



# Newsletter

John T. Rice Infant and Nursery School



## Autumn (2) 2024

### A message from Mrs. Bennett...

Welcome to the autumn term newsletter!

As we prepare for the Christmas holidays, we have so much to be grateful for here at JTR. We have had a productive first term of the year, with plenty of learning and fun along the way. There have been many new children join both our nursery and main school this term and we have been so pleased with how they have settled into our school community.

The children have had so many fun, interacting experiences this term, such as Diwali dancing, a trip to Mansfield Museum, a visit from Princess Parties, a walk to the woods, Forest School sessions and visits to the library and allotment. Thank you to parents/carers who have helped on the various trips and visits and for those who have helped with our PTA and the various events they have organised over the term.

I have been impressed with the overall behaviour in school this term; it is often easy to forget that the children are still very young. We have high expectations of all the children in school both academically and in terms of their behaviour and the children are a real credit to you all. Thank you for working together with school to create this positive learning environment.

We have so much to look forward to moving into the spring term. Lots of new learning has been planned and you will find links to the details of this on our school website. We return to school after the holidays on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Christmas and thank you for your ongoing support and kindness.

Mrs Bennett

### DIARY DATES

Diary dates are attached for the first week in January. We will try and send out a weekly snip each Friday for the next week but please look out for Weduc messages from your child's class teacher.

Date	Event
<b>Week beginning 6.01.2025</b>	
6.01.2025	Start back to school
6.01.2025	Football club Mansfield Town – Open to all classes in main school 3:15pm – 4:00pm Sign up on WEDUC (Priority given to children who have not done a club this school year)
7.01.2025	Dance Club – Open to all classes in main school 3:15pm – 4:00pm Sign up on WEDUC (Priority given to children who have not done a club this school year)
9.01.2025	Craft club – open to Lemurs 3:15pm – 4:00pm Sign up on WEDUC (Priority given to children who have not done a club this school year)
10.01.2025	Hockey club Parrots & Tigers –3:15 – 4:00pm Sign up on WEDUC (Priority given to children who have not done a club this school year)

### Ways we communicate

We have moved away from sending any paper letters home as a way to reduce costs and become more eco-friendly. Please ensure you download and regularly check the following for information about school and your child.

**WEDUC** – Newsfeed will have whole school messages and class messages. Things to remember etc.

**FACEBOOK PAGE** – Celebrations and photos of learning in school.

**WEBSITE CLASS PAGE** – What your child is learning.

If you need help with any of these please speak to someone in the office. 😊

**A message from Nursery & Mrs. Renshaw**

Panda class have had a busy half term. The children have been learning about celebrations, including Bonfire night, Diwali and Christmas. The children always enjoy listening to stories, and this term the story of the Gingerbread Man really captured their imagination, especially when we baked real gingerbread men biscuits. The children are so settled now in Panda class and play well together. In the last couple of weeks, we have been taking them to the school hall, preparing for the Christmas concert, and Mrs Bennett always comments how sensible the Panda class children are.

Next term the children will be learning about people who help us at home, at school and in the community. Having had one introductory visit to Forest school, the children are really looking forward to more visits in the new year. Thank you Mrs Renshaw & Ms Scales.

**A message from Mrs. Scotney (FS leader) and the Foundation stage staff**

What a busy, fun filled half term we've had in F2! We are so proud of the children performing in their Xmas concert, they really sang their hearts out. Next half term in F2 our learning will be based around the topic of 'Our Wonderful World'. Our special stories will be The Naughty Bus, The Koala Who Could, and The Great Race. The children will be going for a ride around Clipstone on a big red London bus. We will be having a surprise friend from Australia come to stay with us. We are also excited to learn about how people celebrate Chinese New Year and will be tasting Chinese food and taking part in a Chinese Dancing workshop. In PE we will be starting our new Balance Bike sessions. The children will continue to complete their Rainbow Challenges each week to help them to become confident, independent learners. The Foundation 2 Team wish you a very merry Xmas and we look forward to seeing you all in the new year. Mrs. Scotney & the FS2 staff.

**A message from Mrs. Smith KS1 leader/DHT**

What a busy half term we have had!!! The children have worked so hard, and we have loved seeing you in the classrooms to show you their work and join in with our Christmas crafts. We were all so proud of them performing their Christmas Nativity and we hope that you enjoyed watching.

Our topic in Spring 1 2025 is "Our wonderful world". For our English lessons, our texts will be Oi Duck Billed Platypus and Wombat goes walkabout. Our Geography work will focus on learning about the continents and oceans and then comparing England to Australia. We are looking forward to having an "Australia Day" to learn all about the country and it's culture. We will also be learning how to play the didgeridoo!! For our artwork, we shall be looking at the aboriginal artist Judy Watson Napangardi. The children will be taught the paint skills needed to recreate her famous patterned pictures. Look out for photographs of them on each class's website pages!!!

Thank you Mrs. Smith & the KS1 staff



## Attendance

As a parent myself, I understand the challenges of making sure children are at school every day. I am realistic in terms of understanding that when children first start school, they often pick up bugs and need short spells away from school. As you may have seen the DfE (Department for Education) have made it mandatory from September 2024, that all schools submit daily attendance registers to them. They will look at attendance on a school level and individual pupil level. The DfE class good attendance as 100%. I know this is not feasible for all children.

There is a reviewed attendance policy in that has been in place from September 2025 for all pupils at JTR, within this there is DfE guidance on penalty notices for holidays. Previously we had to inform Notts County Council of any holidays of 3+ days but to be in line with new guidance it is now 5 days from September. It is vital you read our attendance policy, as it will explain the local authority's rulings on penalty notices as this is changing.

I would like to make parents/carers aware that school do not receive any of the money from a penalty notice, it is the local authority's decision to prosecute, and school are following the guidance from both the local authority and the DfE. If you have concerns about the amount of time your child is missing from school, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mrs. Laverty, our attendance leader, and we can work together on improving this.

Thanks Mrs. Laverty

### P.T.A (Parent Teacher Association)

What a fantastic first term we have had with our fundraising events for the school. Your dedication and commitment to the school makes it all worthwhile. The PTA team are volunteers who commit some of their spare time to make these events possible and are greatly appreciative that you make them successful.

Many thanks to Jade Swann, Paigan Laverty & Janine Price.

All monies raised at the events is for the benefit of the children.

We have held various events including the school Halloween discos, decorate a pumpkin & the Christmas Fayre, which is our biggest fundraising event so far this year. The total raised this year so far is in excess £2,000, which has been amazing, and we thank you for all your support. We purchase various items for the children throughout the year from the money raised for example, well done assembly prizes, bear hunt bears, attendance and reading awards and then save up for a bigger project.

Our last big project that we saved for was our outdoor reading shed & spare parts shed which is costing £5,500. This year we have spent some school fund on wooden building blocks for classes and other classroom resources.

**New members to the team are always welcome.  
If you would like to join us, please let the office know.**



### Lost property

We seem to have an enormous amount of lost property every week. Please can you put your child's name in their clothes, wellies, coats etc. so we can return lost items? Please also look out at the weekly lost property post on Facebook!

### Booking after school club or breakfast club

Please can you make sure you have booked these clubs at least 24 hours before the date you want? The clubs are busy, and spaces **MUST** be booked in advance to ensure we have the right number of staff.



### INSET DAYS FOR 2025-2026

INSET days remaining for this school year were agreed between the Infant and Junior school.

They are as follows:

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2026

**NB: The last day of the school year 2025-2026 is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

Thank you to our dedicated band of parent/carer helpers who really help us out in class.  
Anyone wanting to help please let us know!

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