



Washingwell Primary School

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 [@washingwellprimaryschool](https://www.facebook.com/washingwellprimaryschool)

Newsletter Number: 17

Date: Friday 16 January 2026

Attendance:

	Mars Nursery	Mars Reception	Jupiter Y1	Venus Y2	Earth Y3	Neptune Y4	Saturn Y5	Mercury Y6
Weekly Attendance %	88.3%	93.2%	100%	98.2%	95.2%	95.6%	98.3%	97.4%
Whole School attendance %	95.6%							

News

This Weeks Achievers are...

Achievement for All

School value: Ambitious

Theme: Using effective vocabulary

Mars: Archie Swanston

Earth: Lily-Rose Potts

Jupiter: Logan Muir

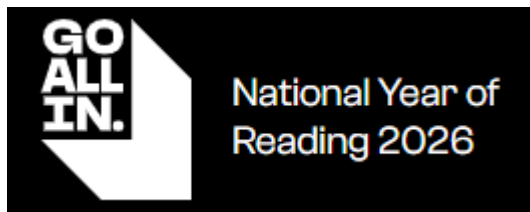
Neptune: Oscar Asheg

Venus: Nakai Eke Matsika

Saturn: Anaiya Martin

Mercury: Sebastian Sharpe

National Year of Reading 2026



This year, 2026, is the National Year of Reading! It is a nationwide campaign designed to celebrate reading and encourage a love of books and stories for children and adults alike. Throughout the year, we will be focusing on a different reading theme each month to help children enjoy reading for pleasure and build positive reading habits.

January - Reading Resolutions

Our focus for January is Reading Resolutions. As the New Year is a great time to think about habits and wellbeing, we will be re-launching the reading-for-pleasure routines already in place in school. Children will be encouraged to make time to read regularly, talk about the books they enjoy and see reading as a relaxing and enjoyable part of their day.

We are looking forward to sharing our reading journey with you over the coming months and celebrating reading together as a school community!

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.

If your child has not done so already, their design needs to 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!

Community

SEND
LEGO
CLUB

Tuesday 20th January

4:00-5:00pm

Chowdene Family Hub

**Children under 12 with additional needs - come along
and join a LEGO building session!
Parents, carers and siblings welcome.**

Contact: familyhubs@gateshead.gov.uk

Phone: 0191 433 5052



Gateshead
FAMILY
HUBS

 **Gateshead**
Council

Easy Fundraising

A big thank you to our amazing supporters who raise free funds for us on #easyfundraising.

If you're not signed up yet, please join today and you can raise free donations for Washingwell Community Primary School - Whickham every time you shop online this year. All the big retailers are ready to make a free donation at no extra cost to you.

Please sign up before midnight 29th January and we could win a £500 donation:

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/washingwellcps/2PV07R/c2s/KIKNhASV/CE941/facebook/>

Reminders

Gateshead West Uniform Scheme



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



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

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.

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

Parking around school ...

Please think about the safety of all and park away from the school. Thank you for your 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
Miss Tweedy Mrs Erskine	Earth Saturn	Monday 19 January 2026 – am – pm	Mrs Dodds
Miss Tweedy	Earth	Thursday 22 January 2026 -am/pm	Mr Darbyshire

Forthcoming Events and Key Dates

Wednesday 21 January 2026

Year 5/6 Basketball – 1.15pm Whickham School

Friday 23 January 2026

Year 3 Forest School Session – pm

Monday 26 January 2026

Year 3/4 Basketball – 12.30pm Whickham School (invited children informed via email)

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

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

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.