Glynwood Community Primary School

Growing Together at Glynwood

Newsletter - Friday 13th November 2026

November 2026
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,

We've had a really good week in school with lots of fun activities packed in. Year 6 had and amazing time at Alston on their residential trip to Robinwood. They had a brilliant time doing 15 activities from climbing, to caving and the infamous Piranha Pool! The children were well behaved throughout and had a fantastic time
Mr Otterson and Mr Gibson, our Chair of Governors, attended the memorial service at Low Fell on Wednesday with three pupils from school. They were extremely well behaved and respectful throughout and even had the responsibility of laying the wreath at the war memorial. Thank you to the children for representing the school so well.
Year 5 pupils attended the Panathlon Bowling challenge at Riverside Bowling and Year 4 pupils the Boccia tournament at Gateshead Leisure Centre and performed extremely well. Everyone came away with medal and did a great job in making our school proud.
Year 6 pupils represented the school at the indoor athletics finals and came a very respectful 9th out of all the schools in Gateshead. Year 6 staff were particularly impressed with their attitude and support for each other.
The school saw the return of the well-loved music workshop on Wednesday. A team of musicians played a huge range of songs from Disney classics and songs from the past 5 decades. It was a fantastic morning and the children thoroughly enjoyed their visit.
Our weekly attendance winners were Mrs Overman's class once again with 98.5% and 12 more good attenders had hot chocolate and treats with Mr Otterson – well done to our weekly winners.
And finally, today has been Children in Need day. The children looked great in their Pudsey outfits, Pudsey ears and face paints. Thank you to everyone for your kind donations which have resulted in £276 so far.

Request - Year 3 would like any clean glass jam jars to help them out with an activity next week please.

Anti-Bullying week and Odd Socks day
When we return on Monday it will be Anti Bullying week (16th -20th Nov) and pupils will be encouraged to wear odd socks to school on Monday 16th November.

Balls before school
Can parents and carers make sure children are not playing with balls around other parents with prams/pushchairs before school starts to ensure no accidents occur.

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

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
Just a reminder that our free breakfast club is available every day from 8.15am. **Please note children need to be booked in in advance via Parentmail.** Please ensure you also remove any bookings you no longer require.
Please enter through the green door on the ramp in the Key Stage 1 yard.

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.