



**Growing Together  
at Glynwood**

Glynwood Gardens  
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## Newsletter 20.3.26

### March 2026

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March - Red Nose Day - non-uniform day for a charitable donation

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March - Dance Festival for all Reception and some Y5 children

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March - Parent Consultations

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Faith Day - Parents/ Carers into class to look at children's RE work from 2:45pm

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March - Easter Egg competition entries

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March - Nursery trip to Kells Lane Park (30hrs and am group)

### April 2026

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April - Parent Teacher consultations

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April - Easter Bonnet competition

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April - Nursery trip to Kells Lane Park (30hrs and pm group)

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April - Last Day of term for pupils

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April - Pupils return to school

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - Earth Day - wear something green!

### May 2026

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

### June 2026

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 17<sup>th</sup> June - Class Photographs

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

### July 2026

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

### September 2026

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,

This week has been another busy week at school finishing with a lovely non-uniform day on Friday for Red Nose Day. Thank you to everyone who made a donation - you managed to raise £396.67 so far - fantastic!

**Parent consultations** - hopefully, everyone has now received their dates and times for consultations which begin next week. If you have not received a letter home, please see your child's teacher or pop into the school office.

**Parents coffee morning for SEND/Neurodiverse children** - Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March @ 10.00am for anyone who wishes to come along for a chat - see information below.

**Parking around school** - Just a polite reminder for parents bringing their children by car to school. Dropping off on the Zig Zags on Southend Road is not ok - even for a few seconds. This is the main point where children cross the road to come into school and is a potential risk to children and parents, as cars moving past then travel on the wrong side of the road. Parking on the bend of Coniston Gardens where it meets Southend Road and Larne Crescent where it meets Glynwood Gardens, is also a real risk to pedestrians and other road users as people cannot see around the corners. Please try to park responsibly.

**Author visit** - Reception and Year 1 children are going to have an author visit on the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup> of March. This sounds like a lovely opportunity for our younger children to be inspired about reading and writing.

**PE days** - Please stick to our school policy on clothing on PE days - they are not non-uniform days for football tops etc.

**Easter celebrations** - Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March - Easter Egg competition  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April - Easter Bonnet competition

**Bikes and scooters in school** - Whilst it is lovely to see children coming into school on bikes and scooters now the weather has improved, can parents be mindful of children riding these through the yard. We have had a number of near misses and one or two collisions from children who are not being supervised properly. Children should not be riding freely around the playgrounds, ramps to exits or on school paths please.

**Healthy snacks** - Please remember to send in healthy snacks rather than sweets or chocolate bars for break times.

**Reporting Pupil Absences** - Please try and report any absences by 9.15am, this can either be done on the Parentmail app, or by calling the school office on 0191 4334117.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, with my best wishes  
Mr 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.

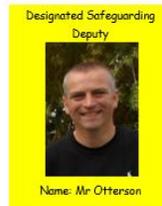
#### ★ What to Expect

- 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



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



Glywood 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.



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