



Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## Newsletter

Dear Parents

It has been lovely to welcome the children back into school for the start of the school year. They have made a great start and are working very hard in their new classrooms.

This is a long newsletter, but hopefully it provides information that is useful at the start of the year.

### **New Website**

Our new website has launched and can still be found at the same web address: [www.greensideprimary.org](http://www.greensideprimary.org). Staff will share information about the children’s learning and these articles will appear in class and school news pages. There is a calendar of school events and copies of the newsletter will be uploaded here as well. Across the term we will be updating policies and curriculum documents.

### **Communication**

We will continue to use the email function in Arbor to communicate with parents. Please check your emails regularly. The Arbor app (or desktop version) can be used to book clubs, parent consultations, give consent for events and to make payment for visits or school meals.

Please keep your contact details, including email addresses up to date. If you have any queries or need support with the system, please contact the school office.

## Upcoming Events

### **School Visits**

Staff are organising a range of visits and visitors to support the children’s learning. Some of these dates appear in the diary dates and more information for each visit will follow by email. Parents can give their consent via Arbor and make any payment.

We ask for a voluntary contribution from parents to support our visits. All are subsidised in some way to reduce the amount we ask from parents, either through the sports premium or from our school fund. Our school fairs are the core means of supporting these visits and we are very grateful for the money raised.

With all visits, it is possible to pay the full contribution or make a contribution that is lower than the amount asked for. However, if we do not receive sufficient contributions, it may be necessary to cancel the planned activity.

### **Cross-Country – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September**

Children from Year 1 – Year 6 will take part in a Cross-Country event across the day on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September. This will take place on the Temp field for children in Year 3 – Year 6 and within the school grounds for children in Year 1 and Year 2.

Children will need their PE kits in school on Wednesday and a pair of trainers.

This event will also act as a qualifying event for the Year 5/6 Gateshead Cross Country Event at Watergate Park later this term.

### **Community Centre Singing – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

Our KS2 children have been invited to open the Community Centre Fair and Farmer’s Market on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 10am. This is always a lovely way to support our community. Please sign up via the Arbor app by Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September if your child is able to attend.

### **Parent Consultations**

There will be an opportunity to meet with your child’s class teacher early in October for an opportunity to talk about their learning and the progress they are making. Appointments will be available to book in Arbor from 12:30pm on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September. Please contact the school office if you need any support with this.

If there are any questions for the class teacher before these dates, please contact the school office.

<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October</b>	<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	<b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October</b>
Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2	Nursery, Reception	Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6	Year 1, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6

### Tempest Photography – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October

Tempest Photography will be in school on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October. All children will have an individual photograph taken and a photograph with any siblings in school. There will be a session from 8:30am where parents can bring younger siblings into school for an additional family group photograph if desired.

### Reception – Year 6 Childhood Nasal Flu Vaccination - Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October

Children in Reception to Year 6 are now eligible for a flu vaccination. If you would like your child to be vaccinated in school by the school nursing team on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October, please follow the link: <https://www.northumbriaimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu> which will direct you to an online consent form for you to complete using the following school code **NB108348**. Consent submissions will close 48 working hours before the school session date. You can call to complete a consent after that but may have to attend a clinic instead.

### Diary Dates

Autumn Term		
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	All day	Year 1-6 Cross Country (PE kits and trainers needed)
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	All day	Start of RISE sessions (working with Year 2-6 each Thursday this term)
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept	pm	Year 4 Fire Safety Talk
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept	pm	Year 6 Tag Rugby Tournament
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	All day	Year 6 Residential visit to Derwent Hill
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	10am	KS2 group singing at the Community Centre Fair and Farmer's Market
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	All day	Year 4 visit to Vindolanda and Housesteads
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	pm	Cross Country at Watergate Park (qualifying group of Y5/6 children)
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	3:30-6:00	Nursery / Reception / Year 1 / Year 2 Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Am	Year 2 Athletics Tournament
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	2:30-6:00	Nursery / Reception Parent Consultation Evening
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	am	Tempest Photography in School (family groups from 8:30am)
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	3:30-6:00	Year 2 / Year 3 / Year 4 / Year 5 / Year 6 Parent Consultation Evening
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	All day	Year 1-6 Numbots / Times Table Rock Stars Day
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	3:30-6:00	Year 1 / Year 3 / Year 4 / Year 5 / Year 6 Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	am	Reception – Year 6 Flu Immunisation (School Nurses)
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	4:00	Y5/6 Mixed Football Tournament
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	All day	Year 5 River Study Visit
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	3:45-4:30	Nursery – Year 2 Halloween Disco
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	4:45-5:45	Year 3 – Year 6 Halloween Disco
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	9:15	Reception Junk Modelling Play Session (Parents invited)
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov		Half Term
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	3:00	Year 5/6 Football Tournament (Girls)
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	am	Reception and Year 2 Visit to the Discovery Museum
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	All day	Year 6 Visit to Victoria Tunnel and Newcastle Mosque
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	3:30	Christmas Fair
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	2:00	Year 1/2 Christmas Performance (Parents invited)
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	lunch	Christmas Lunch + Christmas Jumpers / outfits
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	2:00	Nursery and Reception Christmas Crafts (Parents invited)
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	pm	Year 3/4 Christmas Party
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	pm	Year 5/6 Christmas Party
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	am	Nursery / Reception Christmas Party
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	pm	Year 1/2 Christmas Party
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	2:00	KS2 Church Service (TBC)
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec – Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan		Christmas Holidays
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	All day	Staff Training Day - school closed to children
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	All day	Start of term for children

Further dates will be added as the term progresses and more information will be sent as needed. If any dates need to change, we will update them in subsequent newsletters and communications.

## **After School Activity Clubs**

There are four after school activity clubs operating this term. Y1-3 Multi-skills on Monday is full, as is Year 4-6 Football. There are still spaces on Y1-3 Rugby (Wednesday) and Year 4-6 Rugby (Thursday), so we can open these to children interested in attending a second club. Please sign up via Arbor.

Please note, there will be no Y4-6 football club on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October due to parent consultations and no Y1-3 rugby club on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October due to the Halloween Disco.

## **Information**

### **School Meals**

There is a new school meal menu for this year. All school meals are designed to meet the school meal standards. This can be accessed at <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/7430/Primary-school-meals>.

Lunches for children in Year 3 – 6 cost £3.00 per day and £2.35 for a nursery lunch. These should be paid in advance of meals being taken, credit can be loaded onto your Arbor account and will be deducted as meals are taken.

Reception to Year 2 children receive free lunches as part of the government Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme and we would recommend that all parent take advantage of this.

### **Medical / Diet Forms**

The school meal service requires the medical and dietary forms to be updated each September. Where this is applicable, these forms have been sent home and should be returned as soon as possible to ensure your child is served the correct food at lunchtime. If your child has any dietary requirements or medical changes across the year, please inform the school office.

### **Packed Lunches - Allergies**

If you choose to send a packed lunch, please ensure this meets the standards of the school packed lunch policy (available on the website) and that the lunch contains no eggs or nuts (including no peanut butter or chocolate spread such as Nutella) as we have children with severe allergies in school. We thank you for your support with this.

### **Free School Meals**

Parents can check their eligibility and apply for free school meals for their child by following this link: <https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/7433/Free-school-meals>. Once eligibility is confirmed, you will qualify for free school meals for your child and, when available, support from the Council Household Support fund (such as holiday food vouchers). This can be a considerable bonus, so it is worth checking and applying even if your child is eligible for free infant school meals.

## **School Places**

### **Primary and Secondary Applications**

Parents of children in Nursery and Year 6 have received a letter from the local authority detailing how to apply online for Reception and Secondary school places to start in September 2025. Even if children are already attending our Nursery, they will still need to reapply for a place in the Reception class.

### **Nursery Applications**

Nursery application information is available on our website. Applications are now open for places for academic year 2025-26. Parents can still make a late application for Nursery places starting within this academic year.

We offer 15 or 30 hour Nursery places. The 15 hours are normally accessed as five mornings but we also have some capacity to offer the 15 hours as 2.5 days (Mon, Tues, Wed am or Wed pm, Thurs, Fri) which some families are finding more flexible. Nursery children are also able to access all our wrap around childcare sessions too. We offer bespoke tours of school for anyone interested in Nursery or Reception places.

### **Baby and Toddler Group**

Our Baby and Toddler groups runs every Monday morning in the school hall from 9:15 – 10:45 at 50p per session (this goes towards snack and Christmas presents). There are a range of toys to play with as well as singing and snack time. All are welcome, no need to book.

## **Attendance**

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Improving school attendance is a key target of the Department for Education. As shared last term, the Department of Education has further tightened their guidance for schools and local authorities around all aspects of attendance with the aim of ensuring children are in school and accessing all available opportunities.

As a reminder, legislation states that it is a parent's duty to ensure that their child attends school regularly and it is expected that children attend all available sessions in school unless they are unwell or following public health guidance. If your child is unwell, you must contact school before 9:30am to let us know the reason for absence. Failure to do this will result in school contacting parents (or other family members on the contact list) and may lead to a home visit if contact cannot be made, as this can be a safeguarding issue.

## Medical and Dental Appointments

Parents should make medical and dental appointments for children outside of school hours and if this is not possible, evidence of the appointment (copy or sight of appointment letter, email, NHS app or text) should accompany a medical leave of absence request. Where this is not provided, the appointment cannot be unauthorised.

## Leave of Absence

Please be aware that our policy on leave of absence follows DfE and local authority guidance and leave of absence requests that meet the stated thresholds will be referred to the local authority for penalty notices.

Parents considering removing their children from school for any reason, including a holiday, should read the Attendance Policy carefully (available on our school website) as making a request begins a formal process that can lead to a Penalty Notice. Absences must be requested in advance using a leave of absence request form, available from the school office. Where a child of statutory school age (the term after their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday) has an unauthorised leave of absence (including occasions where a reason is not given or a holiday absence) of 10 sessions or more within a ten-week rolling period, their parents will be referred to the local authority for a penalty notice.

Parents should note that penalty notice charges have increased and warning letters will not be issued, with referrals moving directly to the penalty notice stage. Penalty notices are applied per parent, per child. There is also an increase in the penalty notice fine.

The National Framework introduced in August 2024 means only two penalty notices can be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within a three-year rolling period and any second notice within that period is charged at a higher rate:

- The first penalty notice issued to a parent in respect of a particular pupil will be charged at £160 if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.
- A second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil is charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days.
- A third penalty notice cannot be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within three years of the date of issue of the first. Alternative action, such as prosecution in Magistrates court, will be considered instead.

The school attendance policy for 2024-25 has been updated to take account of the new guidance and advice from the local authority. Please ensure you familiarise yourself with this information before considering a holiday in term time.

## School Term and Holiday Dates 2024-25

Please note the term dates below to assist with your planning.

	Start of term	Half term	Last day of term
<b>Autumn</b>	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024	Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
<b>Spring</b>	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
<b>Summer</b>	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> May – Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2025

School will be closed on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025 (Bank Holiday). In addition, school will be closed for three training days across the year (Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January and Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June) and one occasional day (Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July).

## Fundraising

### Asda Cashpot for Schools

Thank you to those parents and friends who have signed up to Asda Cashpot for Schools for us. We already have £139.56 in our Cashpot which is fantastic, thank you. The promotion lasts until 30<sup>th</sup> November. See the information below for more information and how to sign up if this is a shop you or friends and family use.

#### Asda Cashpot for Schools

You may have seen in the press or at your local Asda that Joe Wicks has teamed up with Asda and launched a new campaign, [Cashpot for Schools](#). Asda is inviting customers to join in with fundraising for their local primary school by shopping at the supermarket either instore or online. All you need to do is download the [Asda Rewards app](#), opt-in, choose the primary school you want (Greenside Primary School), then shop and scan your app at checkout. Asda will donate 0.5% of your spend to your chosen school. The more money you spend at Asda, the more money you raise for Greenside Primary School that we can use in any way we like.

By signing up for [Cashpot for Schools](#), you continue to earn back pounds into your own [Asda Rewards](#) Cashpot each time you shop, as well as raising funds for school.

Follow the steps below to get started.

1. Download the Asda Rewards app Sign up for Asda Rewards and download the app on your smartphone. Opt into the Cashpot for Schools campaign through the app and watch your Cashpot start to fill up as you shop.
2. Choose your school Greenside Primary School
3. Shop in store across Asda and George, or online at Asda.com Asda will donate a percentage of your shop to your chosen school each time you shop with them. You'll also earn Pounds in your Cashpot across star products and missions that will go towards your own shops in the future.
4. Asda does the rest The money raised will be donated to schools to spend on what they need most, including books, tech or sports equipment. This is in addition to your own Cashpot; you won't lose out on any of your earnings on your Asda Rewards app, so everyone is a winner!
5. We'll support your chosen school from the beginning Asda will start every school off with a £50 donation, dependent on at least one customer earning on their behalf through Cashpot for Schools. Asda's campaign will run until 30 November.

### Reminders

#### **Arrival and Departure of Children**

As part of our safeguarding procedures, all children from Nursery to Year 4 must be brought to school and collected by an adult (person over 18). Children from Nursery – Year 4 should not be left unaccompanied on the school yard before or after the start of the school day. Parents should also ensure children do not go onto the astroturf area and play equipment before or after school.

Depending on your circumstances, you may still prefer to accompany Year 5 and Year 6 children to and from school, or you may choose to give permission for them to walk home alone or with a sibling from secondary school. If this is the case, please contact the school office. If behaviour on the way to or from school becomes a concern for any children in this group, parents will be contacted, and children will need to be accompanied on their journey. Year 5 and Year 6 children should arrive just before the doors open as the yard is not supervised before school.

All children (Year 1-6) must be collected from after school activity clubs by an adult. This is in line with the guidance received from our safeguarding support team.

#### **Classes**

The classes teachers for this academic year are shared below.

Early Years / Key Stage 1		Key Stage 2	
<b>Nursery and Reception</b>	Mrs B. Newton and Mrs C. Innes	<b>Year 3</b>	Miss J. Old
		<b>Year 4</b>	Mr A. Taylor
<b>Year 1</b>	Mrs S. Pearce and Mrs J. Kelsall	<b>Year 5</b>	Miss R. Millman
<b>Year 2</b>	Mrs S. Skitt	<b>Year 6</b>	Mrs A. Ingram and Mrs L. Seddon

#### **Wrap Around Provision**

Breakfast Club runs Monday to Friday starting at 8am (£4). This year we have been able to extend our After School Club offer and this now runs Monday to Thursday, ending at 5:30pm (£8). Places must be booked in advance, through Arbor. If you would like to use Childcare Vouchers to pay for this provision, please contact the school office to arrange.

#### **Water Bottles**

**Children in Year 1 – Year 6 should bring a water bottle each day** and this should be filled with still plain water only in line with the requirements of the Oral Health Team and our policies. Children in Nursery and Reception have access to water as part of their classroom provision.

#### **Uniform**

We ask that children wear the school colours (we have never required parents to buy uniform with logos) and this is available in most supermarkets. We also ask for plain black school shoes (not trainers) that are suitable for the full day, including running about at playtime. Children in Nursery to Year 2 also need a blue book bag, please contact the school office if you need any support with this.

Uniform with logos, for those parents who do prefer this, can be purchased from [www.saltouk.com](http://www.saltouk.com). They will deliver or you can collect from their store in Prudhoe. Uniform can be ordered from them at any time in the year.

Good quality items of uniform are also available from the Gateshead West Pre-Loved Uniform Scheme on a 'pay what you can if you can' basis. Opening times for drop-in sessions at the Ryton Scout Hut can be found on their Facebook page. If anyone has any good quality uniform that children have grown out of, please send it into school and we will arrange for this to be delivered to the Gateshead West Pre-Loved Uniform Scheme.

As ever, if anyone is struggling with any items of uniform, please approach us and we will look at ways of accessing support with this.

## **PE Kit**

PE kit consists of a white polo shirt (round necked plain / logo white t-shirts will be fine until children grow out of them), plain black jogging bottoms / leggings or shorts and trainers (black where possible). School will provide a PE top (kept in school) for use in outdoor sessions. PE tops must stay in school, please send them back in if your child accidentally comes home with one.

**Our very strong recommendation is that children in Y1-6 bring their PE kits to school at the beginning of each half term in a small drawstring bag and leave this in their lockers.** This will help to ensure that PE kits are in school when needed as sometimes there are changes in school that mean that PE days need to be adjusted and we may not have time to give notice. Kits will be sent home each half term (or sooner if needed) for washing. However, if this is an issue for some families, then these children can bring their PE kit either weekly or each day but again this must be in a small bag (preferably drawstring) as there is no room in the lockers for large bags.

We will not be telephoning home if children forget PE kit, instead we will provide children with items of school issue kit to wear if needed. Children must take part in PE lessons and must be dressed appropriately to do this. Again, if any families are struggling to provide any items of PE kit, please get in touch with school and we will support with this.

Children in Reception will not need a PE kit initially. Mrs Newton and Mrs Innes will let you know when Reception children will need this. Children in Nursery do not need a PE kit.

## **Earrings, Jewellery and Nail Varnish**

A few children have arrived in school still wearing earrings. Please be advised that for the safety of your child and others, earrings and spacers must be removed to allow your child to access the full curriculum. National and local authority guidance have been used to inform this school policy.

Until they are removed, you are restricting your child's access to the curriculum as we cannot allow your child to take part in PE lessons, swimming or any active sessions at playtime, lunchtime or throughout the school day.

Even if the piercing has not yet fully healed, we would advise removing the earrings or spacers for the duration of the school day and replacing them immediately on your child's return home.

Children should not wear any jewellery (including wristbands and necklaces) and nail varnish should be removed. Although watches are permitted, large watches are impractical and children often remove them as they tend to get in the way when they are working. Watches also need to be removed for PE. Any device with a camera or internet capability is not permitted in school.

## **Online Safety**

Please can we ask you to be very vigilant when you are allowing children to use tablets, devices or phones. Supervise what they are doing, check messages and talk to your children about the websites they are accessing.

Encourage children to let you know where they are when they are playing outside and make sure they know what to do if they are not comfortable with a situation.

## **Dogs**

Please remember that dogs must not be brought onto the school site at any time or tied up to school railings and left unattended. Please also be considerate of children who are scared of dogs, making sure that dogs are under control, not jumping up at children and that there is plenty of space for people with pushchairs to pass on pavements.

## **Roads and Parking**

Please can we ask that parents are considerate of our neighbours when parking. Driveways and streets must not be blocked at the beginning or end of the day.

Can I share another reminder that cars must not park or drop off on the yellow lines outside school. This poses a danger to our children. The local authority camera car will issue fines to any cars caught on the lines.

We have also had some concerns raised about the speed of traffic on the roads outside school, I will be sharing this with local councillors.

As ever, at the start of a new school year it can take some time for everyone to adjust to new routines. Can I ask you to get in touch with school if you have any questions or queries. WhatsApp and Facebook groups can be useful, but school staff will be able to answer your questions accurately; the school office can be accessed by telephone from 8:30am – 4:15pm each day or by email at [greensideprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:greensideprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely  
Miss D. Foster  
Headteacher