Healthy • Empowered • Ambitious • Respectful • Together

Our values are at the HEART of our school.

Weekly Bulletin 5: Friday 2 October 2026

Weekly Attendance:

Mars (Nursery)	Mars (Reception)	Jupiter	Venus	Earth	Neptune	Saturn	Mercury
84.8%	90.8%	96%	98%	95.5%	95.4%	95.3%	96.3%

Whole School: 95.8%

Enrichment Music Opportunities
Our iRock bands started last week, and the participating children have enjoyed their first group lessons learning to play guitars, drums, and keyboards. If your child is interested in joining a band, we still have spaces and it's not too late to sign up, so please express your interest by replying to Mr Phillips, our school music lead at **jupiter@washingwell.org.uk**

We also have the opportunity for some one-to-one music lessons, provided by Gateshead Music Service, for any children interested in learning either the violin, cello or keyboard. No previous experience is necessary. Availability is dependent on how many children sign up to receive lessons, so again, please express your interest by emailing Mr Phillips at the above email. Thank you

Next Week: Reminders

Cycle to School week: **House Challenge**

Cycle to School week will commence on **Monday 5 October 2026** through to **Friday 9 October 2026**. During this week, we encourage all children to either ride or scoot to school to gain points for their house. Each morning, our House Captains will be stationed on the Key Stage 1 yard. On arrival at school, go to your relevant House Captain who will give you a sticker which you can exchange for a merit point in class. Over the week, the points will be added up and the winning house will be announced in assembly on Friday 9 October 2026.

Bikes must be left in the following designated areas:
Early years on the grass outside the entrance gate to the garden area;
Key Stage 1 in the bike shed on the yard;
Key Stage 2 on the grass in between the car park and Reading Den.

Dates:

Tuesday 6 October 2026 – Mercury Tag Rugby (consent required)

Wednesday 7 October 2026 – Saturn, PE event at Whickham School, 12.30pm

Friday 9 October 2026 – Whole School World Mental Health Day – wear something yellow

Planned Staff Training and Arranged Class Cover for the week ahead.			
Staff Member	Class	Date	Cover
Mrs Erskine	Saturn	Tuesday 6 October 2026 – am	Mrs Wright
Miss Archibald	Mars	Wednesday 7 & Thursday 8 October 2026 -am/pm	Mrs Wright

Community

E-scooters, EAPCs, E-bikes, and Motorcycles

Information for parents & carers

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

Road safety law is there to protect riders and other road users. In the event of a collision, the physical consequences can be devastating, life-changing and can ultimately result in the loss of life. Make sure that when your children ride on the roads they are doing so legally and safely with protective equipment such as helmets. Visit THINK! Road safety and Road safety - Police.uk for more information.

What does the law say?

E-scooters

NOT ROAD LEGAL for ANYONE to use

It is illegal for ANYONE to ride a private e-scooter on public land – roads, pavements and cycle paths included. In law, they are treated as motor vehicles and, because they have no number plate, often don't have rear lights or signalling ability, **they cannot be used legally in public.**

Read more here about penalties and offences.

EAPC
(electrically-assisted pedal cycle)

ROAD LEGAL for those aged 14 and over. Helmet use is advised but optional

An EAPC must have pedals meaning that the bike can be used with or without the motor, and the fitted motor must cut off at a top speed of 15.5 mph (the speed of an average pedal cyclist)

Read more here and here

Electronically powered motorcycle – "E-bike"

Whether or not these are road legal depends on certain conditions (see below)

To be road legal an E-bike must have :
- A number plate
- Brake lights
- Indicators

An E-bike without these is NOT ROAD LEGAL.

Also, the rider is subject to the same licence requirements as those for a moped/scooter/ motorcycle (see column to the right), and they must have insurance.

Mopeds, scooters and motorcycles

ROAD LEGAL for those aged 16 and over with a motorcycle licence. Helmet use is mandatory

A provisional driving licence is required and compulsory basic training (CBT) must be completed. The age limit will depend on the type of motorcycle – visit this link for details

What's the difference between a moped and a scooter? Basically, it's all about engine size, but read more about it here

Why are rented e-scooters road-legal?

- Renters must have at least a provisional driving licence which has category Q or P/M entitlement
- The rental company provides insurance for the rider as part of the rental agreement
- They must be ridden in approved areas and only on the road

Read the following article for tips on how to protect your motorcycle, moped or scooter from theft