



# Washingwell Primary School

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 @washingwellprimaryschool

**Newsletter Number: 16**

**Date: Friday 8 January 2026**

## Attendance:

	Mars Nursery	Mars Reception	Jupiter Y1	Venus Y2	Earth Y3	Neptune Y4	Saturn Y5	Mercury Y6
Weekly Attendance %	95.7%	97.1%	98.1%	99.6%	92.9%	99.3%	100%	99%
Whole School attendance %	96.7%							

## News

### Happy New Year!

Welcome back to a very busy and exciting 2026! We have lots to look forward to over the coming months: after school clubs, school visits, showcases, sporting events, residential visits, World Book day, Spring assembly and much, much more. Please take a look at the [Forthcoming Events and Key Dates](#) for event dates to add to your calendar.

### This Weeks Achievers are...

#### Achievement for All

School value: Healthy

Theme: Positive Attitude

**Mars:** Maisie Heartfield

**Earth:** Max Telford

**Jupiter:** Amelia Campbell

**Neptune:** Jax Morrison

**Venus:** Finley Bain

**Saturn:** Jenna-Urwin Myers

**Mercury:** George Hamilton

### A warm welcome



Miss Todd, joins our team of dedicated support staff, as a Teaching Assistant. She has previously worked at Gibside Specialist School so comes to us with a wealth of SEND experience.

She will be working across school supporting children in a variety of ways and also supporting in Whizz Kids afternoon sessions until our new provision is in place.

I hope you join me in wishing her a warm Washingwell welcome. I am sure she will be a great asset to our team

Mrs Gardner will be absent from work as of Monday 12 January for an extended period of time. In her absence we welcome Miss Taz who will be working in our school office Monday – Wednesday, and Mrs Darby Thursday & Friday. Please be patient with them as they get to learn the ropes of a busy school office. Thank you.

## January House Challenge

Our House Challenge this month is linked to the Blazing the Trail programme which our school participates in alongside all other Gateshead schools.

Gateshead School Sport Partnership are inviting pupils to use their creativity and design skills to produce a cover for this year's dance festival. The festival will take place at The Glasshouse International Centre for Music on 24 and 25 March 2026.

Your child will bring home a design sheet tonight which must be completed and returned to school by **Wednesday 21 January 2026**. This challenge is something that each child can do and therefore we expect and look forward to receiving 179 returned designs. Good luck!

## Forest School

All children across school we be participating in Forest School sessions this term. With this in mind, please take a look at the information below as to appropriate clothing to wear.



# Dressing For Forest School

Forest School happens in all weathers and in all seasons, so being dressed appropriately is essential.

It is important that the clothes the children wear will protect them from the weather and activities as well as protect them against the natural environment such as insect bites and stinging nettles.

Therefore, in all seasons the children must wear long trousers and in the summer hats are essential.

In colder months layering clothes and socks will be the most beneficial along with boots, a warm coat and hats and gloves. Waterproof trousers and coats if you have them.

Take a look at the pictures which demonstrate how best to layer clothes and advise you on what the children need in colder weather.



## After School Clubs

We are offering three after school activity clubs this term which are available to book via Parentpay. All clubs run 3.30pm – 4.30pm.

Club	Year Groups	Day	No. of spaces	No. of sessions	Ran by	Cost per session	Total
Dance	Y1 - 6	Friday	40	9 sessions	External Company	£5.00	£45.00
KS1 Art	Y1 & Y2	Wednesday	10	5 sessions	Mrs Lowes	£3.00	£15.00
KS2 Art	Y3 -Y6	Thursday	12	5 sessions	Miss Jackson	£3.00	£15.00

Deadline for booking clubs is Dance Club 15 January, Key Stage 1 & 2 Art Clubs 20 January.

We are busy working on our offer for the rest of the academic year when we will be able to make use of our outdoor spaces.

## Whizz Kids

Following on from Newsletter 14 in which I informed you that we are working with Branches who will be taking over our before and after school provision, Sharon and her team will be visiting our after-school provision on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday next week to get to know the children and environment. This is also a great opportunity for parents to meet the new team, put names to faces and ask any questions you may have. We are hoping that whilst we wait for all the legal aspects to be finalised, Branches staff will visit often, building positive relationships with children and parents so that when the club does transfer over, it is seamless.

If your child is in Whizz Kids on any of these nights, please introduce yourself to the new team. They really do want to get to know you and work alongside school to make our before and after school provision great.

## Class Overviews Spring Term

Today you should receive your child's class overview for Spring term. These can also be found on our Class Pages on our school website <https://www.washingwell.org.uk/page/?title=Class+Pages&pid=29>

## Showcases

This term sees the return of our class Showcases which are always popular with children and parents. Year 1 – 6 Showcases will start at 9.15am in the main school hall. Mars Showcase will be held at 1.45pm in their classroom. Please see below dates for each class:

Mars	Wednesday 25 March
Jupiter	Tuesday 24 March
Venus	Tuesday 17 March
Earth	Thursday 19 March
Neptune	Wednesday 25 March
Saturn	Monday 16 March
Mercury	Wednesday 4 March

## Raffle Prizes

We have a few unclaimed prizes from our Christmas raffle:

Bike - Green ticket 871-875 (*Linda*)

Fris Vodka - Blue ticket 806-810

Bar set – Brown ticket 111-115 (*Judith*)

Prizes are available for collection at the school office. Thank you.

## School Meals

We have been informed by Gateshead School Meals Service that as of 1 April 2026, there will be a small increase in price for school meals as follows:

Pupil Meal: £3.10 (Reception – Year 6)

Nursery Meal: £2.45

## Community Gateshead Uniform Scheme



**Who are we?**

We are a registered charity, operating in Gateshead West since 2021.

We provide good quality preloved and brand new school uniforms to our community from our site in Blaydon - St Cuthbert's Community Hall NE21 5PT.

We operate on a pay-what-you-feel basis.

We sell surplus stock on Vinted as gwusne - please buy online if it is easier.

**2026 Jan/Feb Markets...**

Fri 2nd Jan 3:30pm to 5pm.  
Sat 10th Jan 9:30am to 11am.  
Sat 17th Jan 9:30am to 11am.  
Mon 26th Jan 6pm to 7pm.  
Fri 6th Feb 3:30pm to 5pm.  
Sat 14th Feb 9:30am to 11am.  
Sat 21st Feb 9:30am to 11am.  
Mon 23rd Feb 6pm to 7pm.

**Did you know?**

We now have a GWUS donation bin behind Barmoor Hub (NE40 3AG) near Ryton. Yay! It is right next to the skate park.



[www.facebook.com/gatesheadwestprelovedschooluniform](https://www.facebook.com/gatesheadwestprelovedschooluniform)  
<https://www.gatesheadwestuniformscheme.org.uk>  
contact@GatesheadWestUniformScheme.org.uk  
and find us as awusne on Vinted

Happy New Year from the Gateshead West Uniform Scheme!

Please note that there is a pre-loved school uniform market THIS Saturday (10th Jan) 9:30am to 11am at our Blaydon site. We are based right behind Morrisons supermarket, next to the big blue building. The door we use is round the back of St Cuthbert's Community Hall, NE21 5PT.

We have lots of branded uniform, plus generic items e.g. school trousers, shirts, skirts, polo tops etc, as well as fancy dress items, winter coats, warm hats, welly boots, trainers and school shoes.

Everything is pay as you feel. So please come along to help save the planet and to save some money at the same time.

Hoping to see you at a market soon,

Lucy (Gateshead West Uniform Scheme Trustee and Volunteer)

## Whickham Cricket Club



**firstmortgage.co.uk**  
free impartial mortgage advice

# Whickham CC Junior Winter Coaching

Come along in get involved with cricket at your local community cricket club .  
Equipment available for use.

All sessions at Emmanuel College, Lobley Hill  
Starts Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January  
(8 sessions in total)

1pm -2pm Mixed U9 and U11 Girls  
2pm -3pm Under 11s  
3pm -4pm Under 13s and 15s

£30 for all sessions or £5 a week

Two free weeks for new players  
(then £25 or £5 per week)

Contact Luke Newns for information  
07784179650



## Swimming Lessons

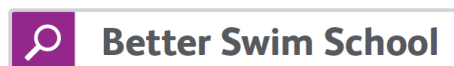


**TAKE THE PLUNGE INTO WEEKLY LESSONS**

Give your child the gift of confidence and safety in and around the water with Better Swim School.

**50% OFF INITIAL PAYMENT**

Join weekly lessons with Better Swim School and get 50 % off your first payment with code SCHOOL50.



Terms and conditions apply. Offer open to new customers only for school children aged between 4 - 12 years. Offer ends on 07/08/2026. Full terms at [better.org.uk/offer-terms](https://better.org.uk/offer-terms). Better is a registered trademark and trading name of GLL (Greenwich Leisure Limited), a charitable social enterprise and registered society under the Co-operative & Community Benefit & Societies Act 2014 registration no. 27793R. Registered office: Middlegate House, The Royal Arsenal, London, SE18 6SX. Inland Revenue Charity no. XR43398.



**BETTER**

### Reminders

#### Packed lunches

Please remember that our school is a nut-free school. We have noticed that some children have been having food in their packed lunches which do contain nuts ie Nutella sandwiches, Bueuno bars, satay chicken and pesto sauces. All these foods contain 'hidden' nuts and therefore should not be brought into school.

#### Admissions to Reception in September 2026

If your child is due to start Reception in September 2026, the application process enabling you to choose a school for your child opened on Monday 8 September 2025. Log-on to complete the online application.

The Reception Primary School Deadline is 15 January 2026.

#### Prospective Parents for Nursery/Reception 2026

If you know of parents who have children who will be starting either Reception or Nursery in September 2026, school tours can be arranged via our school website [www.washingwell.org.uk](http://www.washingwell.org.uk)

#### Parking around school ...

Please think about the safety of all and park away from the school. Thank you for you co-operation and support in keeping our streets a safe place for all.

**'Be cool, park SAFELY away from school'**

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

### Forthcoming Events and Key Dates

#### Wednesday 14 January 2026

Year 6 SATs Parent information session – 5.00pm

#### Wednesday 21 January 2026

Year 5/6 Basketball – 1.15pm Whickham School (teams to be decided)

**Friday 23 January 2026**

Year 3 Forest School Session – pm

**Monday 26 January 2026**

Year 3/4 Basketball – 12.30pm Whickham School (team to be decided)

**Tuesday 27 January 2026**

Year 6 transition event Whickham School – Science – 1.15pm

**Friday 30 January 2026**

Year 4 Forest School – pm

**Monday 9 February 2026**

Children's World Mental Health Week

**Tuesday 10 February 2026**

Safer Internet Day: Too good to be true

**Wednesday 11 February 2026**

Year 5/6 Hockey – 12.30pm Whickham School (team to be decided)

**Monday 16 February 2026**

Year 6 – Whickham School 1.00pm – Legally Blonde performance

**Tuesday 17 February 2026**

Year 5/6 – Northumbria Police: Hate Crimes workshop

**Wednesday 18 February 2026**

Year 5/6 Gateshead School Swimming Gala – 12.30pm Dunston Pool (team to be decided)

**Friday 20 February 2026**

Year 6 Forest School – pm

School closes for half-term holidays – 3.20pm

**Monday 2 March 2026**

Staff training day – school closed to all pupils

**Tuesday 3 March 2026**

School re-opens to all pupils 8.40am

Class photos – full school uniform to be worn

Year 3/4 Quicksticks Hockey – 12.30pm Whickham School (team to be decided)

**Wednesday 4 March 2026**

Year 6 Showcase 9.15am – parents invited

**Thursday 5 March 2026**

World Book Day: Theme Bedtime Stories – more information to follow

**Monday 9 March 2026**

Parent consultations – 3.30pm – 6.00pm all year groups

**Tuesday 10 March 2026**

Parent consultations – 3.30pm – 6.00pm all year groups excluding Year 2

**Wednesday 11 March 2026**

Year 2 Football – more information to follow

Parent consultations – 3.30pm – 6.00pm Year 2

**Monday 16 March 2026**

Year 5 Showcase 9.15am – parents invited

Year 6 to Whickham School –pm Legally Blonde performance

**Tuesday 17 March 2026**

Year 2 Showcase 9.15am – parents invited

**Wednesday 18 – Friday 20 March 2026**

Year 6 Residential to Newby Wiske

**Thursday 19 March 2026**

Year 3 Showcase 9.15am – parents invited

**Tuesday 24 March 2026**

Year 1 Showcase 9.15am – parents invited

**Wednesday 25 March 2026**

Year 4 Showcase 9.15am – parents invited

Year 3/4 Sporting Event – 1.15pm Whickham School – more information to follow

Mars Stay 'n' Play' 1.45PM – parents invited

Gateshead Dance Festival – 6pm The Glasshouse

**Thursday 26 March 2026**

Year 3 & 4 Road Safety training – for four consecutive weeks

**Wednesday 1 April 2026**

Spring Assembly 9.15am – Parents invited – more information to follow

**Thursday 2 April 2026**

School closes for Easter holidays 3.20pm

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*A reminder that we are a Safeguarding School and in line with our policies and procedures, we have a duty to pass on any concerns to Children's Services.*

*Designated Safeguard Lead: Mrs Hall. Deputy Safeguard Lead: Mrs Tough; Mrs Erskine, Mrs Mustard, Mrs Gardner.*