



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

PE Days – New for Autumn 1

Nursery SG - Wednesday AM

Rec GD - Friday AM

Y1 TY – Monday and Thursday

Y2 FN – Monday and Wednesday

Y3 MLK – Wednesday and Friday

Y4 FWD - Tuesday and Wednesday

Y5 BR – Tuesday (swimming / PE for those not swimming) and Thursday

Y6 MY – Tuesday and Friday



Forest School Sessions – New for Autumn 1

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



Date	AM	PM
04/09/26	MLK	FWD
11/09/26	MLK	FWD
18/09/26	BR	MY
25/09/26	BR	MY

Welcome back to a new school year at High Spen Primary School!

We hope all of our children and families enjoyed a happy and restful summer break and are feeling refreshed and ready for the year ahead. It has been a wonderful first week back, and we have been delighted to see the school buzzing with excitement, enthusiasm and smiles. Children have returned eager to reconnect with friends, meet their new teachers and begin their learning journeys for the year. We are incredibly proud of how well everyone has settled back into school routines. Whether arriving confidently through the gates or needing a little extra reassurance, all of our children have shown resilience, kindness and positivity as they have embraced the start of the new term.

School Start Time and Punctuality

At High Spen Primary School, the school day begins promptly at 8.55am, and children should be in the playground ready to line up when the bell rings. Children may arrive from 8.40am with a parent and are welcome to use the climbing equipment before school. Please note that footballs, bikes and scooters are not permitted in the school yard before school. Ensuring children arrive on time is extremely important, as even being just five minutes late each day can have a significant impact on learning over time. All lateness is recorded and monitored, and where concerns arise, parents may be invited into school to discuss attendance and punctuality. If your child arrives after 8:55am, they must enter through the main reception and be signed in using the school iPad. Thank you for your support in helping every child make the most of their learning day.



Mr F in a Spot of Bother!

Some of you may have heard that Mr F found himself in a little bit of trouble this week! For many years, we have placed traffic cones on Bute Road North to help create a safer crossing point for children, particularly those arriving via Hookergate Lane. The cones helped to keep the area clear of parked cars and provided better visibility for everyone crossing the road. Unfortunately, it has recently been brought to our attention that, as Bute Road North is a public highway, we do not have the legal authority to place traffic cones there. Despite our best intentions and over a decade of using them to support children's safety, the cones have now had to be removed. However, all is not lost! Mr F has come up with a creative solution in the form of some brand-new "imaginary cones". These imaginary cones now mark out the first 10 metres of Bute Road North (shown by the orange dots on the accompanying image).

We kindly ask all parents, carers and visitors to support us by not parking within this first 10-metre section. Not only does this help everyone comply with the Highway Code, but more importantly, it helps to create a safer crossing point for our children at the beginning and end of the school day. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. By keeping this area clear, you are helping us to keep our children safe... and really, what could be more important than that? 😊



School Meal Price Update

Please note that from 1 September 2026, the cost of a school meal increased from £3.00 to £3.10 per day. This increase reflects the charge made to the school by Gateshead Council and will help ensure that we can continue to provide our pupils with high-quality, nutritious lunches each day.

We would also like to remind parents and carers who may be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) to complete and return an application form as soon as possible. Forms are available from the school office. Even if your child already receives Universal Infant Free School Meals, being registered for FSM can provide additional funding and support for the school, helping us to enhance opportunities and resources for all pupils.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact the school office.

Nursery – SG – Saint George - Mrs Bainbridge

Greetings from Nursery!

We have had a busy start with our returning children this week and look forward to meeting our new friends at their stay and plays this upcoming Tuesday. Just a little reminder that our PE day this term is Wednesday morning so if you could please have children wear comfortable clothing for movement and trainers we would appreciate it. Also we have started handing out 'safer eating' forms to be read, signed and returned as soon as possible please and thank you. Our 2 year olds have an additional 'safer sleeping' form that will need to be signed and returned as well.

Lastly, if we could please remind families to have a spare change of clothing for children as we often need them in Nursery, we would appreciate it. We hope everyone enjoys their weekend, rests up and we look forward to seeing you next week.

Reception – GD – Grace Darling - Miss Kirkley

Hello all grown-ups at home. Welcome to Reception (Class GD). First, your children are gorgeous and have all settled into reception very well. They are all making new friends and have enjoyed exploring their new classroom. Miss Morris and I are so proud of them. Your child will bring a newsletter home with lots of information about what to expect in reception this term and what we will be focusing on during our 'jobs' time.

We will be using Class Dojo in Reception. This is an app that you can download on to your phone or computer. You will receive messages, photos and updates of what your child has been up to at school and how well they are doing. The families who have joined during your child's time in Nursery, you will see the class name has now changed to 'Team GD'. If you have not joined the Class Dojo, we will send out an invite to you. If you would like to opt out of Class Dojo, please let me now and I will remove your child's name from the app.

Have a lovely weekend and see you all next week

Miss Kirkley x

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

Hello! We hope you had a lovely summer holiday. First of all, thank you for an amazing start to Year 1. All of the children have been kind, caring, brave and helpful during their first week. They have settled in well and have enjoyed meeting all of the new staff. Myself, Mrs Kelly and MS Whale are so proud of Team TY. We are looking forward to all of the fun this year will bring.

Your child will have a Newsletter with lots of information about Year 1. Their homework and reading folders will be sent home at the end of week 2. If you have any questions, please ask.

Your child has brought their first library book home this week. Our library session is every Wednesday, please return this book on a Wednesday morning so your child can bring a new book home on Wednesday afternoon.

We will be using Class Dojo in Year 1. The families who have joined during your child's time in Reception, you will see the class name has now changed to 'Team TY'. If you have not joined the Dojo Class, we have sent an invite out to you again. We will be using the photo permission you gave when you signed up to the app in Reception. If you would like to change your permissions around sharing photos of your child, please let us know.

We hope you have a lovely weekend. Looking forward to seeing you all next week.

Year 1 staff.

Year 2 - FN – Florence Nightingale- Mrs Cowie and Mrs Lawson

Welcome back everyone 😊 It has been so good to see your smiling faces back in school. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead! We have settled back in like we have never been away and have had a FAB first week of Year 2! Just as a little reminder, Mrs Lawson and Miss Maughan will be in class on a Monday and Mrs Cowie and Miss Maughan will be in class Tuesday to Friday.

This half term, FN will be designing, making and evaluating their own packed lunch boxes. To help with this, I would greatly appreciate it if you could bring in any old shoe boxes/boxes with a lid from home. Many thanks for your help.

Year 3 – MLK Martin Luther King – Miss Murray

Hello and welcome to class MLK. Myself and Mrs Rutter have had a fabulous first few days in Y3, your children have been amazing and we are looking forward to the year ahead! You should have received your newsletter with lots of different bits of information on but if not just let me know and I can make sure you have one. Homework folders with reading books will be coming home on **Tuesday** to be returned by the following **Monday**.

We have all had a great morning at forest school this morning - we have one more session next Friday the 11th.

Thank you, Miss Murray.

Year 4 – FWD – Fredrick William Dobson – Mr Fumoleau

Hello and welcome to FWD- Year 4. We have all had such an amazing first week, everyone has worked so hard and I've been really impressed. I can't wait to see all the hard work everyone will create this year.

We will have our last Forest School session next week, so make sure all children come with appropriate clothing as the weather will be unpredictable.

Homework will be going home next week on a Wednesday and it should be handed in on the following Tuesday, more info will be in homework folders, so if you have any questions about homework, please catch me on the yard next week. Have a lovely weekend.

Year 5 – BR – Bobby Robson – Mr Cradock

Hi everyone 😊

We've had a fab start in Class BR with everyone back and raring to go at the start of Year 5. In class this week, the children chose **hardworking**, **caring** and **brave** as our three class values – not a bad combo I think you'll agree!

The main thing to remember for next week is that **swimming starts on Tuesday**. Information has gone out but please catch us or call if you have any questions. Most importantly, remember to give your permission by Monday.

Y5 children should bring home a **BR newsletter** today. If it doesn't make it into your hands, or if you have anything else you'd like to discuss, please reach out to myself or Miss Hackney and we'll be happy to talk.

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

Welcome back everyone. It has been good to see so many smiley faces back in school. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead!

Robinwood - Mrs Heron needs to start the mammoth task of doing the risk assessments and necessary paperwork before we head off and have some fun and adventure. Children should have brought home a Robinwood Personal Information Sheet which needs to be completed and **returned by Wednesday 9th September** so that these details can be added to the Robinwood Dashboard on Thursday 10th September.

We have received some forms today (thank you so much for this), but all sections need to be filled out to complete the risk assessment. We will send these back home tonight to complete. Thank you!

Robinwood meeting - This will be held in class MY on **Thursday 10th September at 2:30pm**. For those parents/carers who cannot make the meeting, a presentation will be sent out to all families, and you can also pop in to ask any questions. We look forward to seeing you then.

Forest School – MY will be enjoying time in the woods with Phil on Friday 18th and Friday 25th September (week 3 and 4). We have the afternoon session so your child can come to school dressed for forest school but should bring muddy/old footwear in a bag to change into at lunchtime. As always, please dress your child appropriately for the weather. Your child can bring a drink and healthy snack to enjoy.

Dates for the Diary 2026

Date	Event
Wednesday 2 nd September	1st day of Autumn 1 term - Children return to School
Wednesday 23 rd September	Individual school photos
Thursday 10 th September at 2:30pm.	Year 6 MY Robinwood Meeting
Wednesday 7 th Oct – Fri 9 th Oct	Robinwood Trip
Friday 23 rd October	Last day of Autumn Term 1
26 th – 30 th October	Half Term
Monday 2 nd November	First day of Autumn term 2
Friday 18 th December	Last day of Autumn term 2

2026/2027 Term dates

Autumn term

Start of term	Half term	Last day of term
Tuesday 1 September 2026	26 to 30 October 2026	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.