



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

Blaydon West Primary School
Blaydon Bank
Blaydon on Tyne
Tyne and Wear
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Tel: 01914143286

www.blaydonwestprimary.org

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we embark on a new academic year at Blaydon West Primary School, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to all our pupils, both returning and new. The start of a school year always brings with it a sense of excitement and anticipation, and I am pleased to report that our pupils have settled in remarkably well, demonstrating their eagerness to learn and grow. I would like to extend a special welcome to our new Reception and Nursery children who have joined our school family this term. It is heartening to see how quickly they have adapted to their new environment, making friends and engaging enthusiastically in their learning activities. Their presence adds a fresh vibrancy to our school community, and we look forward to nurturing their development in the years to come. The smooth transition we have witnessed across all year groups is a testament to the resilience and adaptability of our pupils, as well as the dedication of our staff and the support of our parents and carers. It is this collaborative spirit that makes Blaydon West Primary School such a special place for learning and personal growth.

By now, you should have received your child's PE timetable and termly curriculum overview. These documents are designed to keep you informed about your child's educational journey and to help you support their learning at home. If, for any reason, you have not received these important documents, please do not hesitate to contact the school office, and we will ensure you receive them promptly.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting term planned, filled with engaging activities, educational visits, and enriching experiences for our pupils. These carefully curated events and initiatives are designed to complement our curriculum, providing opportunities for our pupils to explore, discover, and expand their horizons beyond the classroom walls.

In our ongoing efforts to enhance communication and accessibility of information, I am pleased to announce that we are in the process of developing a new school website. This updated platform will serve as a comprehensive resource for our school community, offering easy access to important information, updates, and celebrating the achievements of our pupils. We will notify you as soon as the new website goes live, and we encourage you to explore its features and provide feedback to help us continually improve our communication channels.

Attendance remains a crucial factor in ensuring the best possible educational outcomes for our pupils. In light of this, I would like to draw your attention to the attendance letter from the Local Authority, which is attached to this newsletter. This document underscores the importance of regular school attendance and outlines important changes that have been implemented since mid-August.

Finally, I am pleased to announce our upcoming "Meet the Teacher" evenings. These events provide an invaluable opportunity for parents and carers to meet their child's teacher, learn about the year ahead, and discuss any questions or concerns you may have.

Head Teacher - Simon Brown

Chair of Governors - Chris Robson

Year 1	Wednesday, 18 th September
Year 2	Monday, 16 th September
Year 3	Monday, 16 th September
Year 4	Tuesday, 17 th September
Year 5	Thursday, 19 th September
Year 6	Tuesday, 17 th September

These happen at the end of the school day; once your child has been collected, you are welcome back into the classroom. Staff try to have these on differing nights where possible to accommodate siblings – however this is not always possible.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education. I look forward to another successful year at Blaydon West Primary School, filled with growth, achievement, and shared successes.

Best regards,

Mr Brown
Head Teacher

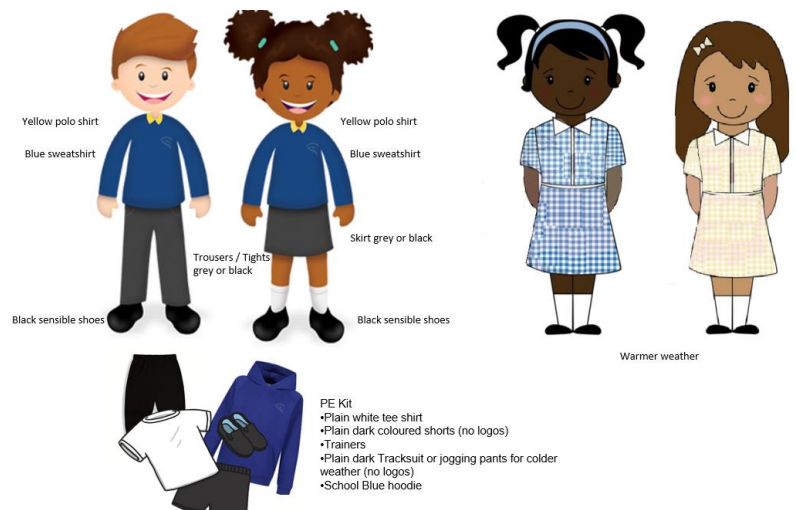
Term Dates

2024-2025 academic year:

- **Autumn Term: Tuesday 3rd (for children)** September 2024 Friday 20th December 2024
 - **Half term** Monday 28th October 2024 to Friday 1st November 2024
- **Spring Term:** Monday 6th January 2025 – Friday 11th April 2025
 - **Half term** Monday 24th to Friday 28th February 2025
- **Summer Term:** Monday 28th April 2025 - Friday 18th July 2025
 - **Half term** Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May 2025 (Bank holiday 26th May)

Please note that there will be three training days and an occasional day spread across the year: The occasional day cannot be set until closer to the Summer term.

- **Training Day 1:** Monday 2nd September 2024
- **Training Day 2:** Friday 21st February 2025
- **Training Day 3:** Thursday 19th June 2025



Date: 3.9.24

Dear Parent/Carer,

Gateshead Council considers children's attendance at school to be of great importance and will always seek to work in partnership with schools and parents in order to reduce absences, before taking more formal measures.

We would, however, like to take this opportunity to share some important changes to School Attendance Penalty Notices (DfE) which have come into effect from the 19th August 2024, which we must adhere to.

This will affect the rules around penalty notices issued to parents for their child's poor school attendance, including holidays taken during term time.

What are the changes?

Issuing of a Penalty Notice:

There is a new national threshold of 10 unauthorised sessions, within a rolling 10 school week period.

Increase in Penalty Notice amount:

Previous Fine	Reduced if paid within 21 days	New Fine	Reduced if paid within 21 days
£120	£60	£160	£80

Escalation in cases of repeat offences

Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3 year period, will be charged at the higher rate of £160 with no option for this second offence to be discharged at the lower rate of £80.

Limited number of penalty notices per parent

A national limit of 2 penalty notices can be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period. At the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) another tool, such as prosecution, will be considered.

For more information please see: [Fines for parents for taking children out of school: What you need to know – The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

Regards,

Victoria Cramman
Strategic Lead Education Support Service
Gateshead Council