





Growing Together at Glynwood

Glynwood Gardens
Gateshead
Tyne & Wear
NE9 5SY
Headteacher: Mrs Vicky Nellis
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Friday 21/11/ 2025
November 2025
Friday 21 st November - Non-uniform day - donation for Winter Fair
Friday 28 th November - Winter Fair - 3:30pm - 4:30pm
December 2025 (Further dates to follow)
Wednesday 10 th December - 2:30pm - Reception Nativity
Thursday 11 th December - Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
Friday 12 th December 2:30pm - Y1 Christmas Play
Monday 15 th December - 2:30pm -Y2 Carols by Candlelight
Tuesday 16 th December - Christmas Party Day - children to wear party clothes all day
Wednesday 17 th December - 2pm Y3 and Y4 Carols at St. John's (Y3 lead the service)
Thursday 18 th December - 2pm Y5 and Y6 Carols at St John's (Y5 lead the service)
Friday 19 th December - Last Day of term
January 2026
Monday 5 th January - Pupils return to school
Thursday 8 th January - Pantomime in school for pupils
Friday 23 rd January - French Day - pupils to wear red, white and blue
Thursday 29 th January - 9am Phonics and Phonics screening workshop for Year One parents
February 2026
Tuesday 10 th February - Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 10 th February - 3:15 - 4:15pm - Y1 and Y2 Valentine Disco (children who attend can wear disco clothes for the day)
Wednesday 11 th February - 3:15 - 4:15pm - Y3 and Y4 Valentine Disco (children who attend can wear disco clothes for the day)
Thursday 12 th February - 3:30 - 4:30 - Y5 and Y6 Valentine Disco (children who attend can wear disco clothes for the day)
Friday 13 th February - Staff Training Day - school closed to pupils
Friday 20 th February - Last day of school for pupils
March 2026
Monday 2 nd March - Pupils return to school
Thursday 5 th March - World Book Day
Friday 20 th March - Red Nose Day - non-uniform day for a charitable donation
Friday 27 th March - Faith Day - Parents/ Carers into class to look at children's RE work from 2:45pm

April 2026
Thursday 2 nd April - Last Day of term for pupils
Monday 20 th April - Pupils return to school
May 2026
Monday 4 th May - Bank Holiday - School closed
Monday 11 th May - Thursday 14 th May Year Six SATs week
Friday 22 nd May - Last Day of the half term
June 2026
Monday 1 st June - pupils return to school
Monday 1 st June - Friday 5 th June - Year Four multiplication check
Monday 8 th June - Friday 12 th June - Phonics screening
Friday 12 th June - Rainbow Day - Diversity Celebration - Children to wear non-school uniform
Monday 15 th June - Thursday 25 th June - Glynwood Art, Craft and Music Festival
Wednesday 24 th June and Thursday 25 th June - Glynwood Art festival exhibition opens
Thursday 25 th June - 3:30pm - 4:30pm - Summer Fair
Friday 26 th June - School Closed to pupils
July 2026
Friday 10 th July - Reports out to pupils
Friday 17 th July - 9:15am - Year Six Leavers Assembly
Friday 17 th July - Last Day of academic year 2025-26
September 2026
Tuesday 1 st September - Teacher Training Day - school closed to pupils
Wednesday 2 nd September - pupils return to school for new academic year.



**Glynwood Community
Primary School**
Growing Together at Glynwood





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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you're all keeping warm and well as we head into the busy winter season. School is filled with that lovely mixture of excitement and hard work at the moment, and it's been wonderful to see our children embracing every opportunity with such enthusiasm. Here are a few updates and celebrations from across the week!

🌟 Year Six at Robinwood

First of all, a huge well done to our Year Six children who spent last week at Robinwood. Their behaviour, teamwork and positive attitude were absolutely outstanding. Staff at the centre commented on how polite, supportive and enthusiastic they were throughout the residential. We couldn't be prouder of the way they represented Glynwood.

💖 Children in Need - Thank You!

A massive thank you to everyone who donated to Children in Need. We raised £379.39. Your generosity means so much, and together we've helped make a real difference for children across the UK. The children loved taking part, and the school was full of smiles (and spots!).

📷 We're on Instagram!

We're delighted to share that our school Instagram account is now up and running. You can find us by searching Glynwood Primary. We'll be posting snapshots of school life, celebrations, reminders and lots of lovely learning moments—so feel free to give us a follow!

❄️ Winter Fair - Next Friday!

A quick reminder that our Winter Fair will take place on Friday 28th November, from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. It promises to be a festive, fun-filled afternoon with stalls, treats and a lovely community atmosphere. We hope to see lots of you there.

🧣 Wrap Up Warm!

The colder weather has definitely arrived, so please ensure children come to school with hats, scarves and gloves—and don't forget to pop their names on them! This really helps us reunite lost items with their owners.

Christmas lunch will be served on Thursday 11th December. If your child would like one, please book it on Parentmail ASAP so that the kitchen can prepare their food order. The choice on this day is turkey fillet or quorn fillet, if your child does not want either of these options they will need to bring in a packed lunch from home.

We do ask that you are courteous when parking around school. There have been complaints again about families parking over driveways - please don't do this as it puts a real strain on our relationships with the community.

As always, thank you for your continued support. It means the world to us, and we're very much looking forward to seeing you at the various events coming up over the next few weeks.

Best wishes - Vicky Nellis (Head Teacher)

Our Safeguarding Children Team

Designated Safeguarding
Lead



Name: Mrs Nellis

Designated Safeguarding
Deputy



Name: Mr Otterson

Designated Safeguarding
Deputy



Name: Mrs Birkbeck

Designated Safeguarding
Deputy



Name: Mrs Brunskill

Designated Safeguarding
Deputy



Name: Mrs Lawres

Designated Safeguarding
Deputy



Name: Mrs Commons

Designated Safeguarding
Deputy



Name: Mrs Etherington

Designated Safeguarding
Deputy (After School Club)



Name: Helen Moss

If you are concerned about a child, please talk to us

Child Protection and Safeguarding

Child Protection and Safeguarding are always an absolute priority in school. Our designated safeguarding leads and deputies are: Vicky Nellis (Head Teacher), Simon Otterson (Deputy Head), Sarah Brunskill (Assistant Head), Esther Commons (SENDco), Jude Etherington (Curriculum leader), Vic Birkbeck (Family Support Worker), Helen Moss (Afterschool club lead). Please talk to any of us about any concerns that you may have. Posters displaying photos of the designated safeguarding leads are displayed around school.

If you have concerns about a child in your community, you have a number of options:

- 1) You can call 101 and ask for some welfare advice. This can be done anonymously.
- 2) You can visit the NSPCC website on: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/report/> or you can call the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000, You can report concerns here anonymously too.



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Dear Families,

It is really important that we work together to improve attendance for all of our children. One area which can be contentious is term-time holiday requests. We need families to be open and transparent regarding holidays (for safeguarding reasons and so children aren't asked to lie), but the statutory and legal guidance around this is much stricter and is a national priority for the government.

I know that the vast majority of families do not take term-time holidays, so I apologise for the blanket communication, but it is vital that families understand the systems and the legal guidance.

Leave of absence forms should continue to be completed for ALL requests. If you feel that you have exceptional circumstances around a term time leave of absence request for your child (as in there are exceptional reasons why the absence has to take place on a very specific date in term time for an exceptional reason (as outlined below)) then this needs to be outlined in writing. I will then consider the information provided to me and the decision will be made whether to authorise the absence, but again I must reinforce, I can now only authorise term-time leave of absence requests in the most exceptional circumstances and these will be very rare.

Holidays will not be authorised.

I am more than happy to discuss any aspect of your child's learning or well-being and have an open-door policy for this, however **term-time leave of absence procedures are very clear and I am not willing to discuss decisions made with families.** I will also not discuss other children's absences for confidentiality and GDPR reasons. When guidance is very clear, as it is now, questioning decisions made puts everyone in a difficult position and can put a strain on relationships between school and families, which we want to avoid at all costs. Aggressive communication towards staff will also not be accepted for any reason, including communication around term-time leave of absence requests.

Please see the guidance below which is taken from our Attendance Policy which meets the legal and statutory requirements set out by the Department for Education. This is the same as the communication sent out to parents in previous newsletters.

Best wishes

Vicky Nellis

Head Teacher

4.1 Approval for term-time absence

The headteacher will only grant a leave of absence to a pupil during term time if they consider there to be 'exceptional circumstances'. A leave of absence is granted at the headteacher's discretion, including the length of time the pupil is authorised to be absent.

We define 'exceptional circumstances' as **where there are unavoidable reasons for the leave of absence not falling during school holiday time. For example, visiting a very sick relative in a different area or country, an immediate family member's wedding or an immediate family member's funeral. Exceptional Circumstances also apply if a child is involved in sporting or creative events, but school do need evidence of these dates.**

Exceptional circumstances are truly exceptional and this will be applied consistently across all requests.

The school considers each application for term-time absence individually, taking into account the specific facts, circumstances and relevant context behind the request.

Any request should be submitted as soon as it is anticipated and, where possible, at least 3 weeks before the absence, and in accordance with any leave of absence request form, accessible via the school office or the school website. The headteacher may require evidence to support any request for a leave of absence.

4.3 Legal sanctions

The local authority can fine parents for the unauthorised absence of their child from school, where the child is of compulsory school age.

Warning letters are no longer issued.

If issued a fine, or penalty notice, each parent must pay £80 within 21 days or £160 within 28 days. The payment must be made directly to the local authority.

Penalty notices can be issued by a local authority officer or the police.

The decision on whether or not to issue a penalty notice may take into account:

- The number of unauthorised absences occurring within a rolling academic year
- One-off instances of irregular attendance, such as holidays taken in term time without permission
- Where an excluded pupil is found in a public place during school hours without a justifiable reason

If the payment has not been made after 28 days, the local authority can decide whether to prosecute or withdraw the notice.

The first penalty notice issued to a parent in respect of a particular pupil will be charged at £160 if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

- A second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same pupil is charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days.
- A third penalty notice **cannot be issued** to the same parent in respect of the same child **within 3 years of the date of issue** of the first. In a case where the national threshold is met for a third time (or subsequent times) within those 3 years, alternative action should be taken instead. This will often include considering prosecution, but may include other tools such as one of the other attendance legal interventions.

