



## Newsletter - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2026

### October 2026

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October – Hello Yellow day – children wear yellow

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> – Harvest donations into school

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October – Y2 visit to Quayside and South Shields

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October – Year 4 Harvest Festival - 2.45 pm

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October – Autumn Disco for Years 1 & 2 – 3.15pm-4.30pm

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Autumn Disco for Years 3 & 4 – 3.15pm-4.30pm

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Parent/Carer RISE workshop on anxiety 9.15 am

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Autumn Disco for Years 5 & 6 – 3.15pm-4.30pm

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October– Last day of the half term

### November 2026

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – Children return to school after half term

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November – Y5 visit to Beamish

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Y6 residential to Robinwood

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> – Remembrance Day – wreath laying

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Parents consultations

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November – Parents consultations

### December 2026

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December – Flu Immunisations (Reception to Year 6)

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December– Last Day of term

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December – Winter Fair

### January 2027

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January - children return to school after Christmas holidays

### February 2027

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February - Last day of the half term

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February - Children return to school

### March 2027

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March - Last day of term

### April 2027

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April - Children return to school

### May 2027

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May - School Closed for Bank Holiday

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May - Last day of half term

### June 2027

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June - Children return to school

### July 2027

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July - Last day of term

Dear Families,

It has been a lovely jam-packed week in school with lots of fantastic things going on. Yesterday saw the children celebrate National Poetry Day, a highlight of which involved Year 6 reading ambassadors learning and reciting poems for the classes to enjoy. We have had visitors into school teaching classes rugby skills and lots of children enjoying lunchtime nurture and sports clubs. Mrs Commons also opened her “Cosy café” on lunchtimes which has proved a big hit with the children.

Attendance – School is having a big push on improving attendance and we are now using a new system called A Star attendance which will inform parents of issues around attendance. Classes are aiming to earn extra break time by having the best attendance in their key stage and individual children with good or improved attendance are going to be invited for a treat with Mr Otterson or receive rewards from Mrs Dodd our attendance officer.

Forest school sessions are unfortunately on hold whilst we wait for the council to remove wasps nests in the Forest school area.

## **Reminders**

### **Earrings, necklaces and PE**

A reminder that earrings are not permitted in school. This is for health and safety reasons, so please ensure that children come to school **without** earrings. If earrings cannot be removed, they must be completely covered with tape at both the front and back. Families will need to provide and apply appropriate tape for their child.

### **Data Collection Sheets**

If you have not yet returned your child’s data collection sheet, please could you do this as soon as possible. It is really important that the information we hold for your child is accurate and up to date, particularly emergency contacts and medical information.

### **We are a nut-free school**

Please remember that we are a nut-free school. Children must not bring nuts or products containing nuts into school as part of their packed lunch or snacks. This is extremely important as we have children and staff for whom exposure to nuts can cause a serious allergic reaction. Products such as Nutella do contain nuts, as do lots of breakfast bars. We really appreciate everyone’s cooperation in helping us keep everyone safe.

### **ParentMail – Consent Form**

There is a consent form on ParentMail that we need families to complete. Please log in and complete this as soon as possible if you haven’t already done so.

### **Pre-loved School Uniform**

A reminder that we have pre-loved school uniform available from the school office. Please do make use of this. Children grow incredibly quickly, and there is absolutely no need for perfectly good uniform to go to waste! Speak to the office team if there is something you need.

### **Term-time holidays**

Please note that a leave of absence form **must** be completed in advance of the absence. Please do not use Parentmail to inform the school. The form is available to download from the school website or a paper copy can be obtained from the school office.

### **School equipment**

Just a reminder that the playground equipment in the KS1 and KS2 yards or the football goals on the school field, should not be used by children or parents before or after school.

### **End of day messages**

Wherever possible please try and give school as much notice as possible if you are needing to collect your child early for an appointment or if someone else is picking them up from school. The end of the school day is an exceptionally busy time. A high volume of phone calls at this time can make it difficult for us to manage these safely and efficiently. Ideally the message should be given to a staff member in your child’s class on a morning rather than calling the office.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support. Hopefully everyone has a great weekend!

Mr Otterson



# Glynwood Community Primary School

Growing Together at Glynwood

# 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 Lawnes

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 0800 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.



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