



High Spen Primary School Newsletter Week 27, W/B 7th April 2025

Dates for the Diary

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

Monday 12th – Thursday 15th May – Y6 SATs week

26th – 30th May – Half Term

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 (PE)

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 SG,

Morning Drop Off - have a great day hug and retreat to the MUGA

As you have hopefully seen either via FB or Email – when the morning bell rings, we are asking parents and carers to have a **'have a great day hug'** and then move back to the MUGA. This will allow the children to line up, ready to come into school, without adults dotted amongst the lines. The change comes on the back of two recent occasions where younger children have become separated from their adults, but adults have not been able to scan to find them with adults and children mixed together in the lining up area. On reflection, it will also support staff in seeing children are settled and ready to come in.

Could we also ask that younger children are kept away from the Ramp and 'Stick Area' (we really need a better name!) We don't let the children play around the ramp during the school day as it has to be kept clear as a fire exit – and is made of pretty unforgiving, angular metal. Children are welcome to use the main yard to play until bell rings.

Thanks for your help



Thanks

We'd like to say a big 'thank you' for supporting us with our tweaks to drop off and pick up arrangements above (aka have a great day hug and retreat to the MUGA). It is easy to grow complacent about the high level of support our families give to school – so this corner of the Need to Know is simply to say THANKS!

No Dogs in School

Please remember to keep your pets out of the school yard. Cute (and well behaved) as they are, we have a 'No Dogs in School' rule. If you are ever totally stuck for pooch care, please message the office and we will bring your child to the gate – but this is not something we can offer routinely.

Thanks in advance.



Reception – GD – Grace Darling

Heights and weights - We have booked Reception height and weight session with the School Nursing team for Thursday 10th April. (Original letter emailed out 13.03.25 with further information). If you are happy for your child to be measured, you do not need to do anything. If you do not want your child's height and weight to be measured, or your child has a medical condition that affects their height or weight please contact the Gateshead Growing Healthy Team by telephone on: 03000 031 918 or email: spoc.HDFTGateshead@nhs.net

Year 1 – TY – Thomas Young

Just a note to say we will be keeping yellow reading records at school so that we can update HRS highlighting for the Spring term. Children will still be given reading books this week, just no yellow reading records will be sent home. This will also be the last week of homework until after half term.

Year 1 have been determined to put on their own socks and shoes after our PE lessons. I am very proud to say that every child can do this independently. It has been lovely to see and hear children helping their friends to be successful. Please prompt your child to do this at home each morning; the more practice the better.

Please can all Library books be returned to School on Monday 7th April 2025. If you are unsure which book your child has taken from the library please come and ask a member of Year 1 staff.

Year 2 - FN – Florence Nightingale

There will be no homework except for reading books until after the Easter holidays as we are collecting in logs to update our assessments. Please ensure all reading and homework folders are returned on Thursday and these will be reissued after the Easter holidays. Thank you!

Year 3 – MLK Martin Luther King

Please look out for a spelling and times table practise sheet coming home with your child this weekend. We will be having a quiz in class for both next week and any practise you can support them with for this would be great.

Please return any blue homework books by Monday the 7th, these books will stay in school until after Easter break so there will be no homework given next week. We will still send a reading book home on Monday to be returned by Friday the 11th.

Could any Jeremy Strong 'featured author' books now be returned back to class, ready for our new featured author in Summer term. Thank you! 😊

Year 4 – FWD – Fredrick William Dobson

On Wednesday we will begin building an ancient piece of technology in DT called a Shaduf. We will be using some clay, which could cause a little mess. Could you please provide an old T-shirt for children to wear in case of mess. They don't need to wear it to school, but they can just put it on top of their uniform at the beginning of the lesson.

Year 5 – BR – Bobby Robson

Hi everyone 😊. Our final homework for Spring 2 went out on Wednesday. Please help your child find time and space to complete it and return it for Monday morning as usual.

This is also a call-out to return all Featured Author Michael Morpurgo books before the end of term please. Watch out as there will be a new Y5 Featured Author coming after Easter!

Bikeability - Thank you to all who have returned their forms. Keep them coming if yours is still at home. Just a reminder that we need confirmation from home regarding whether bikes/helmets are needed. The options were to write a note on the consent form or email Mrs Heron: nicolaheron@gatedu.org. So far she has not received any emails however a few children have said they need bikes and helmets. It is important for us to know what is required to ensure that we have enough spare bikes/helmets for everyone to take part.

Year 6 – MY – Malala Yousafzai

MOCK SATs Week – a huge shout out to our amazing Y6s who absolutely gave it their all this week whilst tackling practice SATs papers from 2024. They did this with maturity and resilience and we could not be prouder. They have been given their results and we have chatted about things to improve on for the real event. There will no doubt be some tired children this weekend as it is mentally draining but I think all will agree (adults in school as well!) that they have learned so much about the experience. We are delighted with the results as they are the strongest we have had in a MOCK SATs week for a very long time. The real SATs week will be the week commencing Monday 12th May. Please know we are here anytime to chat with adults at home if there are any concerns.

Mary Poppins at Thorp Academy – Just a reminder that we are being treated to a FREE performance on Monday 7th April (afternoon) and that Mr Firth will be transporting us there in a mini-bus. We will be back in time for the end of the school day, children are to wear uniform and school lunches are as normal.

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Additional message from Mr F:- For personal reasons (which I have permission to share), I have been thinking a lot about how we can mitigate any possible emotional impact from Y6 children being screened for height and weights. This is a National programme but it doesn't mean we can't tweak the way it runs in our school. To this end, we will be talking to the children before and after the screening, to celebrate the fact we all look different, all grow at different rates and all wish to be healthy – but 'healthy' comes in a million different shapes and sizes. On Friday I will be talking very openly to the Y6 children about my own little girl's journey and the risks associated with accepting/inferring messages that there is a 'right' way to look.

P.S. Can someone help me down from this soapbox?!?!

Easter holidays – have fun enjoying some amazing family time after a hard few week's work.

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