



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 head towards the final two weeks of the academic year, school certainly isn't slowing down! In fact, it is one of the busiest periods of the entire year. Trips, reports, transition events, Sports Afternoon, welcoming our new Reception families and preparing for September all mean there is a huge amount taking place behind the scenes. It is always one of my favourite times of the year as we celebrate everything our children have achieved whilst also looking ahead with excitement to a new school year.

School Meals – September 2026

After much consideration, I need to let you know that the price of a school meal will increase to £3.10 per day from September. This is the price that the school is charged by our catering provider. For more than five years, we have deliberately chosen not to pass increased costs on to parents, instead subsidising meals from the school's own budget.

Unfortunately, with continued financial pressures on school budgets, we are no longer able to sustain this subsidy without impacting other areas of school life. This decision has therefore been made with considerable reluctance. We appreciate that no increase is welcome, but I hope families understand that we have delayed this change for as long as we possibly could.

Sports Afternoon – Wednesday 8th JULY – RECEPTION TO YR 6

Next Wednesday sees one of the highlights of our school calendar—our annual Sports Afternoon. At the time of writing, forecasts suggest temperatures could reach 25°C or higher. Whilst we always keep one eye on the possibility of rain, our greater concern this year is ensuring that children, families and staff remain safe in very warm conditions.

Should temperatures continue to rise, we may need to make the decision to shorten the event or adapt the programme to reduce the time children spend in direct sunlight. If you are picking up from the event, please note it may end earlier than normal years. A form to say you leaving directly from the event is here.

PICKING UP FROM SPORTS DAY >>>> <https://forms.gle/97Cjb9HyovE1g6mx7>

Please keep an eye on the weather forecast during the week and ensure children arrive with:

- A named water bottle
- Sun cream already applied before school
- A sun hat or cap

Any decision to amend the event will only ever be made with the children's wellbeing at the forefront.

Key Stage 2 SATs Results

Like schools across the country, we have been informed that this year's Key Stage 2 SATs results have been delayed until Thursday 16th July due to processing issues. This is naturally disappointing for schools, particularly as it shortens the time available to analyse outcomes before the end of term. However, we will share and celebrate our pupils' achievements as soon as the results are officially released.

Head Teacher – Simon Brown

Chair of Governors – Chris Robson

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

Thank you to everyone who has already taken the time to read our consultation regarding the school's PSHE curriculum.

If you have not yet had the opportunity, I would encourage you to take a few minutes to read the information and complete the consultation. Your feedback is always valued and helps us ensure our curriculum reflects both statutory guidance and the views of our school community. As you will be aware from this we are currently focusing on RSE and you will know from the policy an opt out option is available.

School Reports

Annual reports will be emailed via Arbor next week. Please look out for the notification in your inbox. As in previous years, reports will not be sent home as paper copies unless specifically requested.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

One of the real strengths of Blaydon West is the number of opportunities our children experience beyond the classroom.

This week:

Year 5 began their River Study with a visit to Kielder, where they enjoyed a fantastic day of fieldwork (and returned with a few mosquito bites to prove it!). Their geographical journey continues over the coming weeks with visits to Corbridge and Tynemouth, allowing pupils to explore how rivers change from source to sea. We are incredibly fortunate to have our own school transport, enabling us to provide these rich learning experiences.

Year 3 enjoyed a wonderful visit to Gibside, and next week they continue their science learning with a trip to Durham Botanical Gardens.

Year 1 had a fantastic day at the beach, bringing their learning to life whilst enjoying the wonderful weather.

These experiences create memories that last a lifetime whilst helping children develop confidence, curiosity and a love of learning.

Welcoming Our New Reception Families

Next Friday we look forward to welcoming our new Reception children—and their parents—for our annual Reception Lunch. It is always one of my favourite events of the year, giving new families the opportunity to experience lunchtime together before September. I'm sure many of our current Reception parents can still remember attending this event themselves—it doesn't seem that long ago!

A Reminder

School closes for the summer holidays on Thursday 16th July.

Please remember that there will be no school on Friday 17th July.

Finally...

As we approach the end of another successful year, I would like to thank every family for the support you continue to show our school. Whether it is helping with reading at home, attending performances and events, supporting trips or simply ensuring children arrive each morning ready to learn, your partnership makes a tremendous difference. There is still plenty to look forward to over the next two weeks, and we intend to make every moment count.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Simon Brown
Headteacher