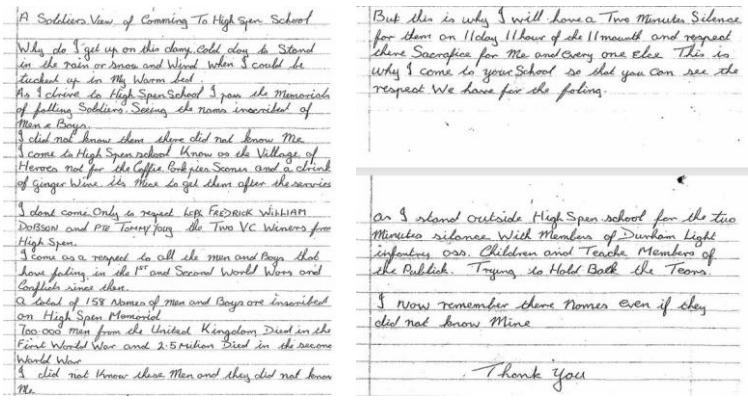
High Spen Primary School Newsletter –Week 10 W/B 16th November 26

PE Days – New for Autumn 2



Nursery SG - Friday AM
Rec GD – Tuesday and Wednesday AM
Y1 TY – Monday and Thursday
Y2 FN – Monday and Wednesday
Y3 MLK – Wednesday and Friday
Y4 FWD- Tuesday and Thursday
Y5 BR – Tuesday (swimming / PE for those not swimming) and Thursday
Y6 MY – Tuesday and Friday



A Soldiers View of Comming To High Spen School

Why do I get up on this damp Cold day to Stand in the rain or Snow and Wind when I could be tucked up in My Warm bed.
As I drive to High Spen School I pass the Memorials of fallen Soldiers Seeing the names inscribed of Men & Boys.
I did not know them they did not know Me.
I come to High Spen school know as the Village of Heroes not for the Coffee Cookies Scones and a Drink of ginger Wine its Nice to get them after the services
I dont come Only to respect both FREDRICK WILLIAM DOBSON and PTE Tommy Young the Two VC Winners from High Spen.
I come as a respect to all the men and Boys that have fallen in the 1st and Second World Wars and Conflicts since then.
A total of 158 Names of Men and Boys are inscribed on High Spen Memorial
Too,000 Men from the United Kingdom Died in the First World War and 2.5 Million Died in the second World Wars
I did not know these Men and they did not know Me.

But this is why I will have a Two Minutes Silence for them on 11day 11hour of the 11month and respect there Sacrafice for Me and every one else. This is why I come to your School so that you can see the respect We have for the fallen.

as I stand outside High Spen school for the two Minutes silence. With Members of Durham Light infantry ccs. Children and Teache Members of the Publick. Trying to Hold Both the Tears

I now remember these Names even if they did not know Mine

Thank you

Act of Remembrance 2026



11th November is always a special day in our school calendar - it is the day we welcome back our friends from the DLI and other members of the community, to join us in our annual Act of Remembrance.

The morning started with our Y6 children planting out the 100 metal poppies donated a few years ago by the Friends of High Spen Community Group. We then held a short assembly where our friends Pauline and Alan spoke passionately about why they come back to mark the remembrance with school every year. Pauline spoke as eloquently as ever and Alan kindly shared the notes he brought with him (shown above); not a dry eye in the hall!

We then walked round to the Memorial Garden where our children, visitors and wider members of the community observed the silence impeccably, topped off by some fabulous reading from Y6.

Finally, back in to school where Olga and her team had put together the traditional spread to thank the DLI for making the journey.

Lots to take away from the day, thinking of lives lost, of physical and mental wounds carried by those back at home and thinking of those children around the world who are not yet free from war. I lost track of how many compliments were paid to the impeccable listening and behaviour of the children - awesome little humans!

Messages from the PTFA

Chopwell Woods Christmas Tree Trail



We are going to be part of the very first Christmas Tree Trail at Chopwell Woods this year. Angela Watson (THORNLEY WOODS CAFE) has kindly paid the £35 for us to do this. (Angela was so grateful to School for the support they received as a family when their son Jonny was diagnosed with a brain tumour when he was in Y1, Angela has always been so generous over the years and even though Jonny is now at comprehensive she still wants to support us, as school continued to support them throughout Jonny's time at High Spen Primary School).

The trail will run from Friday 4th December to Sunday 6th December, alongside food stalls, an indoor market, family activities, live music and a visit from Santa. You will be able to go and visit our decorated tree over these few days, all children in school will be involved in the decorations for our very 1st Chopwell Woods tree.

School Christmas Fayre



Our Christmas Fayre is Friday 11th December at 1.30, we really need help with raffle prizes, tombola prizes and you will soon be able to donate to our colour hampers and buy raffle tickets.

It will be bring a bottle day on Thursday 10th December ready for our amazing bottle stall.

Also if you feel you can dedicate some time on the day of our fayre to help out on a stall or know someone who can please let us know. Thank you

Flu Immunisations – Thursday 19th November 2026

As you will know, all school children in the UK are offered their flu vaccination in school in the autumn or early winter before the flu season typically starts in December or January. This ensures your children have the best protection when flu starts to spread.

Our school session will be on Thursday 19th November 2026

The online consent can be accessed via any online device. Please click on the following link **https://www.northumbriaimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu** which will direct you to an online consent form for you to complete using the following school code **NB108340** Consent submissions will close 48 working hours before the school session date.

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

We have had another amazing week in Year 1. It was lovely to meet you all during parent meeting this week. Thank you.

The below link will take you to some information and videos to support Phonics at home. We have also printed out flashcards of sounds/HRSW for you to use at home too. Essential Letters and Sounds - Oxford Owl

HRSW – Rec – first word I

HRSW- Yr 1 - first word oh

Any questions please come and ask 😊

Year 5 – BR – Bobby Robson – Mr Cradock

Hi everyone 😊

It has been great meeting up and talking with you at the parent/carer meetings this week. Please continue to get in touch, make an appointment or catch us on the yard if there is anything you think is important.

There was lots of super homework last week. Thank you for helping your child to get into good habits and return their homework on time. Homework will continue to go out on Wednesdays – to be returned by Monday morning please.

Finally, we have got cooking sessions with Hannah from Pickle Palace coming up. Hannah always appreciates adult help and we know these sessions are a wonderful opportunity for you to come into school and join in alongside your child. If you would like to be involved, please choose one of the dates below and let the school office know as soon as you can so we can organize groupings.

Wednesday 25th November 1pm or Wednesday 2nd December 1pm





Dates for the Diary

Date	Event
Thursday 19th November	Flu Nasal spray
Wednesday 9th December	Y1 – Y6 Panto Visit
Thursday 10th December	Christmas jumper, dinner and bring a bottle day
Friday 11th December	Christmas fair
Monday 14th December	EY Dress rehearsal AM
Monday 14th December	KS1 & KS2 Dress rehearsal PM
Tuesday 15th December	EY Nativity AM
Tuesday 15th December	KS1 & KS2 Nativity and songs PM
Wednesday 16th December	EY Nativity AM
Wednesday 16th December	KS1 & KS2 Nativity and songs PM
Thursday 17th December	EY Xmas Party AM
Thursday 17th December	KS2 Xmas Party AM
Thursday 17th December	KS1 Xmas Party PM
Friday 18th December	Christingle Service 10am
Friday 18th December	Head Teachers Award 1pm
Friday 18th 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.