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*Our values are at the **HEART** of our school.*

Weekly Bulletin: Friday 4 September 2026

Welcome back to all our pupils, parents and staff and a very warm welcome to our new children and families who join us across school. We have had a super first week with all children settling well and engaging fully in school life.

This year, we are trying our Newsletters in a different way. We understand that some parents have difficulty opening documents through Arbor, so going forward, we are going to trial sharing important information through a weekly parent bulletin which will open directly in the Arbor App without having to open/download word or pdf documents. We are hoping that this will ensure key information is not missed.

Therefore, going forward, information will be shared in the following ways:

- Weekly bulletins will be sent out each Friday via Arbor. These will be saved on our website in the Newsletter section.
- Information relating to events, activities, successes etc which have already happened will be shared through our Facebook page.
- Dates will be shared at the beginning of each term on a '**Dates for Your Diary**' overview, then updates added weekly.
- Dates can also be found on our school website by clicking on the calendar button.

Staff news

We would like to offer a warm welcome to our new staff who will join our team this year. In the school office, Mrs Snow (formally Miss Taz) is our new Administration Assistant. Miss Archibald is our new Early Years Teacher and Miss Hood our new Year 2 Teacher. Mrs Ahmed, who has been working with us on supply for the past year, now joins us as a Teaching Assistant and is also covering in our After School Whizz Kids session until we can appoint a permanent member of staff. Joining our Whizz Kids Team we also welcome Miss Bell as Out of School Assistant in both our morning and after school sessions. I trust you will give them a warm welcome.

I would also like to announce that I will be retiring as Head Teacher in July, at the end of the academic year. After 16 years as Head Teacher, the time is right for me to hang up my boots and pass the mantle onto a new leader. I wanted to inform parents as soon as possible so that we can ensure the transition runs smoothly, with as little disruption to the school as possible. However, I still have a full year to go and I intend to spend my last year, as I do every year, giving 100% to the children, staff and parents of Washingwell.

General Information

As we have a 'free-flow' entry system at the beginning of day and collection system at end of day, we are conscious that you may not always be able to speak to a teacher regarding your child. If you need to pass on information, ask questions or inform teachers of anything at all to do with your child, you can contact them using the following email:

Miss Archibald

Mars@washingwell.org.uk

Mr Phillips

Jupiter@washingwell.org.uk

Miss Hood	Venus@washingwell.org.uk
Miss Johnson	Earth@washingwell.org.uk
Mr Sayers	Neptune@washingwell.org.uk
Mrs Erskine/Mrs Bridger	Saturn@washingwell.org.uk
Miss Tweedy	Mercury@washingwell.org.uk

Urgent and daily queries should still be directed to the school office via admin@washingwell.org.uk or by telephone on 0191 4884400.

The following forms can now be found under Forms in our Parent section on our school website.

Administration of Medication	Request for Leave of Absence during Term Time
Medical Appointment	Reporting Pupil Absence
Whizz Kids Top-up Request Form	

Whizz Kids

Whizz Kids bookings must be completed via ParentPay. This can be done daily with a **5.00pm** deadline for next day bookings. To ensure a guaranteed place we recommend that you book as far in advance as possible as our club is limited to 24 children per session.

Attendance and Punctuality

Our school day is 8.50am - 3.20pm

Our school gates open at 8.30am and 3.00pm. In the morning, all parents and children must wait on the Key Stage 1 yard until Mrs Hall and Mrs Tough come out at 8.40am. Once they are out, Key Stage 2 children will be directed to go into school via the car-park gate. **Children must not be left on the school yard unsupervised prior to 8.40am.**

Any child arriving after 8.50am will have to enter the school via the main entrance and an adult will need to come in with them to sign them in as late. Can I ask that you arrive on time to ensure that your child does not miss vital learning time. It is important that they start the school day in a positive light, not anxious because they are late.

Please ensure that you report any absences by 9.15am on the day of absence by telephoning school on 0191 4884400 or alternatively complete the form **Report Pupil Absence** in our Parent Section (Forms) on our school website.

Our **Attendance Policy**, can be found on our school website in the **Key Information** section under **Policies** or by clicking on the link <https://www.washingwell.org.uk/policies> Please ensure that you read and respond accordingly.

School Uniform

Our uniform policy can be found on our school website in the **Policies** section under **Key Information**. Please ensure you have all the necessary uniform and equipment your child needs to allow full participation in all school learning opportunities and activities. All t-shirts should be royal blue (not white polos like previously).

As part of our policy, for health and safety reasons, we request that hair should always be tied back once it approaches shoulder length. The wearing of jewellery – earrings, spacers, necklaces, rings and bracelets is not allowed. If your child comes to school wearing any of these jewellery items, they will be asked to remove them. The items will be returned to the parent at the end of the school day. Watches can be worn as long as they are not wi-fi enabled.

Please could you also name all items of clothing. We already have brand new zipped hoodies in our lost property which are unnamed.

Water Bottles

It is vital that each child is provided with a named water bottle to bring in to school each day to ensure they remain hydrated. Bottles should be filled with **water only** (no juice) and if required, can be refilled during the day from stations around school.

Playtime Snacks

Our children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 all receive a daily snack provided through the Government Schools Fruit Scheme therefore they do not need to bring in a snack from home. Children in Key Stage 2 can, if they choose, bring in either a piece of fresh fruit or vegetables. If a child brings in anything other than this then they will be asked to keep it until hometime.

Similarly, if a child brings in any product that may contain nuts in their packed lunch, this item will be removed from the child, an alternative provided if needed, and parents informed. I trust I have your full support in following these guidelines so as to ensure our whole school community remains safe.

Social Media

You may be aware that we use Facebook to keep you up to date with your child's learning and to send information/notifications about our school. We warmly welcome positive, constructive and informative comments on the posts that we add.

Should you have any questions or queries about our school or your child's education, please contact your child's class teacher so that we can discuss it directly with you.

Admissions to Reception / Year 7 in September 2027

If your child is due to start Reception or Year 7 in September 2027, the application process enabling you to choose a school for your child will open on **Monday 7 September 2026**. To apply please visit www.gateshead.gov.uk/schooladmissions and complete the online application form.

The Year 7 Secondary School deadline is 31 October 2026.

The Reception Primary School deadline is 15 January 2027.

Prospective Parents for Nursery/Reception 2027

If you know of parents who have children who will be starting either Reception or Nursery in September 2027, school tours can be arranged via our school website; www.washingwell.org.uk

Parking around school

As the new school year begins, please can I ask that we start on a positive note with parking and show consideration for both pedestrians and our neighbours. As always, can we ask all parents to park on Broom Lane and not to drive down Bucks Hill View when children are entering school in the mornings or leaving at the end of day. Those parents using our out of school provision, especially the morning session, please do not park in front of the garages or on the zig-zag lines outside of the school gates.

Thank you for your co-operation and support in keeping our streets a safe place for all.