



Teaching and Learning  
in a supportive environment  
where all  
feel valued, happy and  
successful.

Blaydon West Primary School  
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Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move towards the end of term, we have had another busy and exciting week in school.

🌙 **Eid Celebration:** Earlier this week, we held our special Eid celebration day in school. Children were invited to come in wearing their bright party clothes, and it was wonderful to see so many colourful and vibrant outfits across the school. Throughout the day, we learned about the importance of Eid and how it is celebrated around the world. Children who celebrate Eid as part of their religion shared their own experiences, stories and traditions, which was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to learn from each other. We were also very lucky to receive a range of gifts of food and delicious treats to try—these were thoroughly enjoyed by both children and staff. It was a truly special day and a great example of our inclusive school community.

➗ **World Maths Day:** Today we are celebrating World Maths Day, with children taking part in a range of fun and engaging activities across school. These activities promote a love of maths, problem solving and reasoning in an enjoyable and interactive way. We have seen some fantastic enthusiasm and teamwork from the children today.

📅 **Parents' Evening:** A reminder that Parents' Evening will take place on Monday and Tuesday next week. Please ensure you have signed up via Arbor to book your appointment. This is a valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress, development and next steps with their teacher. We look forward to seeing you there.

🥚 **Easter Egg Competition:** A reminder that our annual Easter Egg Competition will take place on Monday. Entries should be brought into school on Monday. This is a family project to complete at home. Prizes will be awarded across all classes. We always look forward to seeing the creativity and effort that goes into these—good luck to everyone taking part!

📅 **End of Term:** School will close for the Easter holidays on Thursday. We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable break, and we look forward to welcoming children back next term. School re-opens on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April.

✂️ **Term-Time Holidays**

As we approach the Easter holidays, we know many families begin to consider booking holidays for the months ahead, particularly for September. We completely understand the importance of family time. However, we would like to remind parents of the significant impact that term-time holidays can have on children's learning and attendance.

Head Teacher - Simon Brown

Chair of Governors - Chris Robson

Each day in school equates to around 6 hours of learning, meaning a typical 10-day holiday results in approximately 60 hours of missed teaching time—the equivalent of two full weeks of learning. September is especially important, as children are settling into new classes, establishing routines and beginning new learning. Missing this time can make it much harder for children to catch up and feel confident.

There is also the cumulative effect to consider. A holiday taken during term time, alongside any illness across the year, can quickly bring attendance below 90%, which is classed as persistent absence.

Under current government guidance, schools are not permitted to authorise holidays during term time. This means we have no option but to issue a fixed penalty notice, and these fines increase significantly if further absence occurs.

We strongly encourage families to plan holidays during school holiday periods wherever possible.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Regards

Mr Brown

Head Teacher

27<sup>th</sup> March 2026