



# Washingwell Primary School

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 @washingwellprimaryschool

**Newsletter Number: 32**  
**Date: Friday 22 May 2026**

## Attendance: Half Termly – Summer 1

	Mars Nursery	Mars Reception	Jupiter Y1	Venus Y2	Earth Y3	Neptune Y4	Saturn Y5	Mercury Y6
Weekly Attendance %	90.1%	94.3%	96.1%	98.9%	95.4%	96.2%	95.8%	95.3%
Whole School attendance %	95.1%							

## News

### This Week's Achievers are...

#### Achievement for All

School value: Together

Theme: Caring

**Mars:** Aidan Dolan

**Earth:** Evan Scattergood

**Jupiter:** Everleigh Stanley

**Neptune:** Anna Barnes

**Venus:** Evelyn Bennett

**Saturn:** Ella Imrie

**Mercury:** Lacey Shotter

## School Uniform

Thank you so much to all of the parents who took time to give their feedback on the uniform consultation. We received a total of 94 responses, with 84 of those supporting the change to an Active Uniform. There were lots of helpful comments which we discussed with our governors and common themes have been reflected in our decision. The uniform policy will be updated in due course, but we wanted to give parents as much notice as possible.

### Our new Active Uniform for all children from September 2026 will be as follow:

- Royal-blue round-neck t-shirt (school badge or plain)
- Royal-blue hoody, sweatshirt, cardigan or fleece (school badge or plain)
- Plain black joggers, leggings, shorts or skirt
- Black trainers

We have also taken on board comments about the quality of the badged uniforms from our current provider and are working with them as we speak to make improvements.



## Safety Alert – Asbestos in Toys and Play Sand

Following on from our message last week about sensory aids, please read the following safety alert.



This warning is particularly aimed at members working in Early years/SEND settings and who are school leaders, though it is also relevant to those with young children at home. Asbestos has been discovered in a number of sand-based toys, play sand and products imported from China.

A total of 33 products that contain asbestos have been recalled on the Government website. These are sand and sand-based products, mostly activity toys but also other popular toys/dolls for very young children. Asbestos poses a risk to health, even at low levels of exposure, and children are more vulnerable than adults.

Check that none of these products have found their way into your home on the following link:  
<https://www.gov.uk/product-safety-alerts-reports-recalls>



### School football 2026-2027

School football has been really successful this year, thanks to the unwavering support of Mr Cheng. We are extremely grateful for his dedication to the football programme, and the time he has volunteered in planning, coaching and attending fixtures. As his daughter moves onto secondary school, we are looking for people from within the community to fill his shoes and coach our Y5/6 football teams next academic year. This will involve running trials, selecting teams, running training sessions and attending fixtures. We can be flexible about the day for training but fixtures are always Thursday 3.45-5.30. There are usually 3 or 4 fixtures in Autumn, then again in Spring. A member of teaching staff will accompany the team to all fixtures, but the coach would be responsible

for running the team. We are hoping to run a mixed team and a girls only team, as these competitive opportunities are offered by Blaydon District Primary Schools FA. Anyone who is interested would need the relevant FA coaching badges or QTS, and would be willing to undertake a DBS check within school. To express an interest or ask any questions, please email Mrs Erskine on [saturn@washingwell.org.uk](mailto:saturn@washingwell.org.uk)

### Staff updates

Today we say 'Bon Voyage' to Miss Todd who has been working in Year 3 as well as in Whizz Kids After School Club. She is off to pastures new with a slight change in career direction, moving to a private nursery, working with younger children. We would like to say a big **THANKYOU** from everyone at Washingwell and wish her lots of luck in her new career.



We would also like to announce the retirement of one of our Teaching Assistants, Mrs Smith, who will be hanging up her boots at the end of the Summer term after a long career in education. We still have the rest of the term to enjoy her company, but wanted to let you know in advance as, although we will be sad to see her go, it is a happy time for her and I am sure you would like to wish her all the best.

Branches After School Club are still on target to take over the running of our before and after school wrap-around care provision in September. You will have noticed that Chantelle from Branches has been working with us this term, and will continue to do so throughout the Summer term, easing the transition process.

Our application process for our new class teacher, which I informed you about in Newsletter 30, is well under way and we will be interviewing candidates on the 8 & 9 of June for the position. We will keep you updated as to when we have successfully appointed.

### Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

Our Year 4 children will be taking part in the National Multiplication Tables Check in the first 2 weeks after the half term. The children will complete this with Mr Sayers, and have been doing lots of practise so they know what to expect. We wish them lots of luck and know they will do their best!

## Forest School Showcases

Next half term we will be hosting Forest School Showcases for all classes. Please see the [Forthcoming Events and Key Dates](#) section below for individual class dates. Sign-up is required and these will go live on Monday 1 June, with our first showcases starting on Friday 5 June. We look forward to welcoming you all to this event.

## Community



# Chase Park Community Fair and Fun Dog Show

organised by Chase Park Community Group

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

**12:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

**(Primary) Children's Art Competition**

Theme: Sport

Free entry (entries accepted up until 1:00 pm)

2 categories: a) Up to 8 years b) 8 years and over

All entries will be displayed at the fair

and will be judged on the day

Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd

Judge : Local Entertainer & Cartoonist; Alfie Joey

## Admission Free

There is no parking directly at the park or surrounding streets. Public parking is available at the Glebe, behind the library and next to The Gibside.

We encourage people to walk, cycle or use public transport to attend the event.  
Bus services X30, 69, 06, 643 and Coaster 01 stop adjacent to the park.

For further information : 0191 488 0787

## Reminders

Our children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 love playing with toys at lunchtimes, but as you can imagine, they are easily worn out. Our children would like to ask if you can help with any donations of the following to make lunchtimes more enjoyable:

Dolls & dolls clothes/accessories --- Action figures --- Construction eg Lego, Duplo, wooden blocks --- large vehicles/cars --- outdoor equipment eg skittles, skipping ropes, hoops.

If you have of the above toys that your children no longer play with, then we would gladly take them to bolster our outdoor toys. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

## 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

**Forthcoming Events and Key Dates**

**Monday 1 June – Friday 12 June 2026**

Year 4 Multiplication Check – *more information to follow*

**Tuesday 2 June 2026**

Year 4 Girls STEM Project session 1 – Mrs Dodds pm

**Wednesday 3 June 2026**

Year 3/4 QuadKids at Whickham School – team to be decided

New Starter Welcome Event – 3.30 - 5.00pm (children starting school September 2026)

**Thursday 4 June 2026 NEW**

Deaf Awareness Assembly

**Friday 5 June 2026**

Year 6 Forest School Showcase – 1.15pm - *more information to follow*

Year 5 Forest School Showcase – 2.15pm - *more information to follow*

**Saturday 6 June 2026**

Chase Park Fayre 1.00 - 4.00pm

**Monday 8 June – Friday 12 June 2026**

Year 1 Phonic Screening - *more information to follow*

**Tuesday 9 June 2026**

Year 4 Girls STEM Project session 2 – Mrs Dodds pm

**Thursday 11 June 2026**

Year 5/6 – Northumbria Police Visit – am

Year 5/6 Tennis at Whickham School - *more information to follow*

**Friday 12 June 2026**

Year 4 Forest School Showcase – 1.15pm - *sign-up required*

Year 3 Forest School Showcase – 2.15pm - *sign-up required*

**Monday 15 June – Friday 19 June 2026**

Sports Week - *more information to follow*

**Monday 15 June**

Great Athlete Visit – pm

**Wednesday 17 June**

Big Sing at Glasshouse – School Choir - *more information to follow*

**Thursday 18 June 2026**

Sports Day - *more information to follow*

**Wednesday 24 June 2026 NEW**

Reception Spoorst Event – 12.30pm Whickham School *more information to follow*

Year 1 Forest School Showcase – 1.15pm – *sign-up required*

Year 2 Forest School Showcase – 2.15pm - *sign-up required*

**Friday 26 June 2026**

Gateshead Schools Athletics Festival – Gaeshead Stadium – *trials to choose teams*

**Tuesday 30 June & Wednesday 1 July 2026**

Transition days – all children move up to their new classes  
Year 6 visit their respective secondary schools

**Tuesday 30 June 2026**

Meet the teacher – parents invited to visit new class and meet teacher

**Wednesday 1 July 2026**

Year 3/4 Cricket – team to be decided

**Thursday 2 July 2026**

Mars Stay & Play – 2.00pm – parents invited

**Tuesday 7 July 2026**

Year 6 SATS Results Day  
SEND Reviews – end of year reviews with current & new class teacher

**Wednesday 8 July 2026**

SEND Reviews – end of year reviews with current & new class teacher

**Thursday 9 July 2026**

SEND Reviews – end of year reviews with current & new class teacher

**Friday 10 July 2026**

Annual Reports issued

**Monday 13 July 2026**

Break the Rules Day - *more information to follow*

**Tuesday 14 July 2026**

Whole school visit - South Shields Beach

**Wednesday 15 July 2026**

Leavers Assembly & BBQ – Year 6 parents and family invited

**Thursday 16 July 2026**

Award Ceremony 9.15am – *not open to parents*

**Friday 17 July 2026**

Break up for summer holidays 3.20pm – No Whizz Kids tonight.

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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.*