



Dates for the Diary

Friday 14th March – Y1 and Y6 Forest School
Friday 21st March – Y1 and Y6 Forest School
Friday 28th March – Nursery and Reception Forest School
Monday 31st March – Friday 4th April – Y6 Mock SATs week
Friday 4th April - Nursery and Reception Forest School
Friday 11th April - Nursery and Reception Forest School
Friday 11th April – Last Day of Spring Term 2
14th – 25th April – Easter Holidays
Monday 28th April – First Day of Summer Term 1

PE Days

Nursery – Tuesday
Reception – Tuesday
Year 1 – Tuesday and Friday
Year 2 – Monday and Thursday
Year 3 – Monday and Tuesday
Year 4 – Tuesday (swimming) and Wednesday
Year 5 – Tuesday (PE or swimming for those who have been notified) and Thursday (PE)
Year 6 – Wednesday and Friday

No class news for: Nursery, Reception GD and Year 1 TY

World book day

Reading can be fun, wherever you are!

We asked an AI video creator to take the photos sent in from families and build them in to a film, this can be found on our school facebook page and school website.

<https://www.highspenprimary.org>



Whole School

This half term we are introducing a new system for signing children out when they have to leave early for appointments or are sent home poorly. The same system will be used to sign in families who arrive after the main doors have been closed (9am).

The system uses an iPad outside the school office. The iPad asks you to enter brief details about the late arrival/early leaving, these details are then imported to SIMS (which is where our registers are generated). It is crucial that the information in SIMS is kept accurate as we use it in the event of emergency evacuation/fire. For this reason, if you arrive after 9am, you will be guided to the office to 'sign in your child'. Likewise, should you need to collect your child early, you will be asked to complete the 'sign out' process whilst we collect your child.

Many schools use such systems to safeguard children onsite at any one time, but we are *thrilled to share* that our system has been designed, written and coded by an ex-pupil... and you don't get that everywhere! :-)

Free School Meals

If your circumstances have changed you may be eligible for free school meals.

Please don't delay in applying - take a minute to complete the online application via Gateshead Council website below, if you have any problems please contact the school office at highspen@gatedu.org or 01207542373. 😊

<https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/7433/Free-school-meals>.

A letter with further information regarding Free School Meals was sent out via email to parents on 07/03/25.

Year 2 - FN – Florence Nightingale

PE is every **Monday** and **Thursday** afternoon so please send children in PE kit on those days.

Homework and reading folders to be returned **every Thursday**. New homework and books will be issued every Friday. From next week, some children will be given reading comprehension homework instead of spelling homework. All children will be given a piece of Maths homework to build on their mental maths strategies. All homework to be completed and returned every Thursday please.

Year 3 – MLK Martin Luther King

CYCLING – PLEASE READ - Next Friday the 14th of March are the Y3/4 cycling sessions. If you haven't signed your child up for this yet – there are still places so just ask in the office. Just a reminder that for these particular sessions – as previously stated - we have been told that children have to be CONFIDENT riders to take part. Therefore, not all children will be taking part this time but hopefully less confident riders will get a chance in the future. For those of you who have signed your child up as being a confident rider and signed the consent form then given – please send your child in to school with their bike and helmet on the 14th. The company have some but not lots of spare bikes to offer so if you have one please do send it in. If you have misplaced the consent form or not signed it yet, please do so asap. Thank you!

Year 4 – FWD – Fredrick William Dobson

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Also, we started our Pickle Palace sessions with Hannah. We enjoyed a fascinating whole class session where they looked at how we can reduce waste within the food industry and everyone really enjoyed it. We will continue sessions with Hannah for the next 3 weeks, these sessions will be opportunities for grownups to come into school and cook alongside the children. These sessions will take place on a Wednesday afternoon. The class will be split into 3 groups and each group will have a specific week when they will be cooking. A message will be sent home with what group/week your child will be in. If you have questions, please get in touch.

Year 5 – BR – Bobby Robson

Hi everyone 😊

Thank you at home for supporting us with World Book Day – in class, we shared a wonderful array of books past and present, book characters and extreme reading photos!

Next week, we start a new installment of MELVA, a programme which aims to improve children's knowledge and understanding of mental health. It will follow on from work done last year in Year 4. Please ask your child more about it - the first session will be on Friday!

This half term and next, we cover the units of Life Cycles and Changes and Reproduction in Science. This includes learning about how plants and animals (including humans) reproduce and grow. We're telling you now so that you can be prepared for interesting questions from curious minds! This also links with our PSHE unit of Growing and Changing, which covers physical and emotional changes during puberty. If you'd like to know more (about our curriculum, not puberty!!!), please do ask us.

Lastly, Spring 2 homework will start this week. Look out for the usual homework folders coming home on Wednesday. We really appreciate your efforts to support your child with homework. Experience shows that helping your child to find a suitable time and space to complete homework really helps them to develop good routines and habits before they move on to secondary school and beyond. Thank you!

Year 6 – MY – Malala Yousafzai

In an upcoming DT project (brand new to Y6 this year), we will be designing and making mobile phone cases. If you have any lying around the house and would be happy to send them into school for us to use as part of our research we would be really grateful. Please send in with your child with a note saying you would like them returned or you are happy for them to remain in school for future DT projects.

If you would like a paper copy of this letter for your fridge please call to the office and collect one.