



Newsletter - 4th September 2026

This week's 'Word of the week': **Welcome**

We are all called to welcome others into our communities, to open our doors and bring people in. Being welcoming helps those new to our community to feel loved, supported and included. We are all one body in Christ, everyone is welcome, and everyone has a part to play.

Mission: This week we have been encouraging the children to welcome everyone into school and live out the mission of 'Belonging, caring and sharing, safe in the arms of God's love'

Next week's word of the week : **Encounter**

Our faith is full of encounters with God – in prayer, in the sacraments, and in the people we meet. These encounters can change us, challenge us, and bring us closer to God. When we open ourselves to encountering Christ in our daily lives, we allow his love to transform us and make us more like him. We can encounter Christ in the Scriptures, in the Mass, and in the faces of those in need.

Mission: Make time this week to look at where you might encounter Jesus in those around you.

Theme for the school year: **True North**

True North

This year, our whole-school theme is **True North**, inspired by the Bible and God's call for us to follow Him as our guide and compass in life.

Today, the children heard a story. It was a story about **light and darkness, getting lost and being found, promises, rescue, and hope**. It was a story in which every child has a part to play.

The story began long before any of us were born, yet it is still being written today.

Throughout the Bible, we see how God continually reaches out to His people again and again, never giving up on them and never letting them go. Together, the children journeyed through some of the most important chapters of this story:

- The creation of the world
- God's promise to Abraham
- The rescue of God's people from Egypt
- The birth of Jesus
- Jesus showing us the way back to God

At every stage of this story, God's light brought hope, guidance, and purpose to people's lives.

One of the key moments we explored was God's promise to Abraham. God invited Abraham to look up at the night sky and count the stars, if he could. Just as the stars were too numerous to count, God promised that Abraham's descendants would be beyond number and that through them His blessing would reach the whole world (Genesis 15:5). This reminds us that God has a plan for each of us and that we are part of His great story.

As a school community, we are encouraging our children to continue living out this story by being **people of light**. We want them to look to God as their compass, their **True North**, and to bring light, kindness, hope, and encouragement into the lives of others.

Throughout the year, whenever children have brought light into someone's life through their words or actions, they will be invited to write their act of kindness on a star and place it on the wall in our Sacred Space. As the stars grow, they will remind us of God's promise to Abraham and of the many ways our children are helping God's light shine brightly in our school and community.

Safeguarding

The safety and wellbeing of our pupils remains our highest priority. Attached to this letter is a **Safeguarding Team poster** for the **2026-2027 academic year**. This identifies the members of staff who form our safeguarding team and who are responsible for supporting children and families where there are any welfare or safeguarding concerns. We encourage all parents and carers to familiarise themselves with the poster and the key safeguarding contacts within school.

Meet our safeguarding team





Mrs Pyatt
DSL



Mrs Lowe
DDSL



Mrs Brizzolara
DDSL



Mrs Pugh
DDSL



Mr Kitchinson
DDSL



Mrs Wightman
DDSL

If you have a safeguarding concern, our team are here to listen to you and help you with any situations you may be facing. They will listen to you no matter what issues you may have, so do come and speak with us.

If you are concerned about a child and would prefer to remain anonymous you can contact the MASH team directly via the following website, <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/care/safeguarding/childrens-mash>.

PE uniform and PE days

Thank you to all parents and carers who responded to our recent consultation regarding pupils wearing PE kits to school on PE days. We greatly appreciate your feedback and the time taken to share your views.

The overwhelming majority of responses were in favour of this proposal and, as a result, from September, pupils in **Years 1 to 6** will be able to wear their PE kits for the entire day on their designated PE days. **Reception pupils will continue to bring their PE kits to school and change into them in school on Tuesdays.**

The correct PE kit must be worn and should consist of:

- Plain black or navy joggers, leggings or shorts
- A green polo shirt
- A plain black or navy jumper or hooded top

Items may have a small logo; however, plain clothing is preferred.

Where pupils are not wearing the correct PE kit, parents will receive a message from the class teacher in the first instance.

PE Days

- **Reception:** Tuesday (*PE kit should be brought to school and pupils will change at school*)
- **Year 1:** Wednesday and Friday
- **Year 2:** Monday and Tuesday
- **Year 3:** Monday and Tuesday
- **Year 4:** Tuesday and Thursday
- **Year 5:** Wednesday and Friday
- **Year 6:** Thursday and Friday

School uniform

We would like to remind parents and carers of the importance of maintaining high standards of school uniform. Our uniform helps to promote a sense of belonging and pride in our school community and supports pupils in being ready to learn.

Please note that **polo shirts are not part of the standard school uniform and should only be worn for PE**. On non-PE days, pupils should wear the correct uniform, including a **white school shirt and school tie**, in line with our uniform expectations. We would be grateful for your support in ensuring that all children return to school in September wearing the correct uniform.

Jewellery

To ensure the safety of pupils, all jewellery must be removed for PE lessons. For all other sessions, one pair of studded earrings and a normal (non smart) watch may be worn.

Hair Styles

It is expected that all hair styles are neat, tidy and not obstructing children's eyes. Hair should be cut no shorter than a grade number 2 with no patterns or tram lines (including eye brows). Coloured hair or coloured hair extensions which are not the pupils' natural hair colour and fashion styles are not allowed.

Make up and Nail varnish

Pupils are not permitted to wear make-up in school. This includes nail varnish, gel or acrylic nails and temporary tattoos.

Calendar of Events - 2026-2027

The calendar of events has been created into a table and has been attached as a pdf for the whole year.

Wherever possible, we will aim to not change the dates or times of events which have already been scheduled.

Additional events may be added throughout the year, this will include sporting events for different year groups, visits and visitors and PTA events.

A reminder that on Thursday @ 4.30pm we have the open event in school. Please access school via the

Important Reminder: Please Check Your Arbor Information

As we prepare to welcome all pupils back to school on **Thursday 3rd September**, we kindly ask parents and carers to ensure that all information held on **Arbor** is accurate and up to date.

Please take a few moments to review and update:

- Contact details for parents and carers
- Emergency contact information
- Home addresses
- Medical information, including any new diagnoses, allergies or health needs

Having the correct information helps us to keep children safe and enables us to contact families quickly if needed.

Medical Needs

If your child requires medication in school, please ensure that any **inhalers, EpiPens or other essential prescribed medication** are brought into school **on the first day back, Thursday 3rd September**.

Please check that all medication:

- Is clearly labelled with your child's name
- Is in date
- Is handed to the appropriate member of staff if required

Thank you for your support in helping us provide a safe and well-prepared start to the new school year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Thursday 3rd September

After school club and Extra Curricula

This year, we will continue to offer the Mansfield Town After school club on a Monday from 3.20pm to 4.20pm. This will cost £4 per session and is available for Y2 - Y6. Please book and pay for this via Arbor.

In addition, during school time, free of charge, Mansfield Town will be offering sports activities. Each class from Y1 to Y6 will have an opportunity to take part in an allocated slot on a Thursday or Friday during lunchtime.

We will continue to run the highly successful choir in the school day and throughout the year, we will look to increase our extra curricula opportunities including visits and visitors for each class.

Changes to First Aid Communication

From the start of this academic year, we will no longer be sending home paper first aid forms.

This change will help us to reduce paper usage, improve efficiency, and ensure that first aid information is communicated more securely through our school communication systems. It will also reduce the risk of forms being lost or not reaching home in school bags.

For first aid incidents, any important information that parents need to know immediately will continue to be shared verbally by a member of staff at collection time where appropriate.

Following the end of the school day, details of first aid incidents will be sent electronically via **Arbor**, allowing parents and carers to access the information directly and keep a record of it if needed.

We kindly ask all parents and carers to ensure that notifications are enabled on the Arbor app so that first aid communications and other important school messages can be received promptly.

Thank you for your support as we move to a more environmentally friendly and efficient way of sharing information with families.

Attendance

Please use the link below to access the new attendance policy. You may have read over the past few weeks about changes to the expectations regarding attendance from the Department for Education. These have all been incorporated into the trust wide attendance policy. In addition to this policy, there is a school specific Annex B which states important information about the start of the school day, closure of registers and late marks and requesting leave of absence.

Pupil-Attendance-Policy.pdf¹

Pupil-Attendance-Policy-Annex-B.pdf²

Individual and group music lessons

If you have already signed your child up for individual or group music lessons or you are continuing from the previous year then these will start next week.

If you are interested in your child having an individual or group music lesson then please visit the OLOL music service website, [ololmusic.co.uk](https://www.ololmusic.co.uk)³, for further information. All bookings and payments are direct through the music service website.

With prayers and appreciation,

Mrs C L Pyatt

¹<https://www.ololcatholicmat.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2024/02/Pupil-Attendance-Policy.pdf>

²<https://www.st-patricksrc.notts.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2026/09/Pupil-Attendance-Policy-Annex-B.pdf>

³<https://www.ololmusic.co.uk/>