic England to write our bespoke Heritage project, they have since gone on to talk to & inspire other schools to do something similar.

They have continued to work with Historic England and continued to develop our teaching and learning about the local area, for example most recently working with a local photographer to 'see the local area differently'.

We are very proud to announce that all of this hard work and good practice has been recognised by Historic England who have chosen us as a **Championship Heritage School**. We are 1 of just 17 schools nationally, to be given this award,

Martin Philips from Historic England came into school to present us with our award on Remembrance Day where Year 6 led a whole school assembly on this theme



Remembrance Day

Once again, our pupils made us incredibly proud with the respect they showed on Remembrance Day and in the run up to it.

As well as making donations for the poppy items from the Royal British Legion, the pupils could buy Poppy Packs which the Well-being Ambassadors created and sold; and on Remembrance day, pupils donated £1 to wear red.

Thank you to everyone who donated, we are proud to share that we have won the shield from the British Legion again, for being the school which raised the most in the local area....a phenomenal £864.41. Thank you for your generosity and kindness.



On Tuesday 11th November, Year 6 led an assembly for KS2, explaining the importance of Remembrance Day and the work of the Royal British Legion.

Later, Years 5 & 6 gathered at St Andrews Church to take part in the 2 minute silence at 11am; with some pupils from Year 6 sharing a reading or poem.



Lots of learning, every day

The children have been incredibly busy this month, here is a taste of what's been going on...

Reception - Understanding the World

Reception went to Saltwells Woods. They spent lots of time exploring and finding out fun facts all about Autumn.



Year 1 - Science

Year 1 had a lovely day exploring Saltwells Woods identifying the changes that happen around us in the Season Autumn.

Emma (the Warden), was full of lots of knowledge which she shared with us. We learn lots of new things each time we go on our Seasonal walks.

Luckily, when the rain came we were inside the Saltwells classroom which meant we did not get too wet!



Year 2 - Geography

Our little meteorologists created forecasts for Edinburgh, London, Belfast, and Cardiff, then stepped into the spotlight as weather reporters!

The classroom transformed as they delivered their predictions with such enthusiasm and flair!



Year 3 - Science

In one of their science lessons, the children in Year 3 investigated how transparent, translucent or opaque some materials are.

They looked at felt, card, foil and paper!

Year 4 - Fire Safety

Y4 were fortunate enough to have four members of the West Midlands Fire Service visit to teach us all about fire safety.

Y4 should now know the answers to the following questions

- What three things are required for a fire to start?
- What happens, eventually, if you remove one of those three things?
- Where should a smoke alarm be installed?
- What should you do immediately if your smoke alarm sounds?
- What hazards can there be in a home that may cause a fire?
- What three things should you do if you are on fire?

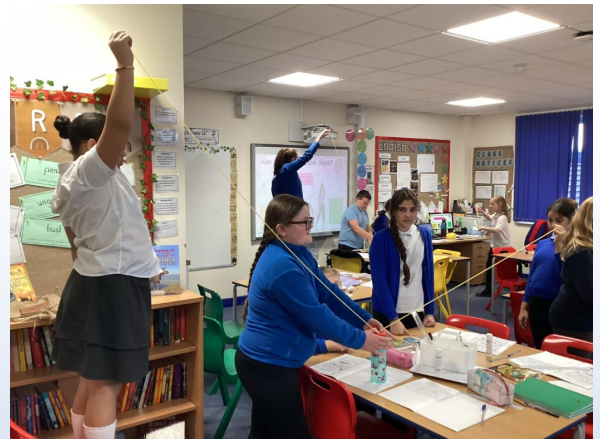


Year 5 - Forest School

On Thursday 25th November, Year 5 managed to catch a break in the weather and went into the forest to get it ready for Christmas, decorating it with Christmas trees and decorations made from natural materials.

Year 6 - Science

In Science, Y6 have been exploring light, how it travels from a source, reflects off an object and into our eyes so that we can see. Year 6 were amazing with their experiments and enjoyed explaining how the light travels. They explored how the angles of the light change dependent on the level at which the object is and the location of the light source.



The Hive - cooking

The children in The Hive have been cooking again! This time they had a go at making veggie burgers - then the best bit...tasting!

Tag Rugby

On Monday 3rd November, a team of Y5&6 pupils took part in Dudley North Tag Rugby Competition and out of 16 schools, we won, qualifying for the Dudley School's Finals.



Netball

On Thursday 20th November, our netball team took part in their first fixture, playing against Wren's Nest. They drew 5-5. Well done team!



Football

On Monday 24th November, the Y5/6 football team won 3-2 against Sledmere and reached the semi-finals of the Dudley Schools' Tournament.



Sports Hall Athletics

On Thursday 27th November, some Year 5 & 6 pupils took part in Dudley Sports Hall Athletics.

We came 2nd out of 8 schools, winning 4 / 6 of the track events and only losing by 9 points.



Running Club

Every Monday, these superstars turn up to run 5km. Lately, it's been dark and rainy and they still run! Well done!

Talented Pupils...

We love to hear what our pupils get up to outside of school, and this month we've been in awe of two of our Year 6 pupils who have competed at a national level—one in Ariel gymnastics and one in dressage.

Jessica took part in The South West Ariel & Pole Championships.

Jessica had to compete in various heats over two days, and we are very proud to share that she came 3rd! Well done, Jessica!



Blake took part in The LeMieux Quest Championships 2025

Blake competed in the U21s dressage riding at introductory level for team Quest. It was the young riders' first national event and whilst the team didn't place, Blake had a fabulous score of 67.8% and was 10th on the leader board at one point.

Well done, Blake and the beautiful pony, Ruby.



If your child has an achievement you and they would like to share - this could be a talent, a hobby, voluntary work or a one off good deed, please let Mrs Rickers know and we will celebrate them in future newsletters.

Safeguarding Spotlight

Ensuring the safety and well-being of our pupils is our first priority and naturally, this extends to their families. Part of this role is to share the latest information on issues that may affect our young people; share guidance and signpost support. There is a wealth of information on our website under Key Information ~ Safeguarding.

<https://www.netherton.dudley.sch.uk/key-information/safeguarding>

The Impact of News on Children - Internet Matters

The world is one of cycles. The current generation moving through the school system, are doing so in a time of particular instability. The consequence for the media landscape has been a shift from 'light' news to a constant stream of 'heavy' content. Online this trend has been inescapable whether to drive clicks or generate controversy, increasingly our media consumption has been overtaken by gloom.

This pessimistic outlook has been further enhanced by the continuing evolution of AI. News stories that would have once been unquestioned, now straddle the line of real and fake. For children and young people whose critical faculties are not yet fully developed, this can provoke a whirlwind of confusion. Confusion tends to breed negative mental health effects since one can no longer distinguish true from false.

Internet Matters has recently produced a page explaining what can be done, to help children and young people navigate an increasingly murky information space. If interested, please follow the link below:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/research/impact-online-news-childrens-wellbeing/>

Ages 6–10

- Watch or read news **together** (e.g., [Newsround](#)).
- Use **Stop–Show–Share**: Stop scrolling, show an adult, share feelings.
- Keep explanations simple and reassuring.
- Use fun examples (e.g. “Would you believe it if you saw a dog driving a car?”).
- **Ask: “What do you think this story means? How can we check if it’s true?”**

Ages 11–13

- Explain [algorithms](#): “Your feed is shaped by what you’ve liked, not what’s most true.”
- Practise [before-you-share rules](#).
- Talk to children about what reliable sources are and what they look like. Encourage them to follow these sources. **Ask: “If this came from an influencer, where did they get it from?”**

Online Safety

Keeping our children safe in a world of technology continues to be a priority.

Look out each Wednesday, on Dojo, as we will be sharing **#Wake Up Wednesday** from The National College.

This is a weekly guide which focuses on an aspect of technology; the risks and tips to keep your child safe. The guides are in an easy-to-follow format.

Recent ones have focused on Cyber Resilience.



Safeguarding: If you have any concerns or need support, please call the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) between 9am & 5pm on telephone 0300 5550050 or telephone 0300 555 8574, if out of hours.



We foster...

YOU can too

Dudley Council needs new foster carers - have you got what it takes?

**Fostering in Dudley offers a rewarding career,
training, guidance and 24 hour support 365 days a year**

**Visit our website for more information
and drop-in session dates**

www.fosteringindudley.org.uk

call **01384 815833**

or email fosteringrecruitment@dudley.gov.uk



fostering in dudley
the best job in the world