Principal: Mr S Robson.
Augusta Close, Darlington, DL1 3HT, Telephone: 01325 240499, Email: admin@whinfield.net

Newsletter 15th May

School will close on Friday 22nd May for May half term and will reopen for Pupils on Monday 1st June.

GEMS Assembly:

The winning team for the weekly GEM Trophy was Ruby! Well done to everyone in Team Ruby! Find out about our GEM procedures here: https://whinfield.net/parents/gems/.

Messages from Mr Robson:

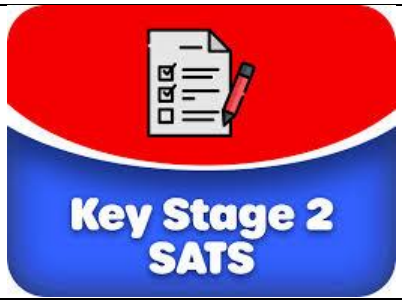
YEAR 6 SAT TESTS COMPLETE!

A huge congratulations to our Year 6 pupils, who have completed their SAT tests this week. This is a significant milestone in their school journey as they prepare for the transition to secondary school, and we are incredibly proud of the calm, focused and resilient way they approached the week.

We enjoyed a lovely day today celebrating their hard work and giving them the opportunity to relax and enjoy time together after their efforts.

Thank you also to our staff for their dedicated support and to parents and carers for the encouragement and reassurance you have given at home. Your support has played a vital role in helping the children feel confident and prepared.

Well done, Year 6 – you should all be very proud of yourselves!



LUNCH TIMES

As part of our ongoing work to review the structure of the school day, we will be trialling a new lunchtime arrangement next week. Both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils will start and finish lunchtime at the same time, rather than having staggered timings.

This trial will help us evaluate how this approach supports pupils, staff, and the overall organisation of the school day as we plan for next academic year.

We anticipate a number of benefits, including:

- Increased opportunities for siblings and friends across year groups to spend time together
- Greater consistency and simplicity in routines for pupils
- Improved supervision, communication, and organisation across the school
- Enhanced opportunities for social development and positive play
- A smoother, more efficient structure to the school day overall

We will carefully review how this works in practice and will share further updates with you in due course.

NEW PTA LAUNCH – EVERYONE WELCOME!

We are keen to re-establish a **Parent–Teacher Association (PTA)** at our school and would love to hear from any parents or carers who may be interested in getting involved.

A PTA plays a valuable role in bringing our **school community together** - supporting school events, fundraising for extra opportunities and resources for children, and creating chances for families to connect. Most importantly, every PTA starts small, and involvement can be as little or as much as you are able to offer.

If you are interested but unsure where to start, please don't worry. The school is very happy to support parents and carers to get things up and running, and we can offer the use of the school building as a meeting place if families would like to get together informally to explore ideas.

You don't need previous experience - just enthusiasm and an interest in supporting our school community. Even if you'd simply like to find out more or have a chat with other parents, we'd love you to come forward.

If this is something you might be interested in, **please contact the school office**, and we can help connect you with others who would like to be involved.

Together, we can build something positive and enjoyable for our children and families.

PARENT HELPERS – CAN YOU SPARE A LITTLE TIME?

We are always grateful for the support of our parents and carers and are now looking to build a **small group of parent helpers** who may be able to support school life in a variety of ways. Parent helpers make a real difference to children's experiences in school. Support might include:

- Listening to children read
- Helping with practical activities in class
- Supporting educational visits and trips
- Helping at special events or activities

Support can be occasional or regular - any help, however small, is hugely valued.

All parent helpers will be supported by school staff and appropriate checks will be completed to ensure safeguarding requirements are met. You do not need teaching experience - just time, enthusiasm and a willingness to help.

If this is something you would like to find out more about or get involved in, **please contact the school office**, who will be happy to talk through the next steps with you.

Thank you for continuing to support our school and our children.

Have a brilliant weekend everybody!

Mr Robson

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PARKING AROUND SCHOOL

Please can we encourage parents and carers to make use of the ASDA car park, which offers a safer and more spacious option during busy drop-off and pick-up times. If you do need to park in nearby streets, we kindly ask that you park safely, avoid blocking driveways, and show respect to local residents.

Your cooperation helps us keep everyone safe and maintains our strong relationship with the community. Thank you!

Cricket:

Our Year 5 children had a fantastic time attending the cricket festival at Darlington Cricket Club last week. The children represented the school brilliantly, demonstrating excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the day.

Pupils took part in a variety of exciting matches where they had the opportunity to develop their batting, bowling and fielding skills against other local schools. It was wonderful to see the children growing in confidence and encouraging one another during every game.

A huge well done to all the children who took part, you were fantastic ambassadors for our school!

SUMMER TERM 2025/26 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event
May 2026	Year 2 SATS
Friday 22nd May	Last day of summer term (1st half)
Monday 1st June	First day of summer term (2nd half)
WC Monday 1st June	Year 4 multiplication check
Friday 5th June	Reception assembly (doors open 9.10am for 9.15am start)
WC Monday 8th June	Phonics screening check
Friday 12th June	Year 2 assembly (doors open 9.10am for 9.15am start)
Friday 19th June	Year 1 assembly (doors open 9.10am for 9.15am start)
Tuesday 23rd June	Year 3 assembly (doors open 9.10am for 9.15am start)
Tuesday 23rd June	New starter reception parent meeting (4pm)
24th, 25th and 26th June	Year 6 and school transition days
Thursday 25th June	Year 6 expectations for Sept move up meeting
Monday 29th June	Reception sports morning
Tuesday 30th June	Year 1/2 sports morning
Wednesday 1st July	Year 3/4 sports morning
Wednesday 1st July	Year 5 expectations for Sept move up meeting
Thursday 2nd July	Year 5/6 sports morning
Friday 3rd July	Year 4 assembly (doors open 9.10am for 9.15am start)
Tuesday 7th July	Year 2 expectations for Sept move up meeting
Wednesday 8th July	Year 1 expectations for Sept move up meeting
Thursday 9th July	Year 3 expectations for Sept move up meeting
Friday 10th July	Year 5 assembly (doors open 9.10am for 9.15am start)
Monday 13th July	Year 4 expectations for Sept move up meeting

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Wednesday 15th July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly 9:30am
Wednesday 15th July	Year 6 Leavers disco 4:30pm - 6pm
Friday 17th July	Last Day of summer term (2nd half)

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Chorister Experience is a wonderful opportunity for boys and girls in Years 2 to 5 to have a first-hand experience of being a Chorister.

We are most interested in hearing from girls in Year 2, 4 and 5, and boys in Year 2, 3 and 4. There are no spaces to audition for the Cathedral Choir for boys in Year 5 but they are welcome to attend the day.

Schedule for the day:

12.30 p.m.	Registration in the Chapter House
12.50 p.m.	Welcome
1.10 p.m.	Choir Practice
2.00 p.m.	Craft activity, tour of the Cathedral and organ playing activity
3.30 p.m.	Break *with a snack provided*
4.15 p.m.	Choir Practice in the Cathedral
5.30 p.m.	Evensong

A separate schedule for parents/guardians will run alongside this.

The day is free of charge and all children in Years 2 to 5 and their parents/ guardians are welcome. No previous experience is necessary, just a love of singing and plenty of enthusiasm! Children are asked to wear their school uniform please.

To apply for a place or for more information, please contact us by email on music@durhamcathedral.co.uk or by phone on 0191 374 4066.

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ENJOY DARLINGTON

DARLINGTON Borough Council

GET SET FOR AN EXCITING YEAR IN DARLINGTON

APRIL

Sat 18 April	K-POP Day

MAY

Sat 16 - Sun 17 May	Groovefest
Tues 26 May	Tractor Tuesday
Sat 30 May	Emergency Services Day
Sun 31 May	Eid al-Adha

JUNE

Sat 6 June	Eco Fair
Sun 7 June	Wool Fair
Sat 13 June	The Swiftie Trail
Sat 20 June	Dance Festival
	World Cup Activities
Fri 26 June	Armed Forces Day
Sat 27 June	Community Carnival North Lodge Park to Hopetown

JULY

Sun 5 July	Proms in the Park
Sat 11 July	Vintage Vehicle Rally
Sun 12 July	World Cultural Day
Wed 15 July	GOLD Tea Dance
Sat 18 – Sun 26 July	Darlington By The Sea
Mon 27 July	Move More Mondays

AUGUST

Sun 2 August	Family Fun Run Junior 3K 5K Run Darlington 10K

AUGUST

Wed 5 August	Library Takeover Day
Sat 8 August	Darlington Pride
Mon 10 August	Move More Mondays
Tues 11 August	S&DR Takeover Day
Thurs 13 August	Making Sense Together
Sat 15 - Sun 16 August	Misfits Mega Market
Thurs 20 August	Legends and Fairy Tales
Sat 22 August	Durham Big Band and Jazz Music
Thurs 27 August	Dinosaur Day

SEPTEMBER

Sat 5 September	Hurworth Concert Band
Sun 6 September	Discography and Friends Summer Session
Sat 12 – Sun 13 September	Rhythm & Tunes Festival

OCTOBER

Sat 24 - Fri 30 October	Restaurant Week
Fri 30 October	Diwali
Sat 31 Oct ober	Halloween

NOVEMBER

Sun 15 November	Christmas Lights Switch On
Mon 16 and Tue 17 November	Quiet Christmas Lights

DECEMBER

Sat 12 December	Ice Sculpture Trail

Find more events at **WWW.ENJOYDARLINGTON.CO.UK**

All information is correct at the time of poster production. Dates, times and locations may be subject to change for instance in the instance of adverse weather. We encourage all attendees to check the relevant website or social media channels for updates leading up to or on the scheduled day of the event.