





Growing Together at Glynwood

Glynwood Gardens
Gateshead
Tyne & Wear
NE9 5SY
Headteacher: Mrs Vicky Nellis
Telephone: 0191 433 4117
Email: glynwoodcommunityprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk
Website: glynwoodprimary.org

Friday 05/11/ 2025	
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 and pyjama day! (children can wear warm nightwear to school)	
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

Dear Families,

I would like to firstly apologise for the blanket approach to some of this communication, unfortunately a more targeted approach has not had the impact that I had hoped. I am aware that I am talking to a significant minority in the following couple of paragraphs and I thank you for your patience.

I am writing today to address some concerns that have recently placed a significant strain on our whole school community. Unfortunately, we have been made aware of increasingly negative behaviour taking place on parents/ carers' WhatsApp groups and between families on other social media. This includes discussing and criticising other children, judging families based on a child's behaviour, and using unkind or inflammatory language towards other parents/ carers. This is not only hurtful, but in certain cases, constitutes harassment. As this communication happens outside school and is not something we can control or monitor, families affected have been advised to contact the police if they feel targeted or unsafe. I believe strongly that every parent/ carer wants the absolute best for their child and does the very best job that they can - none of us are perfect. Being a parent or carer is the hardest role in the world, with constant challenges, and although every child and family is unique, we need to treat each other with support and kindness, not judgement or criticism.

Our children are taught daily about kindness, online safety, and responsible digital behaviour. It is vital that we, as the adults in their lives, model the same expectations. A supportive family community strengthens the entire school; a divided one makes things harder for everyone. I am asking kindly but firmly that families reflect on how messages may impact others and commit to communicating with respect.



In a similar vein, please ensure that children are not approached or questioned by adults on the school premises about incidents or concerns. This can make children feel extremely uncomfortable and is not appropriate under any circumstances. If you have a worry or need clarification about something that has happened, please speak directly with school staff, who will always be available to help.

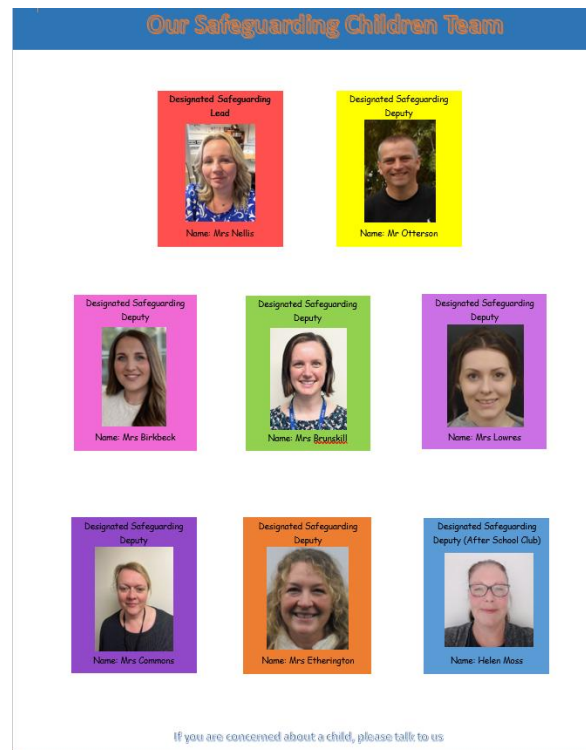
A further reminder that toys should not be brought into school. The sensory items we use in school are non-toxic and carry the necessary safety certification. We are, of course, happy to discuss individual

needs, and children with SEND who require specific items will continue to have these arrangements in place. I am reinforcing this today in response to an incident that has happened in school this week involving a toy that was brought into school from home. It is essential that we keep everyone safe.

Finally, we are pleased to invite children to wear their pyjamas on the last day of term, Friday 19th December. This is intended to be a fun and relaxed end to the term. There is absolutely no expectation that families purchase new pyjamas. If this creates any difficulty, please speak to the school office confidentially—we are always here to support.

Thank you, as always, for your cooperation and for working with us to ensure that our school remains a safe, kind, and positive environment for every child. We are really looking forward to the next couple of weeks in school, which I know will be full of festive fun.

Best wishes - have a great weekend
Vicky Nellis (Head Teacher)



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 0800 800 5000, You can report concerns here anonymously too.



Glynwood Community
Primary School

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.

