



Glynwood Community Primary School

Growing Together at Glynwood

Newsletter - Friday 9th October 2026

October 2026

Friday 9th October – Hello Yellow day – children wear yellow

Monday 12th October- Friday 16th – Harvest donations into school

Friday 16th October – Y2 visit to Quayside and South Shields

Friday 16th October – Year 4 Harvest Festival - 2.45 pm

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

Tuesday 20th October – Room on the Broom family event - Nursery

Wednesday 21st October – Phonics workshop for KS1 parents -2.45pm

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

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

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

Friday 23rd October – Room on the Broom family event - Nursery

Friday 23rd October– Last day of the half term

November 2026

Monday 2nd November – Children return to school after half term

Friday 6th November – Y5 visit to Beamish

Monday 9th - Wednesday 11th November – Y6 residential to Robinwood

Wednesday 11th – Remembrance Day – wreath laying

Wednesday 11th November – Parents consultations

Wednesday 18th November – Parents consultations

Friday 27th November – Winter Fair

December 2026

Friday 4th December – Flu Immunisations (Reception to Year 6)

Thursday 10th December – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch

Friday 18th December– Last Day of term

January 2027

Monday 4th January - children return to school after Christmas holidays

February 2027

Friday 12th February - Last day of the half term

Monday 22nd February - Children return to school

March 2027

Thursday 25th March - Last day of term

April 2027

Monday 12th April - Children return to school

May 2027

Monday 3rd May - School Closed for Bank Holiday

Friday 28th May - Last day of half term

June 2027

Monday 7th June - Children return to school

July 2027

Friday 16th July - Last day of term

Dear Families,

Another fun-filled week has zoomed by with lots of highlights. We had a fantastic trip for the Year 6 pupils to Safety works, Hello Yellow day and visitors into school talking to classes about emotions and mental health, a year 5 and 6 football tournament where the pupils did extremely well representing our school and all sorts of fun lessons like our Year 4 science lessons investigating animal poo – well, chocolate shaped to look like poo!

Attendance – yesterday saw the first hot chocolate treat with Mr Otterson for children with excellent or improved attendance. It was a lovely to spend time relaxing and chatting with our 12 winners this week and hopefully this is the start of improving trend in our attendance across the school. Well done to the boys and girls who were winners this week and the winning class (Year 1 MA) who have earned themselves extra breaktime.

Reminders

Harvest festival donations

Any donations for Harvest festival would be most welcome starting from Monday of next week please. The usual packets, bottles and tins are the most appropriate items to bring in. Reminder to Year 4 parents that the performance is at 2.45pm on Friday 16th – we hope to see you there!

Bikes and scooters

Please can you remind your children that bikes and scooters should not be ridden on the school grounds. We had an incident yesterday when a Nursery child was knocked over by another pupil riding through the school. We may have to stop particular children being allowed to bring them in if they do not follow the rules and keep everyone safe.

Y7 Secondary School places

Don't forget you must apply for your child's place at secondary school online before the end of October.

Glass bowls/tubs in lunch boxes

These should not be brought into school for packed lunches. There have been two occasions this week when they have smashed in children's bags and obviously pose a potential threat to pupils' safety. Plastic only please!

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.

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

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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