



# Washingwell Primary School

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 @washingwellprimaryschool

**Newsletter Number: 24**  
**Date: Friday 13 March 2026**

## Attendance:

	Mars Nursery	Mars Reception	Jupiter Y1	Venus Y2	Earth Y3	Neptune Y4	Saturn Y5	Mercury Y6
Weekly Attendance %	91.9%	95.2%	100%	91.6%	94.7%	98.5%	100%	95.7%
Whole School attendance %	95.8%							

## News

### This Weeks Achievers are...

#### Achievement for All

School value: Respectful

Theme: Polite

**Mars:** Ethan Davidoss

**Earth:** Max Woodhams

**Jupiter:** Emilia Scott

**Neptune:** Aiden Scott

**Venus:** Estella Porter

**Saturn:** Kyo Stanley

**Mercury:** Lacey Shotter

## World Down Syndrome Day



# Together Against Loneliness



World Down Syndrome Day 2026  
 Together Against Loneliness

World Down Syndrome Day was created to celebrate the lives of people with Down syndrome and to make sure they have the same freedoms and opportunities as everybody else.

21 March (21/3) matches the 3 copies of chromosome 21. This is unique to people with Down syndrome. On 21 March each year, Down Syndrome International calls everyone to action with a theme to ensure the human rights of people with Down syndrome and works with members to organise worldwide activities and discussions.

We will be showing our support for this year's theme, **Together against Loneliness**, by wearing colourful socks to school on **Friday 20 March**. It is our way, as a school community, of saying, "Listen up,

the Down syndrome community has something to say!". So, please show your support by wearing the boldest, brightest and most eye-catching socks you can.

## Class Photos

You should have received the proof of your child's class photograph earlier this week. Should you wish to purchase this photograph please follow the instructions in the pack and return to school by **Monday 23 March, 9.00am**. For each photograph sold, we make a small profit for our school fund.

## Active Travel: Big Walk and Wheel 16th-27th March

Big Walk and Wheel is the UK's largest walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling challenge. It inspires pupils to make active journeys to school, improve air quality in their neighbourhood and discover how these changes benefit their world. Active travel is a great way to build physical activity into children's daily routine. It helps them arrive to school more relaxed and alert, and is great for their mental wellbeing. In 2025, pupils at 2,024 schools made 2,840,575 journeys to school by foot, wheelchair, scooter and cycle. This meant that 4,550kg of nitrogen oxide and 2,880 tonnes of CO2 was avoided.

When children come into class each morning, teachers will take a survey to ask children how they travelled to school. We will be able to compare our results with local and national data. Please encourage children to use active travel if possible

## Mini Health Champions

On Tuesday, four children from Neptune attended **Mini Health Champions training** alongside Mr Sayers. The programme is designed to help pupils champion positive health and wellbeing across the school community.

During the day, the children took part in a range of engaging activities that helped them learn about healthy lifestyles, wellbeing, and ways to encourage positive choices among their peers. The training also focused on building confidence, teamwork and leadership skills so that the children can act as role models for others in school.

They had a fantastic day and represented the school brilliantly. We look forward to seeing how they use what they have learned to help promote healthy habits and wellbeing throughout our school.



## FUNdraisers

FUNdraisers have signed the school up to take part in The Parents Lottery which is a quick and easy way to raise funds for school.

### Thank you for your support

Be part of something special! Join *The Parents Lottery* and help us create a thriving school community. Every ticket you buy funds vital projects, from library books to new playground equipment, helping to enrich the lives of our children.



Each £1 ticket also gives you the chance to win £25,000 every Friday along with a selection of other prizes.

The Parents Lottery is a simple yet powerful way for parents, grandparents, friends and neighbours to come together and invest in the future of our children. Your weekly ticket funds essential resources, from stocking the library with the latest titles to providing vital classroom technology and supporting a wide range of extracurricular activities.

We understand that everyone is busy, and finding time to support your school can be challenging. That's why The Parents Lottery makes it so easy to make a real difference. Purchase a ticket online in just a few easy steps and you'll be automatically entered into the draw. Every ticket sold, helps us provide the

enriching educational experiences our children deserve. Play *The Parents Lottery* today and help us empower the next generation:

<https://www.theparentslottery.org/school/washingwell-fundraisers1772790710>

## Community



Three glowing Easter eggs in blue, yellow, and red are at the top. Below them, the text reads: **EASTER KIDS CAMP** in large, glowing letters. Underneath is **8 DAYS** in white, followed by **7<sup>TH</sup>-10<sup>TH</sup> & 13<sup>TH</sup>-16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**. A yellow banner at the bottom says **FUN - GAMES - SPORTS - DRAMA - CRAFTS**. At the very bottom, it says: **FREE ACTIVITIES** for Gateshead School children on benefits related **FREE SCHOOL MEALS** 10am - 2pm daily at **MARLEY HILL COMMUNITY CENTRE**. It also includes registration information: **REGISTER NOW USING YOUR E-VOUCHERS AT WWW.HOLIDAYACTIVITIES.COM** (search for Nice Swan Kids Camp) and **PAID SPACES AVAILABLE BY CONTACTING KIDSCAMP@NICESWAN.COM**.



The poster has a colorful border of LEGO bricks. At the top, it says **SEND LEGO CLUB** with a red LEGO logo. The event details are: **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March**, **4:00-5:00pm**, at **Chowdene Family Hub**. It says: **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**. At the bottom, there are images of LEGO minifigures and logos for **Gateshead FAMILY HUBS** and **Gateshead Council**.

## Gateshead FC Free Matchday Tickets

As part of our links with Gateshead FC, I am delighted to share with you the chance to receive **FREE** matchday tickets for any of the following games:

- Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March - Gateshead FC Vs Yeovil Town 3pm
- Monday 6th April - Gateshead FC Vs Scunthorpe United 3pm
- Saturday 18th April – Gateshead FC Vs Woking 3pm

Each ticket will admit 1 adult with up to 4 children.

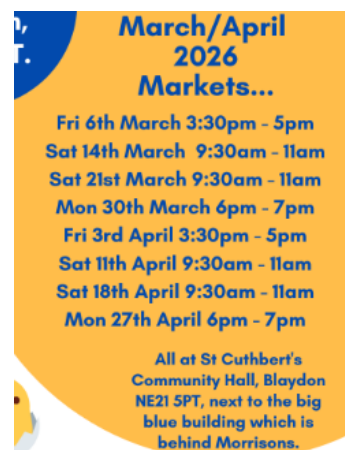
If you would like any tickets, please email [saturn@washingwell.org.uk](mailto:saturn@washingwell.org.uk) with how many tickets you would like (considering the above) at least one week prior to the match.

## Gateshead West Uniform Scheme

### Reminders



A banner with social media icons, a QR code, and a yellow chick icon. It contains the text: **facebook.com/gatesheadwestprelovedschooluniform**, **https://www.gatesheadwestuniformscheme.org.uk**, **contact@GatesheadWestUniformScheme.org.uk** and **and find us as gwusne on Vinted**.



A yellow poster with a blue top-left corner. It says **March/April 2026 Markets...** and lists the following dates and times: **Fri 6th March 3:30pm - 5pm**, **Sat 14th March 9:30am - 11am**, **Sat 21st March 9:30am - 11am**, **Mon 30th March 6pm - 7pm**, **Fri 3rd April 3:30pm - 5pm**, **Sat 11th April 9:30am - 11am**, **Sat 18th April 9:30am - 11am**, **Mon 27th April 6pm - 7pm**. At the bottom, it says: **All at St Cuthbert's Community Hall, Blyadon NE21 5PT, next to the big blue building which is behind Morrisons.**

## FUNdraisers

Easter Raffle tickets will be on sale in the Key Stage 1 yard on the following days:

**Monday 30 & Tuesday 31 March 3.00pm -3.30pm.**

Then on the morning of the Spring Assembly, **Wednesday 1 April.**

Donations of unwanted/pre-loved gifts for the stall for Chase Park Fayre can be dropped at the school office.

## School Meals

Gateshead Meals Service will be increasing the price of school lunches as of Wednesday 1 April 2026 to:

- Pupil Meal £3.10
- Nursery Meal £2.45

## Whizz Kids booking system

A polite reminder that all children need to be booked into breakfast club in advance. Recently we have had an increasing number of children turn up when parents have believed them to be booked in but they aren't. When booking breakfast club, we have a limit of 20 spaces. If you book, you must ensure the date turns green. If it does not it means you are not booked in and that there are no spaces available. To avoid any future confusion, please check your booking has been accepted and don't just assume it has gone through. This ensures we can meet the needs of all our children safely and do not go over our limit. Thank you in anticipation of your support with this matter.

## 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 16 March 2026 – am -pm	Ms Thompson

## *Forthcoming Events and Key Dates*

### **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 NEW**

Non-uniform day - £1.00 donation for FUNdraisers

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 Change of date**

Year 5 Showcase 9.15am – parents invited

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

### **Tuesday 31 March 2026**

Year 1 & 2 School visit to Locomotion Museum

**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.*