



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
25/09/26	Y5 BR	Y6 MY
02/10/26	Y2 FN	Y1 TY
09/10/26	Y2 FN	Y1 TY
16/10/26	Nursery SG	Rec GD
23/10/26	Nursery SG	Rec GD

Harvest Collection Update

A huge **thank you** to everyone who has donated tins for our Harvest Tower so far. It is growing beautifully and is looking very impressive!

We are incredibly grateful for your generosity and support. All donations collected will be given to a local charity to help support families and individuals in our community.

Thank you for helping us make a difference.



Parent Appointments

Parent Appointments will take place during the week beginning Monday 9th November 2026. Thank you for your patience regarding the appointment letters. We apologise for the delay as we have been finalising a few details. Letters will be sent home with your child this week. Please complete and return the form with your preferred appointment time as soon as possible.

We look forward to meeting with you and discussing your child's progress. Thank you for your continued support.

🌸 Poppy Appeal 2026 🌸

We are pleased to let you know that **Poppy Appeal items are now available to purchase from the school office.**

A range of poppies and fundraising items are available while stocks last, with all donations supporting the important work of the **Royal British Legion.**

If your child would like to purchase an item, please visit the school office. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause.



Chopwell Woods

What a fantastic, history filled morning we had at Chopwell woods as a school yesterday! Here is a little snippet of what we all got up to...



Reception used their senses to explore the world around them. Looking for colourful autumn leaves, the changes in the trees and using their senses to discover the sights, sounds and textures of the forest.

Y1 and Y2 learned about how in times past, the trees in Chopwell could have been felled, prepared and floated down the Derwent to build ships on the Tyne.

Y1 split in to small teams and collected woodland materials to create their own boats. They then enjoyed a boat themed sing-song to cap off a fabulous morning.

Y2 learned about how the trees were felled and transported before being used to build boats. They then searched the woods for ENORMOUS pieces to create a HUGE shared boat.

Y3 found the best place to build Anglo Saxon settlements. They discussed all of the things Chopwell woods would have had to offer at the time such as shelter, protection from enemies, wood, charcoal for fires and water sources. They found out charcoal from the woods was used in local areas to make swords and shields!

Y4 did a Roman army march sequence and battle re-enactment with their specially made Roman battle shields.

Y5 went for a 'Walk Back in Time' which included the Victorian railway, oak timber for a mighty warship, an Anglo Saxon chief and a Bronze Age burial mound. All in and around Chopwell Woods!

A super morning was had by all. 😊

Nursery – SG – Saint George - Mrs Bainbridge

Greetings from Nursery. We have had a wonderful week learning about houses, our homes and enjoying the Three Little Pigs. Next week, Friday the 16th of Oct is our first Muddy Monsters Forest school session year in the Early Years Yard. If you could please dress your child warm and in clothing and wellies that you are ok for them to get Muddy as we often do in our Forest School.

Also, we would like to invite our grownups to join us for some for a festive Halloween Pumpkin carving and decorating in the afternoon on Wednesday the 21st of October from 2-3pm. If you attend the morning session you are welcome to attend the afternoon session instead on that day from 12.30-3.30. And our friends who do not attend on a Thursday are welcome to come along to join in from 2-3pm too. The school will supply the pumpkins, and we look forward to seeing you there.

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

Hello! Year 1 have had an amazing time at Muddy Monsters in Chopwell Woods. PE will now return to a Thursday so please can children wear PE kit on Thursday 15th and Thursday 22nd October please.

Year 5 – BR – Bobby Robson – Mr Cradock

Hi everyone 😊, We had a fab morning out and about in Chopwell Woods on Thursday. Please ask your child about the Victorian railway, the oak timber used to build a mighty warship, Ceoppa the Anglo Saxon chief and the Bronze Age burial mound that we found out about!

Thank you for your continuing help with homework. This week's will be the last one this half term. However, look out for reading books coming home next week. We'll visit the library on Friday and everyone will be able to choose a Cressida Cowell book from our class Featured Author collection if they would like to!

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

Robinwood Well, it is safe to say that Robinwood 2026 was a blast! So many amazing memories made and moments to be proud of. Every single child challenged themselves and pushed themselves to the limit whilst also supporting and encouraging each other. We also worked hard on our teamwork skills as well as problem solving, listening and resilience. These are all skills we are bringing back to High Spen with us to build on so we can be even more amazing.

DT In week 8 (w/c 19th October), we will be working on a DT project which will involve some junk modelling. We are looking for cardboard boxes of various sizes and other items of junk modelling. Please start collecting them and send them into school on Monday 19th October.

DT – On Monday 19th October (1-3pm) and Wednesday 21st October (9-10:30), children will be working on their DT project. Parents/carers are very welcome to join us as it is usually all hands to the deck. It would be lovely to see you there if you can make it.



EARLY YEARS OPEN EVENING

Thursday 22nd October 2026
Drop in from 4pm - 5pm

For all prospective parents, carers and children

Are you interested in applying for a place in our Nursery or Reception class in 2027?

Why not come along to our open day, where you will find out more about who we are and what we do. Bring your child(ren) along too to see our EY setting and what we offer! We would also like to invite you to look around 'big school' and get a real feel for what High Spen Primary School is all about. We are sure you won't be disappointed 😊

Places available
in 2027 for

Reception

Nursery
3 - 4 Year olds
15 and 30 hours

Nursery
2 year olds
15 hours

Funded and
paying sessions
available



**HIGH SPEN PRIMARY
SCHOOL**
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Dates for the Diary

Date	Event
Wednesday 7 th Oct – Fri 9 th Oct	Robinwood Trip
Tuesday 20 th October	Halloween Disco
Thursday 22 nd October	Early Years open Evening 4pm-5pm
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
Tues 10 th , Wed 11 th and Thurs 12 th Nov	Parent Appointments
Wednesday 11 th November	Remembrance
Friday 13 th November	Children in Need
Thursday 19 th November	Flu Nasal spray
Wednesday 9 th December	Y1 – Y6 Panto Visit
Thursday 10 th December	Christmas jumper, dinner and bring a bottle day
Friday 11 th December	Christmas fair
Monday 14 th December	EY Dress rehearsal AM
Monday 14 th December	KS1 & KS2 Dress rehearsal PM
Tuesday 15 th December	EY Nativity AM
Tuesday 15 th December	KS1 & KS2 Nativity and songs PM
Wednesday 16 th December	EY Nativity AM
Wednesday 16 th December	KS1 & KS2 Nativity and songs PM
Thursday 17 th December	EY Xmas Party AM
Thursday 17 th December	KS2 Xmas Party AM
Thursday 17 th December	KS1 Xmas Party PM
Friday 18 th December	Christingle Service 10am
Friday 18 th December	Head Teachers Award 1pm
Friday 18 th December	Last day of Autumn term 2 – School closes 1:30pm

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 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.