

School Newsletter



Naburn Church of England Primary School



Newsletter : 92 09.01.26

Headteacher's Introduction

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! It has been truly wonderful to see the children return so happily and excited to learn! I do hope you all had a lovely Christmas break (although it may seem like it was an age away now!) The children and teachers have been hard at work already, learning about space and significant people in Acorn Class (complete with a space rocket landing!) and exploring the Victorian era of smog, slums and street children, for our older pupils. Please have a look on our website for the Spring Term Class Newsletters, for an overview of the term's activities. If your paper copies didn't quite make it home, you will also find homework expectations and menus, on our class pages!

As you may be aware, the Department for Education (DfE) has implemented a comprehensive strategy to raise school attendance rates in England. These efforts are part of a broader strategy to improve educational outcomes for all children in England. By working in partnership, we can give every child the best chance to succeed, both now and in the future, by ensuring they have the consistent learning, social connections, and confidence that come from regular attendance. We truly appreciate your ongoing commitment, understanding, and effort in making attendance a top priority for your child's education and wellbeing. To support you and raise awareness of how much attendance matters, we will be sending a letter to you, to inform you of your child(ren)s attendance so far this year. For more information, please see our Attendance Policy on our website: www.naburnschool.com

Warm wishes,
Mrs Durham.



**Battle winners are
RESPECT**
**Most Valueable players
Martha Georgie**
**Next Weeks Battle
ASPIRATION/RESPECT**

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- CLUBS START NEXT WEEK
- Please remember to send hats gloves and coats during this cold weather

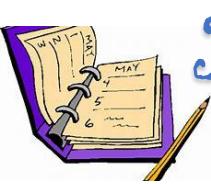
Reflection Corner

Philippians 2:3

"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."



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Dates for your diary

w/c 12 th January	Clubs Start
10 th February	Young Voices at Sheffield Arena
13 th February	Break up for half term
23 rd February	Back to School
26 th March	Easter Service – 2pm in Church
26 th March	Break up for Easter holidays
13 th April	Back to school
4 th May	Bank Holiday Monday
22 nd May	Break up for half term
1 st June	Back to school
17 th July	Leavers Service – 2pm in Church
17 th July	Break up for Summer

Nut Free

Just a reminder that we are a nut free school, it is **REALLY** important that no nuts are brought into school – this includes products that contain nuts and products that "may contain traces of nuts"

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

JUST A REMINDER THAT WE HOLD OUR CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY EVERY THURSDAY AFTERNOON AT 2.50PM

ALL PARENTS/CARERS WELCOME – WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE



Star of the Week



Aspiration Respect

Announcement from



'What I wish my parents or carers knew...': A guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives

18 December 2025

Follow the link for more info [what I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives)

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Attendance Matters!

Missing a day of school here and there may not seem like much, but absences add up!

NCS SCHOOL DAY IS 7.45AM-3.00PM

When a student misses 2 days a month	When a student misses 4 days a month
They miss 20 DAYS a year (10% of the school year)	They miss 40 DAYS a year (20% of the school year)
They miss 30 HOURS of math instruction.	They miss 60 HOURS of math instruction.
They miss 60 HOURS of reading and writing instruction.	They miss 120 HOURS of reading and writing instruction.
They will miss over 1 YEAR of school by The end of year 6	They will miss over 2 YEARS of school by The end of year 6



Absence Reporting

Please can we remind parents and carers that all absences must be reported daily to the school office before 8:50am, giving a clear reason for absence.

A message can be left on the school answerphone at any time. For cases of ongoing illness you must contact the school every day, otherwise this could be recorded as unauthorised absence.

Any unavoidable medical appointments, e.g. hospital appointments, must be reported to the school office in advance, and a form completed.

Any requests for other time off during term time will be recorded as unauthorised absence, unless there are exceptional circumstances. A form must also be completed in advance for all term time absences.

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Acorn Class



Our Classroom Rocket Adventure!

When we came back to school after the holidays, we walked into a **HUGE** surprise...

A red rocket covered in stars had crash-landed **right in our classroom!**

While we were away, the police had visited to make sure everything was safe. They put blue and white **POLICE DO NOT CROSS** tape all around the rocket. It made our classroom look like a real investigation scene.

The children became **detectives** and started searching the classroom to see if they could find any more clues.

Here's what they discovered:

- A puddle of **pink milk** on the floor
- A bowl of **green stew** that looked very strange
- **Unusual footprints** that didn't belong to any child or teacher
- A plate with **brown bread** sitting neatly beside the rocket
- And of course... the bright red, star-covered **mysterious rocket**

The children shared ideas, asked questions, and worked together to think about what might have happened.

Was it an alien visitor? A space explorer? Someone who stopped for a snack and left in a hurry?

We don't know the answer yet - but we *do* know our class is full of brilliant investigators who are ready for the next clue.

More discoveries coming soon...

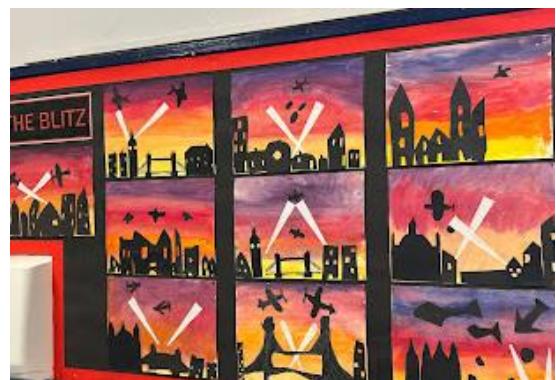


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In Maths, we have been working out the area of 2D rectilinear shapes. In English, we watched a film narrative called 'Broken' as a stimulus for creative writing.

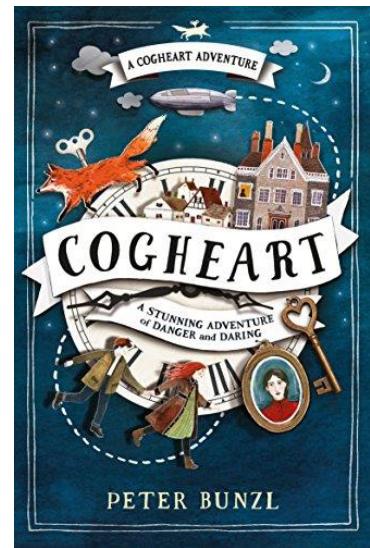
Our clay candle holders - linked to the Blitz Blackouts - had the chance to dry out over the holidays and the children were excited to paint, decorate and finish them this week!



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Sycamore have made a fantastic start back this week. We have started our class novel *Cogheart*, a Victorian steampunk adventure and have got a new classmate: the mechanical fox, Malkin. The children have been learning about the rules of punctuating dialogue and have created short passages of dialogue balanced with description and action, based on the first chapter of *Cogheart*.



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Reminder

New Homework menus out this week

Homework Breakdown

Rationale

Starting with evidence from research, our aim is to provide a relevant and manageable amount of homework that is achievable and aspirational, and also inclusive.

We believe that our improved homework expectations reflect our vision of valuing and respecting everyone as an individual with their own unique qualities.



Spelling

Reception

Children will receive a key ring of tricky words which will gradually be added to as they progress through their Little Wandle phonic journey. We would like your child to practise reading the words until they can read them automatically. For some children who need further practise of recognising graphemes and their phonemes, a sheet will also be provided. The sheet explains the pronunciation and picture card for each phase, in the order they are taught.

Spellings of 3 CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) spellings will be sent out in Autumn term 2 which will be based on what the children have learnt in Little Wandle Phonics that week.

KS1

We will send 5 weekly spellings home a week as a list. These will be based on what the children have learnt in Little Wandle Phonics that week. To consolidate their learning and encourage the practise of spelling these words, we have sent home a 'spelling activity menu' with games and strategies for your child to choose from.

KS2

We will send spellings home weekly that follow a particular spelling rule we are teaching in class. This is explicitly taught 3 x a week for 15 minutes, and also consolidated and woven into subjects across the curriculum. To consolidate their learning and encourage the practise of spelling these words, we have sent home a 'spelling activity menu' with games and strategies for your child to choose from.

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Whole School

We will no longer test spellings. We believe this can be humiliating and unsupportive of some of our children. We recognise that children learn in different ways and at different speeds and believe that with the right support, in a psychologically safe environment, our children will flourish and achieve.

In addition to this, we also identify the spellings mistakes that are made consistently in their own writing and encourage our children to use the correct spelling independently. These are personal to your child. Through the use of a 'word wall' in their books, they are independently able to access and correct these common mistakes.



Reading

Reception and KS1

You can have a huge impact on your child's reading journey by continuing to practise reading at home. There are two types of reading book that your child will bring home.

A reading practice book

This will be at the correct phonic stage for your child. They should be able to read this fluently and independently. If your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry - your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading. Little Wandle reading books will be sent home once a week on a Thursday. Our expectation is that you read 5 times a week for 5 - 10 minutes.

Please write in your child's planner when they have read to you.

A sharing book

Your child might not be able to read this on their own. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters and explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun!

KS2

To encourage reading for pleasure and also reading for meaning, our expectation is that children in KS2 will read aloud to an adult for 15 minutes, five times a week. Children will then write the date and page number they have read to, in their planner. At the end of the week, children will be asked to summarise what they have read so far to their teacher or in their planner.

We understand that, at times, children may choose a book that they are not enjoying. We are very happy to have a discussion and choose a different book with your child – our aim is to encourage a love of reading in every child!

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Maths

Reception/KS1

To build your child's maths confidence we have invested in Numbots. This is an online platform that helps children learn how to add and subtract, improving their fluency and recall. Practising for 3 minutes a day, four times a week can gradually help your child to build a solid, conceptual understanding of number sense. We will send home your child's log in details.

KS2

We will send home times tables to practise. We believe that learning these unlocks so many other areas of maths and helps our children to overcome any barriers. We have written their TT Rockstars username and password in their planners and will also send it out to you via email. The ever-popular TT Rockstars battles will re-commence in school too with a certificate awarded in Celebration Assembly on Thursday afternoons.

Whole school activities for home

We send home a menu of activities that children might want to complete at home to further or consolidate their learning. We link these activities to our school values and our topics, as we know that some children enjoy extra challenge. We would love to see any completed activities and encourage children in all classes to share their homework and achievements with us. In addition to this, there are educational sites listed on our website to support learning and homework expectations/menus are available on our website on the Class pages.

Many thanks for your continued support to make sure every child thrives at Naburn Primary.



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NABURN CE PRIMARY SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2025 / 2026

AUTUMN TERM 2025

Staff Training. School closed: Monday 1st September 2025

School Open: Tuesday 2nd September – Friday 24th October 2025

Half-term: Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October 2025

School Open: Monday 3rd November – Thursday 18th December 2024

Staff Training. School closed: Friday 19th December 2025

Christmas Holiday: Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January 2026

SPRING TERM 2026

Staff Training. School closed: Monday 5th January 2026

School Open: Tuesday 6th January – Friday 13th February 2026

Half-term: Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February 2026

School Open: Monday 23rd February – Thursday 26th March 2026

Staff Training. School closed: Friday 27th March 2026

Easter Holiday: Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April 2026

SUMMER TERM 2026

School Open: Monday 13th April – Friday 22nd May 2026

Half-term: Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May 2026

School Open: Monday 1st June – Friday 17th July 2026

ADDITIONAL DATES 2025 / 2026

Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May 2026

Staff Training. School closed: Monday 20th July 2026