



Welcome back, what a fabulous first week it has been!

PE Days

- SG** - Tuesday (Morning)
- GD** - Wednesday
- TY** - Monday and Thursday
- FN** - Monday and Wednesday
- MLK** – Tuesday and Friday
- FWD** - Tuesday and Wednesday
- BR** - Tuesday (swimming) and Thursday
- MY** – Tuesday (including swimming for some children) and Friday

Healthy Snacks



Children have the opportunity to bring in a **healthy** snack (not cake bars or chocolate) for morning break.

Parents of children in EYFS and KS1 may be aware that free fruit and vegetables are provided to them daily by school through the Government School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme and so you may choose not to send in an additional snack.

School Meals (See letter below from the School Catering Department)

When your child tucks into a school meal you can be assured a lot of thought has gone into making it as healthy as possible.



All children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 are entitled to a free school meal everyday.

The cost for school meals in Nursery is £2.50 per day

The cost for Children in year 3-6 is £3.00 per day

School meals must be paid for prior to the meal being taken, preferably on a Monday for the week ahead or in exceptional circumstances on the day the meal is taken, this can be done online or app via school Gateway or in cash to the school office. Thank you

Free Daisy Chain Session

We are pleased to say the following post (originally shared in July) led to sufficient interest from parents and carers for Daisy Chain to agree to come to school and run an information session.



Please join us in school, Friday 12th September, 1pm.

At the moment we have 12 people joining us, but there is always space for more, so please feel free to sign up using the form below.

Any questions, please just ask.

Original Post:

Daisy Chain is a charitable group who work to build understanding around supporting autistic and neurodivergent children at home and in school.

Miss Hackney has been developing links with Daisy Chain to help us best meet the needs of children in school. One of the offers of support Daisy Chain has made, is to offer an information and support session for parents and carers in school.

The session is open to any families in school.

If you think you could be interested, please complete the following expression of interest form.

[<https://forms.office.com/e/Y9zxU73npa>](<https://forms.office.com/e/Y9zxU73npa...>)

Nursery – SG – Saint George - Mrs Bainbridge

Greetings from Nursery! We welcome all of our returning and new friends this week and have enjoyed getting to know one another. The children have settled in fantastically.

We will be emailing our Newsletters this year and they will be located on our class webpage on the High Spen Primary School website. If you would like a paper copy, please feel free to ask. There is some important information for you in our newsletter, and we encourage you to take a quick look. Also thank you to our 15- and 30-hours families that have signed up to ClassDojo. As we trial this cohort, we will be looking to add our 2-year-olds soon. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call or touch base with us in person. We are very excited to see where the year takes us.

Reception – GD – Grace Darling - Miss Kirkley

Welcome to Reception! Our class is called GD after Grace Darling.

We have had a fabulous first week and your children have been amazing settling into the new life of Reception. On Friday, your child will bring home a newsletter to give you more information about Reception.

Pickle Palace.

Reception are starting Pickle Palace cooking sessions from next week.

Dates of sessions are –

- **Wednesday 10th September**
- **Wednesday 17th September**
- **Wednesday 24th September**
- **Wednesday 1st October**

These cooking sessions will start at 1.00pm until 3.00pm and **parent ARE invited**. Unfortunately, we only have 6 spaces per week for parents to attend. Therefore, we will put up a parent sign-up sheet on Reception's class door, which will be a first come first serve basis.

If you are unable to attend any of the Pickle Palace cooking sessions, don't worry Mrs. Horn will be able to take your child along and support them during the session.

We hope to see you all there.!!

If you have any questions please come and see a member of the Reception class team.

Miss Kirkley.

Year 1 – TY – Thomas Young – Mrs Halliday/Mrs Cowie

Hello and welcome back everyone! We have had a fabulous week back in Year 1. We are so proud of all of the children, they have entered school and blown us away. Enjoy the weekend and we will see you on Monday! Good luck to anyone involved in the Great North Run events this weekend.

Homework and reading folders are being sent home this week for the first time. There is a letter in the front of your child's blue homework folder with all of the details about homework and how to complete this. Your child will also bring home a reading folder. This must be brought into school every day so that we can read with your child at school. In your child's reading folder we have also sent home a newsletter. Please be sure to read this so that you can find out all of the important information about Year 1.

If you have any junk modelling please could you bring this in on Monday. We are looking for –

- Yoghurt pots (clean)
- Cardboard boxes (small)

Thank you 😊

Year 2 - FN – Florence Nightingale- Mrs Coates

Welcome back! The children have settled really well into the routines and expectations of Y2. On Friday, your child will bring home a reading folder with their reading books for the week and also a newsletter to give you more information about Y2. They will also bring a blue homework folder with some information about homework and a small task about looking at baby photographs. Please can the reading and blue homework folders be returned **EVERY THURSDAY** so we can mark homework and issue new reading books/tasks. If you have any questions about reading books or homework, please see me before or after school.

TOP SECRET!! - In class the children have been introduced to a character called Otto Blotter who likes to go on adventures and spot birds. As part of this, I have organised a SECRET visit to Chopwell Woods on **Wednesday 10th September from 9.30-11.30am** for children to find items hidden in the woods. This is simply a walk/treasure hunt, so children just need to come to school wearing their normal PE kit but must have a waterproof coat and suitable footwear for the woods. Please, please play along with building excitement and don't mention this to your child! The children will find out about the adventure on Tuesday afternoon so you can share the excitement with them from Tuesday. Thank you for your support in this.

Year 3 – MLK Martin Luther King – Miss Murray

Hello at home. It's been a great first week back and Y3 have shown such maturity and enthusiasm so far. Hopefully you have received the Y3 newsletter this week – if not please let me know and I'll get one sorted for you. All homework, reading books etc. will come home with your child on Monday.

For three weeks starting from next Friday the 12th, we are lucky to have forest school so please send your child in appropriate clothing for the woods along with a water bottle and healthy snack if required. Once the three Fridays of forest school are over, we will go back to PE on a Friday. Thank you!

Year 4 – FWD – Fredrick William Dobson – Mr Fumoleau

What a fantastic first week in year 4. We have had a really lovely transition, and everyone is feeling comfortable in their new class. It will still take a little while before everyone is properly settled in, but we've had a great start so far. On Tuesday your children will receive their homework folders, these should include a newsletter, homework, their reading book and a letter explaining homework. All homework should be returned the following Monday. There is no need to return homework folders back the following day as children will need their reading books throughout the week. If you have any questions or worries about homework, then please contact me. Congratulate your child for all the hard work they have achieved this week. I'm looking forward to the coming year.

Year 5 – BR – Bobby Robson – Mr Cradock

Hi everyone 😊

We're off to a super start! It's been really lovely getting to know everyone better this week. Ms Hackney and I have been very impressed with the enthusiasm and teamwork in Year 5.

Don't forget that swimming starts on Tuesday 9th. We have an early session so we'll head over to Blaydon straight after we've registered.

Homework will also be starting in Week 2. Look out for the folders on Wednesday. Please help your child find time and space to complete the tasks and remind them that it is to be returned by the following Monday. Tasks link to ongoing work in class and we will check through them together on return.

It's been great seeing many of you on the yard before and after school but if you haven't been able to and have any questions, please call the office and we can arrange a time to meet/call back.

Year 6 – MY – Malala Yousafzai – Mrs Heron/Mrs Lawson

Well, it's safe to say that Y6 has got off to a flying start. Children have returned full of smiles and enthusiasm – just what we like to see. The first piece of homework went out yesterday to be returned Monday. Children have all chosen reading books which should also be heading home. Please can we ask that children use the plastic homework folders provided to try and protect homework and books. More information about homework will be in the class newsletter. Children have also brought home Robinwood Personal Information Forms which we need returned by Tuesday 9th September to fill in the necessary paperwork for Robinwood. It is a mammoth task! A date will be shared shortly about a Robinwood meeting where we can share kit lists and go through the necessary arrangements.

Forest school – Friday 12th, 19th and 26th September (afternoon session). Please send your child into school on those dates ready for the woods with a water bottle and healthy snack. Please keep an eye on the weather and dress accordingly. Once the three Fridays of forest school are over, we will go back to PE on a Friday. Thank you!

Robinwood meeting – On Thursday 11th September, parents and carers are invited into class MY at 2:30pm to find out information about Robinwood and ask any questions. If you are unable to attend, please catch me and I will be happy to go over relevant information another time. I will also send out the PowerPoint and any lists needed. Thank you!

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

Letter from the School Catering Team

Dear Parent/Carer

Gateshead School Catering deliver the School Meals at your child's school. We are Gateshead Councils in house catering service, with over 320 members of staff who provide over 10,000 meals per day across 72 sites.

We are passionate about providing children with the best fuel for the school day. Our school meals offer value for money, and our menus a range of fresh ingredients, often from local suppliers, served by a skilled and experienced team. School meals offer children the chance to eat a nutritious, tasty meal in a sociable, safe environment.

Your child can choose from two main meal options provided every day, one of which is a vegetarian dish, alternatively they can have a jacket potato served with a tasty filling (some schools also operate a deli selection).

Our menus for each school are available on our website, to view your child's school meals options, you can use the QR code below.



We strive to ensure pupils of Gateshead can enjoy the nutritious and delicious school lunch on offer regardless of any allergies, intolerances, medical or alternative diets. We recognise medical diets as an extremely important aspect of our catering provision, aiming for all pupils to enjoy their lunch time experience, without the worry of being singled out. If your child has a medical or alternative diet, please contact your child's school or email SchoolCatering@Gateshead.Gov.UK and you will be provided with a form to complete so we can investigate options for them.

Did you know pupils in reception class, year 1 and year 2 who attend a government funded school are entitled to a free school meal through the universal infant free school meal (UIFSM) scheme?

Children may also be entitled to a free school meal if parents receive certain welfare benefits. For every valid application for free school meals, not only will your child receive a healthy, nutritious meal, the school will be able to claim additional funding which can really help provide the best environment to support your child's learning and development. To find out if you qualify contact the free school meals team on 0191 433 3729 or by email benefitsfsm@gateshead.gov.uk. To find out more about school meals, please visit www.gateshead.gov.uk/schoolmeals or ring the Catering & Cleaning office on 0191 433 5522.

Yours sincerely,

Gateshead School Catering

Dates for the Diary – Autumn Term 1 2025/2026

Date	Event
Friday 12 th September	Daisy Chain parent session 1pm – 3pm
Wednesday 24 th September	Individual school photos
Friday 26 th September	Green, Gold and Pink Day
Wednesday 1 st Oct – Friday 3 rd Oct	Robinwood Trip
Friday 24 th October	Last day of Autumn Term 1
27 th October – 31 st October	Half Term
Monday 3 rd November	First day of Autumn term 2

2025/2026 Term dates

Autumn term

Start of term	Half term	Last day of term
Monday 1 September 2025	27 to 31 October 2025	Friday 19 December 2025

Spring term

Start of term	Half term	Last day of term
Monday 5 January 2026	23 to 27 February 2026	Thursday 2 April 2026

Summer term

Start of term	Half term	Last day of term
Monday 20 April 2026	25 to 29 May 2026 (Bank holiday 25 May)	Friday 17 July 2026

All dates are inclusive. In addition to the above dates, schools will be closed to pupils on Monday 4 May 2026 (Bank Holiday).

Two days within the above terms are to be used for professional development for staff. These dates are to be determined and agreed by individual school governing bodies. (01.09.25 and 19.06.26)

In addition, one occasional day within the Summer Term 2026 is to be utilised for the purpose of closure for possible election purposes, this day to be used near the end of the summer term and agreed by individual school governing bodies. (22.06.26)