



Washingwell Primary School

Tel: 0191 4884400

Email: Admin@washingwell.org.uk

Website: www.washingwell.org.uk



@washingwellsch



@washingwellprimaryschool

Newsletter Number: 1

Date: Friday 6 September 2024

Attendance

	Mars Nursery	Mars Reception	Jupiter Y1	Venus Y2	Earth Y3	Neptune Y4	Saturn Y5	Mercury Y6
Weekly Attendance %		95.4%	94.9%	95.5%	92.2%	100%	95.1%	90.9%
Whole School attendance %	94.8%							

News

Welcome!

Welcome back to all our pupils, parents and staff and a very warm welcome to our new children and families who join us across school. We have had a super first week with all children settling well and engaging fully in school life. We have a busy term ahead so please check out our [Forthcoming Events and Key Dates](#) section at the end of the letter.

We also welcome some new staff this year:



Mr Nicholson
Year 2 Teacher



Mr Sayers
Year 4 Teacher



Mrs Howey
Teaching Assistant



Miss Kappen
Trainee Teacher

We have also had a few change of roles for some of our staff who now join the Senior Leadership Team



Mrs Erskine – Acting Deputy Head



Mrs Mustard – SENDCo

As we have a 'free-flow' entry system at the beginning of day and collection system at end of day, we are conscious that you may not always be able to speak to a teacher regarding your child. If you need to pass on information, ask questions or inform teachers of anything at all to do with your child, you can contact them using the following email:

Mr Phillips	Mars@washingwell.org.uk
Mrs Mustard	Jupiter@washingwell.org.uk
Mr Nicholson	Venus@washingwell.org.uk
Miss Tweedy	Earth@washingwell.org.uk
Mr Sayers	Neptune@washingwell.org.uk
Mrs Erskine/Mrs Bridger	Saturn@washingwell.org.uk
Miss Johnson	Mercury@washingwell.org.uk

Urgent and daily queries should still be directed to the school office via admin@washingwell.org.uk or by telephone on 0191 4884400.

Whizz Kids bookings must be completed via the Operoo form each **Thursday**. If you need to book your child in after that then please use the dedicated email Whizzkids@washingwell.org.uk. This email will be checked each morning between **7.30am – 8.30am** and a reply sent. We can only guarantee available places for those children who have booked through the correct procedure via Operoo. Anything requested outside of the Thursday deadline will not be guaranteed.

Attendance and Punctuality

Our school day is 8.50am - 3.20pm

Our school gates open at 8.30am and 3.00pm. All parents and children must wait on the Key Stage 1 yard until Mrs Hall and Mrs Tough come out at 8.40am. Once they are out, Key Stage 2 children will be directed to go into school via the car-park gate. **Children must not be left on the school yard unsupervised prior to 8.40am.**

Any child arriving after 8.50am will have to enter the school via the main entrance and will be classed as late. Can I ask that you arrive on time so as to ensure that your child does not miss vital learning time. It is important that they start the school day in a positive light, not anxious because they are late.

Please ensure that you report any absences by 9.15am on the day of absence by telephoning school on 0191 4884400 or alternatively complete the form **Reporting Pupil Absence** via Operoo.

You should have all received our new **Attendance Policy September 2024**, via Operoo, which has been reviewed and updated in line with Government's new policy on attendance in schools. Please ensure that you read and respond accordingly. Thank you.

Water Bottles

It is vital that each child is provided with a named water bottle to bring in to school each day to ensure they remain hydrated. Bottles should be filled with **water only** (no juice) and if required, can be refilled during the day from stations around school.

Playtime Snacks

Our children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 all receive a daily snack provided through the Government Schools Fruit Scheme therefore they do not need to bring in a snack from home.

Children in Key Stage 2 can, if they choose, bring in either a piece of fresh fruit or vegetables. As we have children and adults in school with **severe nut allergies**, if a child brings in anything other than this then they will be asked to keep it until hometime.

Similarly, if a child brings in any product that may contain nuts in their packed lunch, this item will be removed from the child, an alternative provided if needed and parents informed. I trust I have your full support in following these guidelines so as to ensure our whole school community remains safe.

This will come in with immediate effect as of **Monday 9 September**.

PE

All children should come to school on a Friday in their Flex-it Friday uniform (hoodie, jogging bottoms and trainers).

PE sessions will also take place on the following days and children must come to school dressed in their PE/Flex-it-Friday uniform.

	P.E.
Jupiter	Monday & Friday
Venus	Thursday & Friday
Earth	Tuesday & Friday
Neptune	Wednesday & Friday
Saturn	Friday Tuesday – Swimming
Mercury	Tuesday & Friday

Uniform

Can you please ensure your child's name is in all items of clothing. We have already had many items left in lost property and it is only week 1!

Homework

Homework will commence on Friday 13 September. Information regarding this will be sent to all parents on Monday.

Social Media

You may be aware that we use Facebook to keep you up to date with your child's learning and to send information/notifications about our school. We warmly welcome positive, constructive and informative comments on the posts that we add.

Should you have any questions or queries about our school or your child's education, please contact your child's class teacher so that we can discuss it directly with you.

Admissions to Reception / Year 7 in September 2025

If your child is due to start Reception or Year 7 in September 2025, the application process enabling you to choose a school for your child will open on Monday 9 September 2024. Logon to.. www.gateshead.gov.uk/schooladmissions to complete the online application.

The Year 7 Secondary School Deadline is 31 October 2024.

The Reception Primary School Deadline is 15 January 2025.

Prospective Parents for Nursery/Reception 2025

If you know of parents who have children who will be starting either Reception or Nursery in September 2025, school tours can be arranged via our school website; www.washingwell.org.uk

Whickham School will be holding open evenings for Year 6 parents. Events will take place on the dates and times below. Please note that there are two separate events on each date which you can sign up for on the Whickham School website.

- Thursday 19 September at 5.00pm and 7.00pm
- Tuesday 24 September at 5.00pm and 7.00pm

Tuck Shop

Tuck Shop will recommence next week:

Key Stage 2 on Thursday lunchtime,
Early Years & Key Stage 1 on Friday lunchtime.

Asda Rewards Cashpot for Schools

Asda have a new Cashpot scheme which we would like you to sign up to. It is really simple, just follow the steps below.



Asda Rewards Cashpot for Schools

[Cashpot for Schools Terms & Conditions](#) [Asda Rewards terms & Conditions](#)

1

Download and sign up to the Asda Rewards app

Opt into the Cashpot for Schools campaign and select a specific primary school or select 'Schools in Need'.

2

Shop in store across Asda and George, or online at Asda.com

Asda will donate a percentage of your shop to your chosen school each time you shop and scan.

3

Asda does the rest

The money raised will be donated through Parentkind to schools to spend on what they need most. This won't affect your own Cashpot earn.

Once opted in and selected a school, we will add £1 to your chosen schools Cashpot to help get them started.

Each school will get an additional £50 added to their Cashpot, after at least one customer has shopped and scanned their Rewards app.



Forthcoming Events and Key Dates

Planned Staff Training and Arranged Class Cover for the week ahead.

Staff Member	Class	Date	Cover
None			

Monday 9 September 2024

Primary & Secondary Admissions open

Tuesday 17 September 2024

Year 6 visit Whickham School – pm

Monday 23 September 2024

Cycle to School week – House Challenge (information on next week's newsletter)

Wednesday 25 September 2024

Reception Vision Screening 9.00am

Wednesday 2 October 2024

Year 5 visit Whickham School – pm

Thursday 5 October 2024

National poetry Day

Thursday 10 October 2024

World Mental Health Day

Monday 14 October 2024

Poetry week in school

Tuesday 15 October 2024

School photographs – individual and family groups

Thursday 22 October 2024

Harvest Assembly 9.15pm – parents welcome (more information to follow)

Friday 25 October 2024

School closes for half term

Tuesday 5 November 2024

8.40am – school reopens to all pupils.

Wednesday 6 November 2024

Year 6 visit Whickham School – pm

Monday 11 November 2024

Anti-bullying week in school

Monday 11 November & Tuesday 12 November 2024

Parent consultation evenings 3.00 -6.00pm

Friday 15 November 2024

Children in Need – more information to follow

Wednesday 20 November 2024

SEND review meetings

Monday 25 November 2024

Assessment week in school

Monday 2 December 2024

Polar Express day – more information to follow

Flu immunisations

Tuesday 3 December 2024

Year 6 visit Whickham School – pm

Monday 9 December 2024

Christmas lunch & Christmas jumper day

Tuesday 10 December 2024

Key Stage 2 Christmas performance – 9.30am and 2.15pm

Wednesday 11 December 2024

Music workshops - am

Thursday 12 December 2024

Early Years & Key Stage 1 Christmas performance – 9.30am and 2.15pm

Friday 13 December 2024

Neptune Christmas party 1.15pm

Monday 16 December 2024

Earth Christmas party 1.15pm

Tuesday 17 December 2024

Jupiter Christmas party 9.15am

Venus Christmas party 1.15pm

Wednesday 18 December 2024

Mars Christmas party 9.15am

Saturn Christmas party 1.15pm

Thursday 19 December 2024

Mercury Christmas party 1.15pm

Friday 22 December 2024

Carols around the Christmas tree 2.00pm – parents invited

School closes for Christmas holidays 3.20pm - No Whizz Kids after school session

Monday 6 January 2025

School re-opens to all pupils 8.40am

*A reminder that we are a Safeguarding School and we have a duty to pass on any concerns to
Children's Services*