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

Newsletter 26th June

GEMS Assembly:

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

Messages from Mr Robson:

WARM WEATHER

We would like to **thank all families, pupils and staff for their resilience** this week as we have continued with our usual routines during the warm weather. Pupils and staff have worked incredibly well in the heat, with all aspects of school life continuing as normal. We have made sensible adjustments, including additional drink breaks, adapting timetables to stagger outdoor time and make use of shaded areas, and at times remaining indoors during lunchtime to complete calm, low-intensity activities. **Thank you for your continued support!**

TRANSITION WEEK

It has been a very positive week for transition across the school. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed spending time in their new classes on Wednesday and Thursday, and staff were delighted with how well they settled. Our Year 6 pupils have also attended three transition days at their secondary schools, and we were pleased to welcome our new Reception pupils for their visits. **We are also delighted that our Reception class is full for September – fantastic news for our school community.**

YEAR 3 SHOWCASE ASSEMBLY

Thank you to the many parents and carers who joined us for the **Year 3 Showcase Assembly**. The children were fantastic – showing great confidence in their reading, performing and singing. We are very proud of them all. We look forward to welcoming families to our **Year 4 Showcase Assembly next Friday**.

THREE WEEKS TO GO

With just three weeks remaining until the end of term, it is a very busy and important time in school. **We will soon be saying farewell to a number of staff** who are moving on to new opportunities, as well as welcoming new colleagues to our team. **We will also be preparing to say goodbye to our brilliant Year 6 pupils**, who have now completed all of their English and Mathematics assessments. We are incredibly proud of them and all that they have achieved during their time at our school.

SPORTS MORNINGS

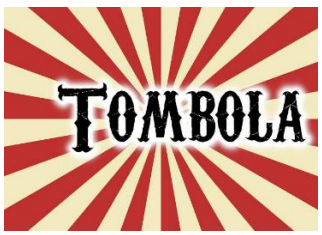
We are looking forward to our Sports Mornings next week:
Monday 29th June – Reception
Tuesday 30th June – Year 1 and Year 2
Wednesday 1st July – Year 3 and Year 4
Thursday 2nd July – Year 5 and Year 6
Arrangements remain the same as in previous years. **Gates will open at 9.15am**, with events starting promptly at **9.30am**.

FOOTBALL WORLD CUP

Many pupils have asked if we can do something in school to celebrate the **Football World Cup**. We are currently considering an appropriate way to mark this, particularly as England are likely to progress to the later stages of the competition. We will share further details with you soon!

TOMBOLA

A big thank you to **Mrs Ameen-Ali**, who has kindly offered to lead a tombola at our upcoming Summer Concert on Wednesday 7th July following our recent request for fundraising support. She has asked for donations of tombola prizes, which pupils can begin bringing into school from **Wednesday 1st July**. Any alcohol prizes (unopened) must be brought into the school office by an adult. **Tickets will be available to purchase on the day of the event.** Thank you in advance for your support.



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.

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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 great weekend!
Mr Robson

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.

Please also be mindful not to block footpaths whilst dropping off and collecting children from school. Please allow plenty of room for pedestrians to pass.

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

School Choir

We are delighted that our school choir will be performing at the Darlington Carnival on Saturday June 27th at 3.30pm, tickets are free but need to be booked on the website.
https://www.hopetowndarlington.co.uk/whats-on/Darlington-Community-Carnival

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SUMMER TERM 2025/26 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event
Monday 29th June	Reception sports morning (9:30am)
Tuesday 30th June	Year 1/2 sports morning (9:30am)
Wednesday 1st July	Year 3/4 sports morning (9:30am)
Wednesday 1st July	Year 5 expectations for Sept move up meeting **Current Year 4 children** (3:30pm – Main entrance)
Thursday 2nd July	Year 6 expectations for Sept move up meeting – **Current Year 5 children** (3:30pm – Main entrance)
Thursday 2nd July	Year 5/6 sports morning (9:30am)
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 **Current Year 1 children** (3:30pm – Main entrance)
Wednesday 8th July	Year 1 expectations for Sept move up meeting **Current Reception children** (3:30pm – Main entrance)
Thursday 9th July	Year 3 expectations for Sept move up meeting **Current Year 2 children** (3:30pm – Main entrance)
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 **Current Year 3 children** (3:30pm – Main entrance)
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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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.