Glynwood Community Primary School

Growing Together at Glynwood

Newsletter - Friday 6th November 2026

November 2026
Friday 6th November – Y5 visit to Beamish
Monday 9th - Wednesday 11th November – Y6 residential to Robinwood
Wednesday 11th – Remembrance Day – wreath laying at Boer War memorial
Wednesday 11th November – Parents consultations
Friday 13th November– Children in Need day
Monday16th- Friday 20th November- Anti Bullying week
Monday 16th November – Odd socks day
Tuesday 17th November – Y6 Parent consultations
Wednesday 18th November – Y6 Parent consultations
Wednesday 18th November – Reception and Year 6 Height and Weight
Friday 20th November – Non-uniform (bottle and chocolate donations for the fair)
Friday 27th November – Winter Fair
December 2026
Friday 4th December – Flu Immunisations (Reception to Year 6)
Wednesday 9th December – Year 1 Nativity
Thursday 10th December – Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
Thursday 10th December – Year 2 carols by candlelight
Friday 11th December – Y1 and Y2 Christingles at St Johns
Friday 11th December – Reception Christmas event
Tuesday 15th December – Christmas party day
Wednesday 16th December – Carol service Y3 and Y4 at St Johns Church
Thursday 17th December – Carol service Y5 and Y6 at St Johns
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,

It was lovely to see everyone return to school after the half term break. It has been a busy week with lots of fantastic learning going on. We had a fab visit from the Newcastle Eagles basketball team on Wednesday and the pupils had a great time taking part in the Hoops for Health program.
Lots of parents will have had their Parent evening consultations this week – hopefully you found this useful and informative. Some classes do not start their sessions until next week, so don't worry if you think you may have missed out or if you forgot to make an appointment, please contact your child's teacher to make an arrangement.
Our weekly attendance winners were Mrs Overman's class with 98.1% and 12 more good attenders had hot chocolate and treats with Mr Otterson – well done to our weekly winners.
Next week will see our Year 6 pupils off on their residential trip to Robinwood. Fingers crossed for good weather for everyone during their fun-packed 3 days near Alston.
It will also be Children in Need day on Friday 13th November, so pupils will be allowed to wear non-uniform or come in dressed in Pudsey clothing. Donations will be collected as usual from the office or class teachers.
The week afterwards will be Anti Bullying week (16th -20th Nov) and pupils will be encouraged to wear odd socks to school on Monday 16th November.
Hopefully everyone enjoys a safe and enjoyable weekend if attending any firework displays.

Reminders

Forest school area

Please do not let your children play unsupervised in this area before or after school. It was damaged and equipment was thrown around that required a huge effort to clear up and repair. The tyre swings, hammocks and equipment are only for certified staff to use with the children.

After school club closures

There will be no after school club on the day of the winter fair (Friday 27th November) as staff are helping run the fair. There will also be no after school club on the final day of term (Friday 18th December). Sorry for any inconvenience.

Tombola Donations – Winter Fair

Friday 20th November - Non-uniform day. We are accepting donations of chocolate and bottles for our Winter Fair.

Toy Donations – Winter Fair

We are accepting toys (only in good condition please) for the Winter Fair. Please bring to the school office before Wednesday 25th November.

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.

Reporting Illness Absences

In line with our attendance policy, if your child is ill and can't attend school this should be reported on a **daily** basis before 9am either via the Parentmail app, telephone – 0191 4334117 or email – glynwoodcommunityprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk. Exceptions to this are if you have already informed school of the length of illness, for example a child having an operation and needing planned recovery time or a sickness bug where the school policy is 48hours.

DfE free Breakfast Club - Update

Our new DfE-funded Free Breakfast Club started this week and has been popular. We are bringing the start time forward to **8:15am** from Monday 9th November to allow us to provide a full 30-minute breakfast session, in line with the DfE guidance, giving children additional time to enjoy a breakfast item, including a bagel, fruit and waffle, as well as take part in the activities on offer and get settled ready for the school day. **Please use Parentmail to book your child in.** Please enter through the green door on the ramp in the Key Stage 1 yard.
Please note: To access the free breakfast provision, children must arrive at 8:15am. Any children arriving before 8:15am will be charged at our usual Breakfast Club rates.
We will review the new arrangements for the remainder of this term to see how well they are working for families and children and keep you updated.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend. Mr Otterson



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.

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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 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 Treherne

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.