





## Growing Together at Glynwood

Glynwood Gardens  
Gateshead  
Tyne & Wear  
NE9 5SY  
Headteacher: Mrs Vicky Nellis  
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Website: [glynwoodprimary.org](http://glynwoodprimary.org)

<b>Friday 6/2/2026</b>	
<b>February 2026</b>	
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February - Safer Internet Day	
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February - Year 3 trip to Hancock Museum	
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February - Hoops4Health Basketball Tournament	
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February - 3:15-4:30pm - Y1 and Y2 Valentine Disco (children who attend can wear disco clothes for the day)	
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February - 3:15-4:30pm - Y3 and Y4 Valentine Disco (children who attend can wear disco clothes for the day)	
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February - 3:30-4:30pm - Y5 and Y6 Valentine Disco (children who attend can wear disco clothes for the day)	
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Staff Training Day - school closed to pupils</b>	
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> February - Y5 / 6 Swimming Gala	
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February - Last day of school for pupils	
<b>March 2026</b>	
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March - Pupils return to school	
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March - World Book Day	
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March - Red Nose Day - non-uniform day for a charitable donation	
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March - Faith Day - Parents/ Carers into class to look at children's RE work from 2:45pm	
<b>April 2026</b>	
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April - Last Day of term for pupils	
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April - Pupils return to school	
<b>May 2026</b>	
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May - Bank Holiday - School closed	
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May - Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May Year Six SATs week	
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May - Last Day of the half term	
<b>June 2026</b>	
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June - pupils return to school	
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June - Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June - Year Four multiplication check	
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June - Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June - Phonics screening	
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June - Rainbow Day - Diversity Celebration - Children to wear non-school uniform	
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June - Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June - Glynwood Art, Craft and Music Festival	
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June and Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June - Glynwood Art festival exhibition opens	
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June - 3:30pm - 4:30pm - Summer Fair	
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June - School Closed to pupils	
<b>July 2026</b>	
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July - Reports out to pupils	
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July - 9:15am - Year Six Leavers Assembly	
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July - Last Day of academic year 2025-26	
<b>September 2026</b>	
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September - Teacher Training Day - school closed to pupils	
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September - pupils return to school for new academic year.	



Glynwood Community  
Primary School  
Growing Together at Glynwood

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hopefully everyone has had a positive week despite the dreadful weather we have been experiencing. The children have continued to be enthusiastic and eager to learn despite the cold and rainy conditions.

Next week we will be having our **Valentine Discos**. These are the following days and times:

Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 & 2	3.30 - 4.30pm
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Year 3 & 4	3.30 - 4.30pm
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 & 6	3.30 - 4.30pm

Children can come dressed ready for the discos during the school day and at 4.30 pm will be released by their teachers at the usual exits for your child.

Could money please be given directly to your child's class teacher (£2).

**School Crossing Patrol position** - We have been without a crossing patrol person for a significant amount of time now. The council have advertised the post several times and are indeed doing so again right now, so if you know of anyone who might be interested, please see the following information.

Details of the post: closing date 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026

AM Duty 08:30 – 09:10      PM Duty 03:05 – 03:40

Daily 1 hour 15 minutes

Weekly 6 hours 15 minutes

Approx Salary £280 per month

For more information email [RoadSafety@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:RoadSafety@Gateshead.Gov.UK)

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February is **Safer Internet Day** and pupils will be talking in class and completing activities around this. Can you please continue to encourage your children to access age-appropriate materials on line, including games they play, and consider their time spent on social media as we are dealing with lots of issues in school as a result of children falling out with each other over time spent on Whatsapp, Snapchat etc.

Just a few polite reminders:

- Parents/carers should report absences first thing on a morning either by phone or on Parentmail please.
- Please try to park respectfully, this includes not parking on the yellow zig zags or blocking residents' driveways. We had another complaint from a resident on Southend Road who was sworn at yesterday when they asked parent to move car from partly blocking their drive.
- Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club: please ensure that sessions are paid for as you book them. This helps us to manage staffing and resources effectively.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

With my best wishes

Simon Otterson



### ♥ PINS Coffee Morning

Come along and meet with Gateshead Parent Carer Forum in school for a relaxed PINS coffee morning — a friendly space for parent carers of neurodiverse children to chat, share experiences, and feel supported.

#### ☀ What to Expect

- A relaxed, welcoming atmosphere
- Tea, coffee, and sweet treats
- Space to chat about challenges and successes
- Helpful conversations about SEND support in mainstream schools
- A chance to connect with other parent carers

#### When

·-28/01/2026	1.30 – 2.30
-19/02/2026	10.00 – 12.00
-26/03/2026	10.00 – 12.00

## 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 Lowres

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.



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.

