

INSPIRATIONAL LEARNING ACADEMIES TRUST



JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year to everyone from the Inspirational Learning Academies Trust!

What a start it has been with lots of snow!

We trust that you all had a wonderful break with family and friends and those of you celebrating Christmas, had a magical time too.

This term sees lots of exciting opportunities for our children as part of their many learning experiences.

Yours sincerely

All the Team at the Inspirational Learning Academies Trust

Term Dates for This Term

School closes for half term on Thursday 12th February 2026

We reopen after the holiday on Monday 23rd February 2026.

The end of Term is Friday 27th March 2026. The summer Term starts on Monday 13th April 2026.



NURTURE PROVISION AT NORTON

We are about to commence an extension project at Norton which may cause some disruption to the rear of the building. The new extension to an existing classroom will become the Nursery which puts Nursery and Reception next door to each other. This will enable them to have a combined EYFS playground once the building is completed. The current Nursery classroom will then be transformed into another Nurture provision to serve our children requiring this service from Norton and Whitfield.

NEW SERVING HATCH AT WHITFIELD

During February half term and the week before we shall be changing the kitchen at Whitfield to provide a new serving hatch for the children. From Monday 9th to Thursday 12th February 2026, there will be no cooking facilities whilst the contractors start the work. Sandwiches and soup will be provided to the children for these 4 days. When they return after half term, they will have a fabulous new serving hatch to visit and meals will be as normal.

OPENING HOURS IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Please note that the school office closes at 3.45pm on a Friday. It will be open from 8am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday.

Please do not telephone the school office after 3.45pm on a Friday as your call will not be answered and we do not have a voicemail.

Educational Visits During the Spring Term 2026.

This term sees plenty more Educational Visits, including our international ones.

Spring 1

Year 1 to Middleport pottery Museum
Year 4 to Chester and the Dewa Museum
Year 6 to Staffordshire Regiment Museum
Year 6 Ski Visit to Italy for 5days

Spring 2

Reception to Amerton Farm
Year 1 to Peak wildlife Centre
Year 2 to Deep Hayes Country Park
Year 3 to Creswell Crags
Year 3 to have a visiting Shakespeare Theatre
Year 5 to Warner Bros. Harry Potter Studio Tour
Year 5 Ski Visit to Italy for 5 days



Phonics Afternoon For Parents/Carers of Children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1

The phonics leader on each site will be hosting a fun afternoon all about phonics and teaching the skill of early reading. All parents of children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 are welcome to join on the following dates.

Monday 26th January 2026 Whitfield Valley 2.15pm to 3pm
Thursday 29th January 2026 Norton Le Moors 2.15pm to 3pm
Thursday 5th February 2026 Newstead 2.15pm to 3pm

All sessions will take place in the school hall on each site.



All Aboard Learning

Important dates for Year 1, Year 2 and Year 6 children

Year 1

All children in this year group take part in the Phonics screening, this is not a test and purely identifies the knowledge of phonics children have before moving to Year 2. This takes place w/c: 8th June 2026.

Year 4

All children in Year 4 will take part in the MTC - Multiplication Tables Check during w/c 1st June 2026 and w/c 8th June 2026

Year 6

Year 6 SATs are w/c: 11th May 2026

Monday 11th May 2026 Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

Tuesday 12th May 2026 - Reading Comprehension

Wednesday 13th May 2026 - Maths Paper 1 and Paper 2

Thursday 14th May 2026 - Maths paper 3

PE KIT UPDATE

The kit for EYFS and KS1 has arrived and is now being sent to classes. Your child's personal pe kit will be sent home as their new one arrives. KS2 should be here for the start of the Summer Term 2026.

CHILDRENS MEAL SERVICE



We have decided to move away from the Stoke on Trent City Catering Service and provide our own catering staff to cook for our children.

We are pleased to announce that this has made a saving and we wanted to pass this saving on to you. From the Summer Term we are able to reduce the cost of meals by 50p per day. Nursery Meals will be £2.50 per day, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will remain universally free. Key Stage 2 meals will drop to £3.50 per day.

Once the new inhouse catering team have settled we hope to reduce this cost further. We will keep you updated on this.