



Washingwell Primary School

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Newsletter Number: 36
Date: Friday 3 July 2026

Attendance:

	Mars Nursery	Mars Reception	Jupiter Y1	Venus Y2	Earth Y3	Neptune Y4	Saturn Y5	Mercury Y6
Weekly Attendance %	90%	89.4%	93.4%	96.5%	89.8%	94.8%	98.4%	89.3%
Whole School attendance %	92.9%							

News

Policy Updates

You should have received two emails this week regarding policy updates:

School Uniform Policy:

Following on from our consultation, we have now finalised our school policy for September. To support our active uniform policy, there are also a few other changes to the policy which I would like to bring to your attention.

Due to all of our children accessing the outdoor environment daily, it is expected that parents will also provide the following items to remain in school at all times:

Forest School & OPAL (Outdoor Play & Learning KS2) Activities

- Wellies
- Hat
- Gloves
- Waterproof trousers and jacket.

For reasons of health and safety, the wearing of jewellery of any form is not allowed, **which includes spacers in ears**. If you are planning to have your child's ears pierced, they need to be done in time so that earrings can be removed for school in September. If children come to school wearing earrings or spacers, they will be asked to take them out.

PSHE Policy:

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a high-quality Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education, we have recently reviewed and updated our PSHE Policy and Curriculum Overview.

These updates reflect the Department for Education's updated statutory Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) guidance and ensure that our curriculum continues to meet the needs of our pupils in an age-appropriate, inclusive and safeguarding-focused way. The revised curriculum places a strong emphasis on healthy relationships, personal safety, emotional wellbeing, online safety, respect for others and preparing children for life in modern Britain.

Parents and carers play a vital role in supporting children's personal development and wellbeing so we would welcome your feedback and are happy to answer any questions you may have about the curriculum or policy.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of our PSHE provision with Mr Sayers, our Personal Development Lead, please email him at neptune@washingwell.org.uk.

He will be taking feedback and answering any questions up until the end of term.
Our policy was emailed to all parents via Arbor on July 1st and is also available on our website.

Gateshead School Meals Service

Pupil and parent survey on school meals open now

Gateshead Schools Catering Service currently works with 86% of Gateshead schools, providing nutritious lunchtime meals that meet Government food standards.

We're always keen to hear from our Primary aged pupils and parents/ carers as your feedback plays a vital role in shaping our future service.

Our survey is now open to:

- Children who have school meals and their parents
- Children who bring packed lunches and their parents

We want to hear all views to help us improve.

Please take a few minutes to share your feedback 📧: www.gateshead.gov.uk/PandPsurvey

👤 Children should be supported by an adult when completing the survey.

The survey will run until the 24th July

Thank you for helping us make school meals even better!



Changes to Free School Meals administration from September 2026.

As you will be aware, from the start of the September 2026/2027 academic year **all families** with children in receipt of Universal Credit will be entitled to receive means tested Free School Meals (FSMs).

From the end of the 2025/2026 academic year transitional protection will **end** and households must meet the FSM eligibility criteria detailed below to continue to receive the provision.

There will be 2 categories these families would fall into:

- **Targeted Free School Meals** – this is based on current eligibility which covers pupils who are in households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less and
- **Expanded Free School Meals** – this is a new category covering those who do not satisfy the targeted free school meals criteria but are in receipt of Universal Credit.

Once schools have finished for the summer break, Gateshead Council will re-check the current free school meals entitlements through the eligibility checker (ECE – Eligibility Checker Engine) which will tell us whether families fall into the targeted or expanded category or if they no longer qualify.

Community

Gateshead United FC & LJB COACHING are delivering a range of fun, inclusive and engaging holiday activities for children aged 5–16 years, with sessions taking place at both Kibblesworth Park Pavilion and White Mere Primary School throughout the summer holidays.

Our programme includes a wide variety of activities including:

- ⚽ Football & sports activities
- 🎨 Creative activities
- 🍲 Food-based activities
- 🌿 Outdoor learning & nature activities
- 🤝 Friendship building & team games
- 🧩 Sensory play, Lego, giant games and free play opportunities

We have both:

🏠 **Funded HAF places available for eligible children**

🏠 **Paid places available for families who do not qualify for HAF funding**

Our aim is to provide a safe, supportive and inclusive environment where children can stay active, make friends and enjoy meaningful experiences over the summer holidays.

Booking links are below:

Funded HAF Places:

<https://app.holidayactivities.com/parent/providers/gateshead-united-fc>

Paid Places:

<https://form.jotform.com/261745261095055>

An example of weekly programme:

SUMMER WEEKLY SCHEDULE

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
10am-12pm Football/ National Ice Cream Day-let's have some frozen fun!	10am-12pm Football/ Goal to Grow	10am-12pm Football/Mud Kitchen fun, mud, mix create!	10am-12pm Football/ Smoothie making	10am-12pm CLOSED
12pm-1pm Dinner/Free play	12pm-1pm Dinner/ Free play	12pm-1pm Dinner/Free play	12pm-1pm Dinner/Free play	12pm-1pm CLOSED
1pm-2pm Group Games/ Park	1pm-2pm Goal to Grow continues/ Children's choice of sports	1pm-2pm Football/ kindness Tree/ friendship bracelets	1pm-2pm Park/ Rounders	1pm-2pm CLOSED

KIBBLESWORTH SUMMER CAMP WEEK 1

20TH JULY -23RD JULY

BOOKING:

Paid Places Also Available!
To book a paid place, contact us via:
LJBcoaching@outlook.com
07580 420361

Free play choice activities will also be available daily such as reading, colouring, jigsaw's, Lego, bored games, giant games, calm corner, sensory basket

Funded HAF Places Available!
If your child is eligible, their school will have sent you a HAF voucher. Please visit [holidayactivities.com](https://app.holidayactivities.com) and search Gateshead United FC to book your place. Make sure to follow the guidance in your school's message to secure your funded spot.

Play On Gateshead
 Gateshead Council

Active Through Families

Wrekenton Family Hub, Gateshead NE9 7JR

A fun, active and welcoming session for the whole family!

Children and adults take part in separate activities led by qualified coaches, giving everyone the chance to get active, learn new skills and have fun. Some sessions will also bring families together for shared activities and challenges.

Weekly sessions, Wednesdays 4pm-5pm

For more information please email: PlayOn@Gateshead.gov.uk

www.gateshead.gov.uk/playon
[@PlayOnGateshead](https://www.facebook.com/PlayOnGateshead)

Free!



GATESHEAD WEST 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 NE21 5PT
We operate on a pay-what-you-feel basis.

We are located in St Cuthbert's Community Hall (our door is round the back), NE21 5PT next to the big blue building behind Morrisons.

Please check our Facebook page for any changes to market days, including additional summer markets and potentially cancelled markets*.
*We are all volunteers and even volunteers need holidays - sometimes this means there is no one to run a market.

July/August 2026 Markets... ALL AT BLAYDON

Friday 3rd July 3:30pm - 5pm
Saturday 11th July 9:30am - 11am
Saturday 18th July 9:30am - 11am
Monday 27th July 6pm - 7pm
Sat 15th Aug 9:30am - 11am
WE CONDENSED SOME MARKETS into this one market
Sat 29th August 9:30am - 11am
Then back to normal...
Fri 4th Sept 3:30pm - 5pm

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

Reminders

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	Earth	Monday 6 July 2026 – am/pm	Mr Graham

Forthcoming Events and Key Dates

Tuesday 7 July 2026

Judo Taster day – all classes – PE kit to be worn

SEND Reviews – end of year reviews with current & new class teacher – invites sent to parents

Wednesday 8 July 2026 **NEW**

Music Workshops am

Reception Sports event – 12.30pm Whickham School – *information to follow*

SEND Reviews – end of year reviews with current & new class teacher – invites sent to parents

Thursday 9 July 2026

SEND Reviews – end of year reviews with current & new class teacher – invites sent to parents

Friday 10 July 2026

Annual Reports issued

Year 6 Forest School – pm

Monday 13 July 2026

Break the Rules Day - *more information to follow*

Tuesday 14 July 2026

Whole school visit - South Shields Beach – *consent required*

Wednesday 15 July 2026

Leavers Assembly & BBQ – Year 6 parents and family invited

Thursday 16 July 2026 UPDATED

Year 6 SATS Results Day

Year 3 visit to Wagamamas - *parental consent required*

Award Ceremony 2.00pm – *not open to parents*

Friday 17 July 2026

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

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.