

New Scotland Hill Primary School and Nursery Newsletter Autumn Term 2026

Autumn Term 2026 Issue 5

Friday 2nd October

Latest News



This week's newsletter is our news and updates edition, with important information about day-to-day routines and also some upcoming events and opportunities to support parents and families.

These include:

- Lockdown procedures and policies
- Attendance update
- Reminders about uniform and jewellery
- Parking and changes to local road restrictions
- Parking on site
- Information about the recent PAPAYA smart phone awareness talk
- Beyond Autism parent support workshops

- Flu Vaccines
- An important request from Nursery!

I would also like to flag up our 'Let the Sun Shine on NSH!' campaign which has 2 more weeks to run.

To date, with match funding from Aviva, we have raised a fantastic: £8325! Thank you to everyone who has donated so far and a huge well done to our community. Our aim is to raise £15000 to install solar panels that will reduce our energy costs. Within just a couple of years, we will be saving at least £3500 a year on energy bills, and with increasing energy costs, these savings will grow over the years.

Please do keep donating to this brilliant cause. The cost savings will allow us to prioritise more money, year on year, towards our children and their resources and opportunities in school.

For a final push on this fundraising, we will be having a 'WEAR YELLOW' day on Monday 12th October. We ask that for wearing anything yellow, children bring in coins (or even notes!) as a donation. Whatever we raise will be doubled by Aviva so let's really go for it! The more we raise, the closer we will get to our target of £15000!



Ahead of next week, I will be off-site from later on Wednesday until Friday lunchtime, as I will have the pleasure of accompanying Year 5 on their residential trip to The New Forest. My thanks to Mrs Wells who will be leading the school in my absence, and we also look forward to welcoming Mrs Brown back in to school as she will be back on-site on Thursday afternoon as well. Should there be any urgent matters or concerns, or any safeguarding matters that arise, please do not hesitate to contact the school office who will forward these on to one of the Senior Leadership Team to deal with.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Simon Cotterill

Headteacher

Lockdown Procedures and Policies

I wrote last week to inform you of a local incident that required some schools to put their 'lockdown' protocols into place. Thankfully on that day, all involved were safe and sound, and we were not affected directly by the incident.

At New Scotland Hill, we have very clear procedures for how to deal with an incident that requires us to 'lockdown' or put in place any measures to ensure the safety of our children and staff. In the coming weeks we will be practising these procedures, just as we do with our fire alarm drills. This will be done once a year, and you will be notified in advance of the first time, that we are doing a drill, and then after each annual check. Please be assured that everything that we do in school is child-centred, and as difficult as managing a lockdown situation can be, this will be done in a calm and measured way, that does not scare or frighten our children.

Our response to the local threat last week was to put in place some simple changes to the working day that mitigated any risk to our children without them being aware of a potential incident happening a few miles across the borough.

Again, I will be in touch in the next few weeks to let you know when this is happening, and what we do as part of the drill, but in the meantime wanted to reassure following the recent incident, that as a school everything is in place to ensure your children's safety and well-being.

Attendance Update

At New Scotland Hill, we prioritise regular school attendance as this is key to children being settled and happy in school. Evidence shows that absence impacts on children's progress and attainment in class. We are extremely proud that our overall school attendance for last year was above the national average and an improvement on the previous school year.

This year we are aiming for 97%+ whole school attendance - we can reach this target!

To date:

Highest Class attendance percentage: Year 2 with 98.9%

Number of classes with 97% +: 5 Classes

Our current overall whole-school attendance is: 97.9%

We also have 156 of our children who are on 99%+ attendance! Well done!

Reminders about Uniform and Jewellery

Uniform:

Uniform is important in providing consistency and a sense of pride and belonging in school. We have amended our uniform policy to reduce the number of 'branded' items that children can wear. These are now: jumper/cardigan; book bag; P.E. hoody. Please note that unbranded versions of these items can be worn as well, which hopefully provides you with more options for purchasing uniform.

With the weather remaining warm, Summer uniform can continue to be worn; I will update to let you know when we will end this option.

We will always work with parents and families where there are sensory requirements for adaptations to be made for individual children regarding uniform.

Jewellery:

Simple stud ear-rings are allowed; hooped or dangly ear-rings must not be worn. Other jewellery is not permitted, except for items worn for religious observance.

As per previous messages: ear-rings and jewellery **must be removed for P.E. and sports activities**. Taping over studs is not appropriate for any contact sports or where there is a risk of catching jewellery during the activities. If children cannot remove items, they will not be able to take part in any element of the lesson where there is a health and safety risk.

Parking and changes to local road restrictions

Please be considerate when driving and parking around the estate. I have received several communications from local residents regarding people using private driveways as parking spaces, which is completely unacceptable. Dangerous driving on Sandy Lane and other areas of the estate has also been reported as putting children at risk of harm.

You will have noticed the double-yellow lines marked on the bend leading into Cheviot Road. Please adhere to these marking and keep this access route clear.

The zig-zags immediately outside of school must be kept clear for the safety of children and families.

Parking On Site

Some key reminders about the school car park:

- The **upper car park** is for **staff parking only** in the mornings.
- If dropping off for **breakfast club**, please use the **lower car park.**
- If collecting from after school clubs and activities, please park off-site and walk down to the gate/office.

- If attending meetings in school, on-site car parking is at the discretion of the Headteacher/Senior Leaders and office staff.

PAPAYA Talk Slides

We held a workshop for parents from PAPAYA in conjunction with Smartphone Free Childhood. If you were unable to attend but would still like information, we will be sharing the slides from that presentation on ParentMail. For those who were able to attend, please could you complete a feedback form via the QR code. This helps us to understand what workshops are useful and how best to share information on topics such as this.

Beyond Autism - Fast Responder Online Session

Earlier this week we shared with you via ParentMail Teams links for online sessions from an organisation we are working with - Beyond Autism. They are supporting all needs so your child does not have to be diagnosed or showing traits of autism for you to access support. They are offering 2 online parenting sessions on the **6th and 13th of November from 9.30-11.30am**.

Description of the session below:

BeyondAutism Fast Responder: Understanding Behaviour and Supporting Your Child

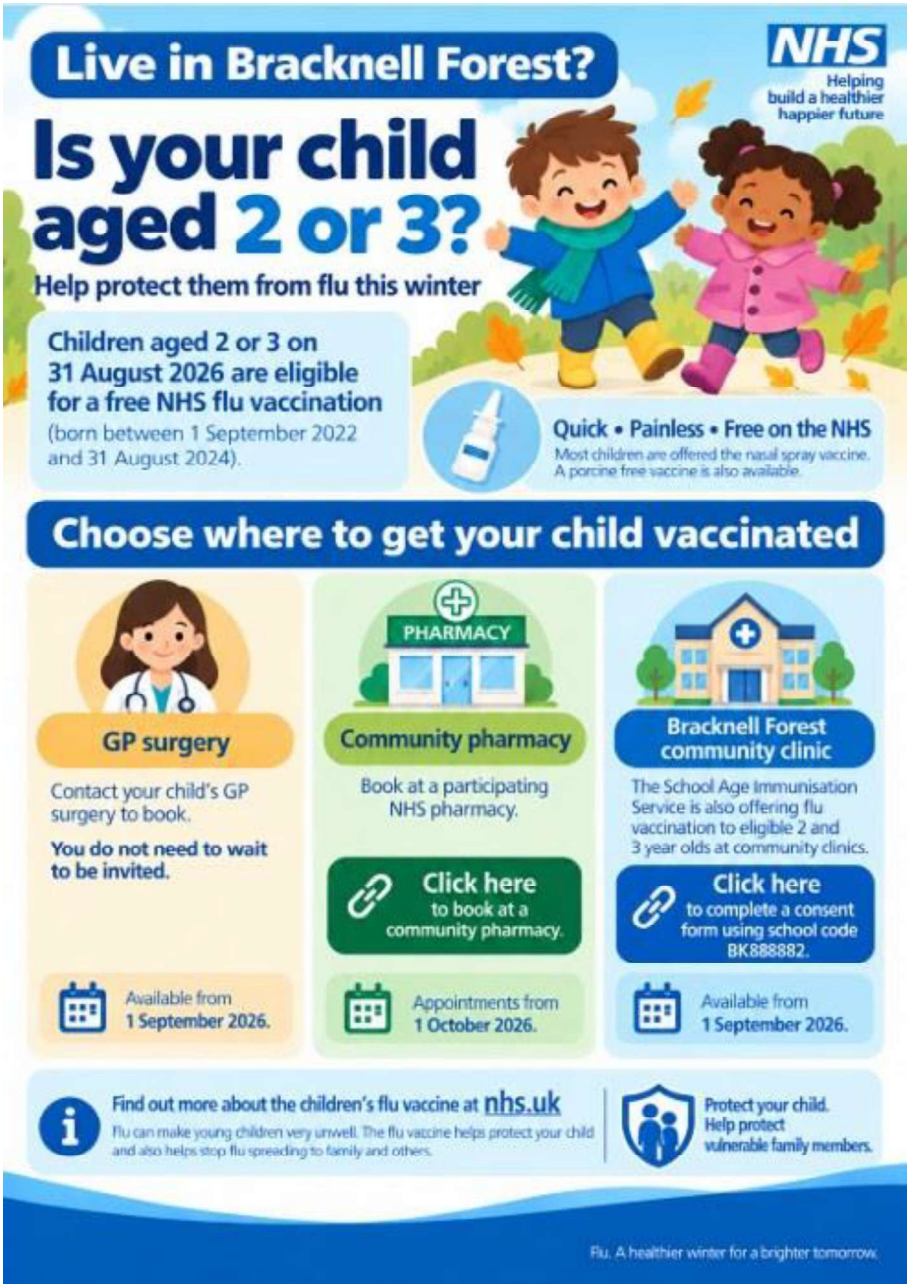
Join us for this parent information session to learn more about the BeyondAutism Fast Responder programme and how it can support families. The session will focus on understanding the functions of behaviour, exploring the behaviour cycle, and identifying practical, proactive strategies to better support your child at home and in everyday situations.

Through discussion and examples, parents will gain a deeper understanding of why behaviours may occur, how to recognise patterns and triggers, and how to respond in ways that promote positive outcomes and reduce anxiety or distress. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about accessing support through the Fast Responder service.

The links to teams online sessions are on the ParentMail.

2 & 3 Year Old Flu Vaccine

Please find a leaflet below from Bracknell NHS team regarding flu vaccines for children aged 2 & 3.



Nursery Request

Nursery would love any donations of small/pea shingle please for an activity they are planning. If you have a leftover bag, please contact the office on office@nshprimary.co.uk[1] to arrange the donation.

[1] mailto:office@nshprimary.co.uk

Term Dates 2026-27

NEW SCOTLAND HILL TERM & HOLIDAY DATES 2026 – 2027

Autumn Term 2026

Tuesday 1st September	**INSET Day for Staff**
Wednesday 2nd September	8.50am Autumn term begins
Friday 23rd October	3.20pm break up for half term
Mon 26th Oct- Fri 30th Oct	**HALF TERM HOLIDAY**
Monday 2nd November	8.50am children return to school
Thursday 17th December	2.15pm end of term
Friday 18th December	**INSET Day for Staff**
Mon 21st Dec – Friday 1st Jan	**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY**

Spring Term 2027

Monday 4th January	**INSET Day for Staff**
Tuesday 5th January	8.50am Spring term begins
Friday 12th February	3.20pm break up for half term
Mon 15th – Fri 19th Feb	**HALF TERM HOLIDAY**
Monday 22nd February	8.50am children return to school
Thursday 25th March	2.15pm end of term
Fri 26th Mar – Fri 9th April	**EASTER HOLIDAY**

Summer Term 2027

Monday 12th April	8.50am Summer term begins
Monday 3rd May	**May Day bank holiday**
Thursday 27th May	3.20pm break up for half term
Friday 28th May	**INSET Day for Staff**
Mon 31st May - Fri 4th June	**HALF TERM HOLIDAY**
Monday 7th June	8.50am children return to school
Friday 9th July	**INSET Day for Staff**
Wednesday 21st July	2.15pm end of term

Community News



Footlights Drama Club Half-Term Fun

Footlights Drama Club which we hold on a Friday afternoon have a 3-Day holiday school during the October half-term. More details below.

footlights Bracknell
ACT • SING • DANCE

Half Term Holiday School



27th - 29th October 2026

THREE DAYS of ACTING, SINGING and DANCE for 5 - 16-year-olds

Brakenhale School, Rectory Ln, Bracknell RG12 7BA

WhatsApp or Call 07771 832 190

Bracknell@footlightstheatre.co.uk

SCAN ME

www.footlightstheatre.co.uk

*£124 with wraparound care

Key Information



Useful Links

School Website: Home | New Scotland Hill Primary School and Nursery[2]

Kids R Us Website: kidzrus.uk | After school and holiday kids clubs in Berkshire.[3]

Brenda's School Uniform: New Scotland Hill – Brenda's Schoolwear (brendas.co.uk)[4]

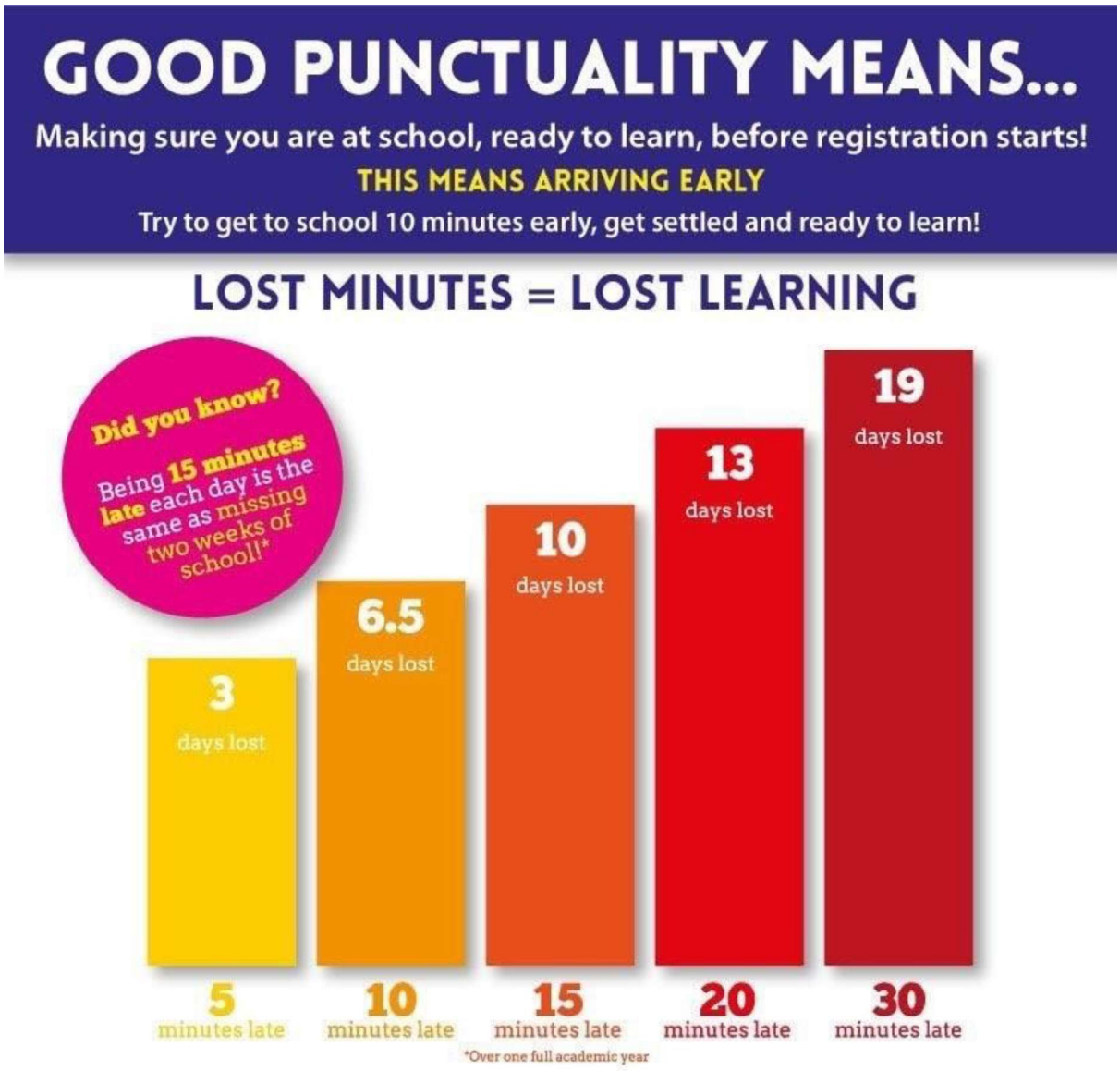
Bracknell Forest Council: Bracknell Forest Council | (bracknell-forest.gov.uk)[5]

Bracknell Forest School Admissions: School admissions | Bracknell Forest Council (bracknell-forest.gov.uk)[6]

[2] https://www.newscotlandhill.co.uk/
[3] https://www.kidzrus.uk/
[4] https://www.brendas.co.uk/collections/new-scotland-hill
[5] https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/
[6] https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-admissions

Attendance and Punctuality




GOOD PUNCTUALITY MEANS...
Making sure you are at school, ready to learn, before registration starts!
THIS MEANS ARRIVING EARLY
Try to get to school 10 minutes early, get settled and ready to learn!
LOST MINUTES = LOST LEARNING
Did you know?
Being 15 minutes late each day is the same as missing two weeks of school!*
3 days lost
6.5 days lost
10 days lost
13 days lost
19 days lost
5 minutes late
10 minutes late
15 minutes late
20 minutes late
30 minutes late
*Over one full academic year

Parking


THINK BEFORE YOU PARK
YOU COULD ENDANGER A CHILD'S LIFE
BE CONSIDERATE TO OUR NEIGHBOURS





We Are Here to Help...

We appreciate the challenging times being faced by all in our community.

If you require any support, we are here to help and to offer a listening ear.

Mrs Lister can be contacted directly (jlister@nshprimary.co.uk[7]) as our family support link.

Mr Brill, as our Bursar, (bursar@nshprimary.co.uk[8]) is always there to support with accessing financial support, particularly regarding the Pupil Premium Grant.

I can be contacted directly (head@nshprimary.co.uk[9]) as my door is always open if you are experiencing financial difficulty impacting on you and your children, to explain the support available in school.

We also have a school foodbank; if you wish to access this, please contact a member of staff on the email addresses above (whoever you feel most comfortable doing this through) and we can make arrangements to help. All requests are dealt with confidentially and discretely.

[7] mailto:jlister@nshprimary.co.uk
[8] mailto:bursar@nshprimary.co.uk
[9] mailto:head@nshprimary.co.uk

Safeguarding

New Scotland Hill Primary School and Nursery is fully committed to the safeguarding of all of our children and young people.

Our Designated Lead for Safeguarding and Child Protection is:

- *Simon Cotterill, Headteacher*

Our Deputy Designated Leads for Safeguarding and Child Protection are:

- *Sarah Brown, Deputy Headteacher*
- *Catherine Wells, SENCO*
- *Sandeep Dhariwal, EYFS Lead*
- *Jennie Lister, Inclusion, Nurture and Family Support*

If you have a safeguarding concern regarding a child, please contact one of our Designated Leads immediately.

Should you be concerned about the immediate safety of a child outside of school, please either call the MASH team: 01344 352005 or the Police: 999 if you believe a child is at risk.

Contact Us



Website: www.newscotlandhill.co.uk[10]

Instagram: www.instagram.com/newscothill[11]

Facebook: New Scotland Hill Primary School & Nursery - Home | Facebook[12]

Email: secretary@nshprimary.co.uk[13] or office@nshprimary.co.uk[14]

Phone: 01344 772184

[10] https://www.newscotlandhill.co.uk/
[11] https://www.instagram.com/newscothill
[12] https://www.facebook.com/NewScotHill/
[13] mailto:secretary@nshprimary.co.uk
[14] mailto:office@nshprimary.co.uk