

Friday Newsletter

30th January 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Parents' Evening If you have not yet responded to the Forms survey regarding your preference of date and time for your child's parents' evening, please do so before 2nd February so that exact timeslots can be allocated and sent out by your child's teacher. If you have any queries, please contact the school office.

INSET Day A reminder that the third and final staff education and training day will be on Monday next week (2nd February) so school will be closed to all pupils. School will re-open as normal on Tuesday.

National Puzzle Day Today, school marked National Puzzle Day by having a range of STEM focused challenges across all year groups. Examples included Y6 making an adjustable chair for Alice in Wonderland, Y5 using logic to escape a maze and Y1 completing a variety of puzzles and games throughout the day.

Attendance Well done to Miss Walter's (2GW) and Miss Lawson's (6AL) classes for their outstanding attendance for this week in their respective key stages. School's overall attendance for the week crept up to 95.1% while the year-to-date attendance remains at 94.1%.

EYFS & KS1

RLM	RSS	1DM	1ZF	2AK	2GW
96.2%	93.6%	92.8%	96.1%	95.3%	99.3%

KS2

3BP	3CL	4AW	4RA	5JP	5KH	6EA	6AL
95.5%	91.3%	96.1%	96.7%	93.4%	92.5%	95.1%	97.6%

Football Last night, the girls' football team played a set of fixtures in the Futsal mini league against Rickleton and Usworth Colliery Primary Schools. In the opening game against Rickleton, the girls came up against a really good team and ended with a 5-2 defeat. Despite the result, the girls played well and showed great team spirit and never gave up until the final whistle.

The second game was a high scoring affair which ended 5-5. On the balance of play, our girls were unlucky with the draw and felt a win was deserved for their play. In both games, all players put in a brilliant shift, always passing and looking for the ball. Well done to Jessica who scored all 7 goals for GWPS on the night.

Y5 Dodgeball Festival Our Y5 children attended a dodgeball festival at Sunderland Tennis this week, competing against other local schools. Everyone had a brilliant time and one of our teams

won overall, earning the right to compete at the next stage. Well done to all of our children for representing the school brilliantly and good luck to our winning team at the next stage.

Centre



Valentine's Discos Just a reminder that on 11th February reception will be having a disco in school time and Y1/Y2 will be able to attend a disco from 4:30-5:30pm.

On the 12th February, Y3/Y4 will have a disco that runs from 3:00-4:00pm and Y5/Y6 will be able to attend a disco from 4:30-5:30pm.

More information will follow next week.

Orienteering To enhance school's OAA (Outdoor Adventurous Activity) – a key part of the PE curriculum, we had orienteering courses installed on the school grounds this week. Orienteering, a walking or running sport, involves map reading and looking for clues at control points. For those children and parents walking past school on Wednesday night wondering why all teachers were out running about the yard and field, we were getting training from the man who installed the courses. Over the next few weeks, the children will get to explore the courses on offer.

Snacks A polite reminder that snacks brought in by Y1-Y6 children should be as healthy as possible. As well as fruit, children could bring in a small piece of cheese or a cereal type bar but if this is the case, please check that it does not contain any nuts. Chocolate bars, crisps and sweets are not a suitable snack. Similarly, drinks in bottles should be water or juice and not energy drinks or milkshakes.

Reception children will continue to have a snack provided for them in-line with EYFS guidance on healthy eating and the prevention of choking.

PE Uniform As well as having suitable PE clothing and footwear, children should not wear earrings unless they can take them out themselves. If they cannot, an adult should remove them before school. If children do wear earrings, they should be a small stud.

Y4 residential For the Y4 residential to Grinton Lodge on 5th-6th March there will be a parent information session in the school hall on Tuesday 3rd February at 5pm.

Y5 residential For the Y5 residential to York on 18th-20th March there will be a parent information session in the school hall on Thursday 5th February at 5pm.

Costume Exchange Sunderland Library Services are running a World Book Day Costume Exchange this year to help families celebrate in a fun, affordable, and sustainable way. Children and their parents/carers can donate a pre-loved costume at Houghton & Washington Libraries throughout February and pick up something "new-to-them" for free over half term (from Monday 23rd February). It's a great way to reduce waste and make World Book Day accessible for everyone.

R. Knight

Mr R Knight
Head of School



Forest School Dates Due to the bad weather that we have had this month, we are going to cancel forest school for the rest of the half term. It is very muddy and slippery and for health and safety reasons we need to stop anyone from accessing the site. We hope by leaving it for a few weeks the ground will have time to recover. We will aim to restart forest school sessions after the February half term. Please keep an eye on the Friday Newsletter for when sessions will resume.

PE and Swimming - A timetable for PE and swimming is listed below. On their PE days, children should come into school in PE kit for the full day. School PE kit is a white or yellow T-shirt with dark-coloured shorts or trousers. Football kits or similar clothing should not be worn.

Year Group	PE Day	Swimming Day
Reception	Thursday AM	
Year 1	Wednesday PM	
Year 2	Monday PM	
Year 3	Thursday PM	
Year 4	Wednesday AM	Tuesday - 4AW Friday - 4RA
Year 5	Friday PM	Wednesday – 5KH Thursday – 5JP
Year 6	Tuesday PM	



Achievers of the Week & House Points



Year Group	Class	Achievers of the Week
Reception	RLM	Isabelle Drew
	RSS	Reuben
Year 1	1DM	Heidi Gray
	1ZF	Imogen Heppell
Year 2	2AK	Esmae Whitfield
	2GW	Noah Thompson
Year 3	3BP	Logan Pybus
	3CL	Charlie Armstrong
Year 4	4AW	Louie Matthews
	4RA	Daxton Errington-Proctor
Year 5	5KH	Aliyah Ross
	5JP	Noah Colledge
Year 6	6EA	Jessica Davidson
	6AL	Isaac Chuckwu

House Points



1007



775



1021



749

