



PE Days – New for Summer 1

Nursery SG - Tuesday AM

Rec GD - Friday

Y1 TY - Monday and Thursday

Y2 FN - **Wednesday and** Friday

Y3 MLK – Tuesday (swimming / PE for those not swimming) and Friday.

Y4 FWD- Tuesday (swimming) and Wednesday

Y5 BR – Tuesday and Thursday

Y6 MY – Tuesday and Friday



Forest School Sessions – Summer 1



Please ensure children wear suitable clothing and footwear for their Muddy Monsters session at the woods. Thank you

| Date | AM | PM |
|----------|-------|------------|
| 24/04/26 | Y1 TY | Y4 FWD |
| 01/05/26 | Y1 TY | Y4 FWD |
| 08/05/26 | Y1 TY | Y4 FWD |
| 15/05/26 | Y5 BR | Nursery SG |
| 22/05/26 | Y5 BR | Nursery SG |

No Class news for: Reception, Year 1 TY, Year 3 MLK and Year 4 FWD

Class Newsletters

Please check the class pages on the school website for the Class newsletters and plans.



Warmer weather



Now the warmer weather is upon us please send children into school with a water bottle and suncream (labelled if possible). Then we can all enjoy the fun that the sunshine brings.

Gregg's Children's Cancer Run – Sunday 17th May

Good luck to all the families taking part on Sunday. The weather forecast is looking a bit on the wet side so come prepared. See you at the Schools Meeting Point by 10:45am ready to start the 3/5 mile at 11:05am. Should you be running late then hopefully we will see you at the end.



Talk about having that Friday feeling!

We started Friday morning with a whole school 'Belong' assembly.

This was especially touching as two old friends were brave enough to stand in front of the whole school and talk about how important it was to be made to feel they belonged, when they came to High Spen 10yrs ago.

In 2016 we were proud to be asked to welcome the first of nine Syrian refugee children. Their lack of English was matched by our 'limited' Arabic!

For many of the staff in school it was the start of one of the fondest learning curves we've had in the job.

This week we have welcomed back two of the boys, Muhammad and Ibrahim. During a busy week, they have been happy to share their memories of arriving in Gateshead and how they and their families were made to feel welcome, belonging to a new school and a new community.



I promised Muhammad I wouldn't post the super cute photos of their first days in school, but they gave permission to share this one!

It has been an emotional week, and adding a pin for the boys and their families on our Belong Map made a few eyes leak amongst the grown-ups who remember the boys starting with us.

[High Spen Belong Map](#)

In a half term where we have welcomed seven new children (Nur, Y1, Y4 & Y5) it is reassuring to hear existing children speak so well about the importance of helping others feel they belong.

Nursery – SG – Saint George - Mrs Bainbridge

Greetings from Nursery. Next week (Thurs 21 May) we will be going on our Early Years Hall Hill Farm trip. Those going on the bus will join us in school and the **bus will leave around 9.15am** after we take register. If you are driving, please feel free to meet us at Hall Hill farm. We expect to arrive around 10.00am. We will have a tour in the morning followed by lunch (**please bring a packed lunch**) and in the afternoon you will be free to explore as you please. There will be two groups in our Nursery tour. Group 1 will be all children and their grownups going to Reception this September. Group 2 will be all children and grownups going to Nursery next year. The **bus will leave Hall hill promptly at 2.00pm** arriving back at school by 3.15pm. Please dress for the weather. If you have any questions, please let us know. **If you have not handed in your forms, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you for your support.**

Also, we have been given the opportunity to further explore our animal theme this coming Tuesday morning, further details to follow.

It will be an exciting week in Nursery, and we look forward to all the farm fun we will be having.

Year 2 - FN – Florence Nightingale- Mrs Coates

PE – Our PE sessions are Wednesday (*Athletics*) and Friday (*Cricket*) so please send your child in their PE kit for those days.

Homework – Thank you so much for all of your support with homework this half term. This week we will be collecting in folders so there will be no reading books or homework for over half term. Enjoy

Year 5 – BR – Bobby Robson – Mr Cradock

Hi everyone 😊

Next week is Bikeability! The trainers will be in on Monday, starting with a session on the yard to assess ability and readiness, and sessions will continue on both Tuesday and Wednesday. Please ensure bikes are in a roadworthy condition (see the information letter that went home) and children have helmets. Uniform is not necessary on Bikeability days. It's more important that children are comfortable, warm and dry (remember waterproofs for sudden showers). We can keep bikes overnight in school for the duration of the training if needed.

Our final Forest School session for this term will be on Friday 22 May. Please check the weather forecast and send children to school with appropriate clothes and footwear. This could include sun and/or rain protection depending on conditions but always long sleeves and trousers/leggings for exploring the woods please. Also, remember water bottles (and you may want to throw in a mid-morning snack too). Many thanks!

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

Well, that's SATs over for another year. It is never the easiest of weeks, but our Y6 children once again rose to the occasion and were absolute superstars. We have seen such calmness and determination which means we just could not be prouder. We also want to say a HUGE thank you to Get Up and Go club for paying for the SATs breakfast.

Hannah from Pickle Palace is joining us next Wednesday afternoon so we have that to look forward to. On Wednesday 3rd and 10th June, children will take part in one cookery session and one willow weaving session. The table below shows which session your children are in. You are very much welcome to join in as many of these as you wish. I promise that the willow weaving is much easier than the Dragon's Den electricity project!

| | Group 1 (x8) | Group 2 (x8) |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Children | Joe Matthew Sonny Jack Charlie Esme Isla Anna | Patrick Jonny Thomas Radoslav Alexia Esmay Georgia Alice |
| Wednesday 3 rd June | Pickle Palace | Willow lanterns |
| Wednesday 3 rd June | Willow lanterns | Pickle Palace |

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

Dates for the Diary 2025/2026

| Date | Event |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Mon 18 th – Wed 20 th May | Y5 Bikeability |
| Thursday 21 st May | EY Hall Hill Farm Trip |
| Friday 22 nd May | Last day of Summer Term 1 |
| 25th - 29th May | Half Term Holidays |
| Monday 1 st June | First day of Summer Term 2 |
| Thursday 18 th June | Class Photographs |
| Friday 19th June | INSET Day (School closed) |
| Monday 22nd June | Occasional Day (School closed) |
| Monday 29 th June | Y6 Safety Works and Quayside Visit |
| 6 th – 10 th July | Sports Week |
| Wednesday 15 th July | Strawberry Teas |
| Friday 17 th July | Last Day of Summer Term2 |

2026/2027 Term dates

Autumn term

| Start of term | Half term | Last day of term |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Tuesday 1 September 2026 | 26 to 30 October 20256 | Friday 18 December 2026 |

Spring term

| Start of term | Half term | Last day of term |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Monday 4 January 2027 | 15 to 19 February 2027 | Thursday 25 March 2027 |

Summer term

| Start of term | Half term | Last day of term |
|----------------------|---|---------------------|
| Monday 12 April 2027 | 1 to 4 June 2027 (Bank holiday 31 May) | Friday 16 July 2027 |

All dates are inclusive. In addition to the above dates, schools will be closed to pupils on **Monday 3 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. These dates for **High Spen Primary** are proposed as **Tuesday 01.09.26 and Monday 21.06.27**, we do have one less Inset/Professional development day than usual this year but we do get 7 weeks summer holidays as the proposed return date is Monday 6 September 2027.

Messages from the Community



Something exciting has hatched for half term! WWT Washington have teamed up with Macmillan Children's Books to explore the wonderful world of wetlands with Gozzle, from Julia Donaldson and Sara Ogilvie's freshly hatched picture book. In the story Bear and Gozzle go on an adventure together, finding out the true meaning of home, family, and belonging.

Inspired by Gozzle, the adventure at Washington brings storytelling off the page and into the wetlands through an interactive trail, exploration, and imagination. It's a joyful spring adventure for children and their grown-ups!

Find out more and book your tickets: Gozzle: <https://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/washington/whats-on/events/gozle>