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

Newsletter 10th July

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:

PARKING AND CONSIDERATION FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

Last week, the school received a formal letter from Darlington Borough Council regarding parking by visitors to the school site at drop-off and collection times.

This is disappointing, particularly as we have repeatedly reminded our school community about the importance of parking safely and showing consideration for our neighbours. The majority of families do the right thing, and we are grateful for their support. However, it is clear that concerns remain.

We respectfully ask all parents and carers to consider the impact that parking can have on local residents and road safety. Wherever possible, please use alternative parking locations, **such as the Asda car park**, and walk the short distance to school. Please avoid blocking driveways, parking inconsiderately or creating hazards for pedestrians and other road users. As a school, we want to maintain positive relationships with our local community and ensure that everyone can access the area safely. Thank you for your support in helping us achieve this.

SUMMER FESTIVAL

What a fantastic Summer Festival! Thank you to everyone who attended and helped to make the event such a memorable celebration for our school community.

One particularly lovely moment came after the event when we received a thank-you card from a local resident who had enjoyed listening to the wonderful singing from their garden. There was certainly a fantastic atmosphere throughout the afternoon, with one of the highlights being everyone singing Three Lions together.

A special thank you goes to Mrs Hosey for her amazing entrance music, which certainly helped get the party started!

I would also like to **thank our families for their continued support and for being so considerate** of our arrangements and procedures, helping us to ensure that all pupils remained safe and that the event ran smoothly.

Finally, a huge thank you to all staff for their hard work and commitment. In particular, Mr Douglas, Mrs Walker-Hodgson and Mrs Golightly worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the festival was a success.

Most importantly, our pupils were absolutely amazing and represented the school brilliantly throughout.

Y5 SHOWCASE ASSEMBLY

Thank you to all of our parents and carers who joined us for the Year 5 Showcase Assembly this week. It was wonderful to see such a full hall and so much support for our pupils.

The children confidently shared their learning linked to **Jabberwocky**, showcasing impressive reading and poetry performance skills with excellent expression, enthusiasm and fluency. They also proudly presented some of their fantastic artwork, demonstrating both creativity and hard work.

We are incredibly proud of all of our Year 5 pupils for the confidence, effort and talent they displayed. Thank you to families for joining us and helping to make the occasion so special.

WORLD CUP WEDNESDAY

To celebrate the excitement of the World Cup, we will be holding **World Cup Wednesday next week**.

On Wednesday, pupils are invited to come to school wearing a football kit (if they have one), England colours or the colours of any nation taking part in the competition.

If England are successful tomorrow evening, they will compete in the semi-final on Wednesday night, making the day even more exciting. Regardless of the result this weekend, we will use Wednesday as an opportunity to celebrate the tournament, enjoy the occasion and share our love of sport. Good luck, England!

2026/27 INFORMATION PACK FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

A comprehensive 2026/27 Information Pack has been emailed to all parents and carers today. Please take the time to read the information carefully, as it contains a number of important updates for next academic year, including details of our new Uniform Policy Guidance, school lunch costs and changes to the school day timings.

Thank you for your support and cooperation as we prepare for another exciting year at Whinfield Primary School.

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FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

A huge thank you to Mrs Ameen-Ali and her family, who led the tombola at our Summer Festival and raised an outstanding **£300+** for the school. We would also like to recognise Milly in Year 6, whose incredible fundraising efforts have raised over **£900** for school funds.

Together, these fantastic contributions have raised more than £1,200 to support the children of Whinfield Primary School. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has donated, supported events and given their time to help raise funds. We will keep families updated on how this money will be used to further enhance opportunities and experiences for our pupils. Thank you for your generosity and 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.

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

Hot weather

Please remember to send your child to school with a sun hat and a water bottle and apply sun cream before school if necessary. Please do not send your child to school with hand held electric fans.

Reading books:

Please can all reading books be returned to school by Monday 13th July to their class teacher.

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SUMMER TERM 2025/26 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event
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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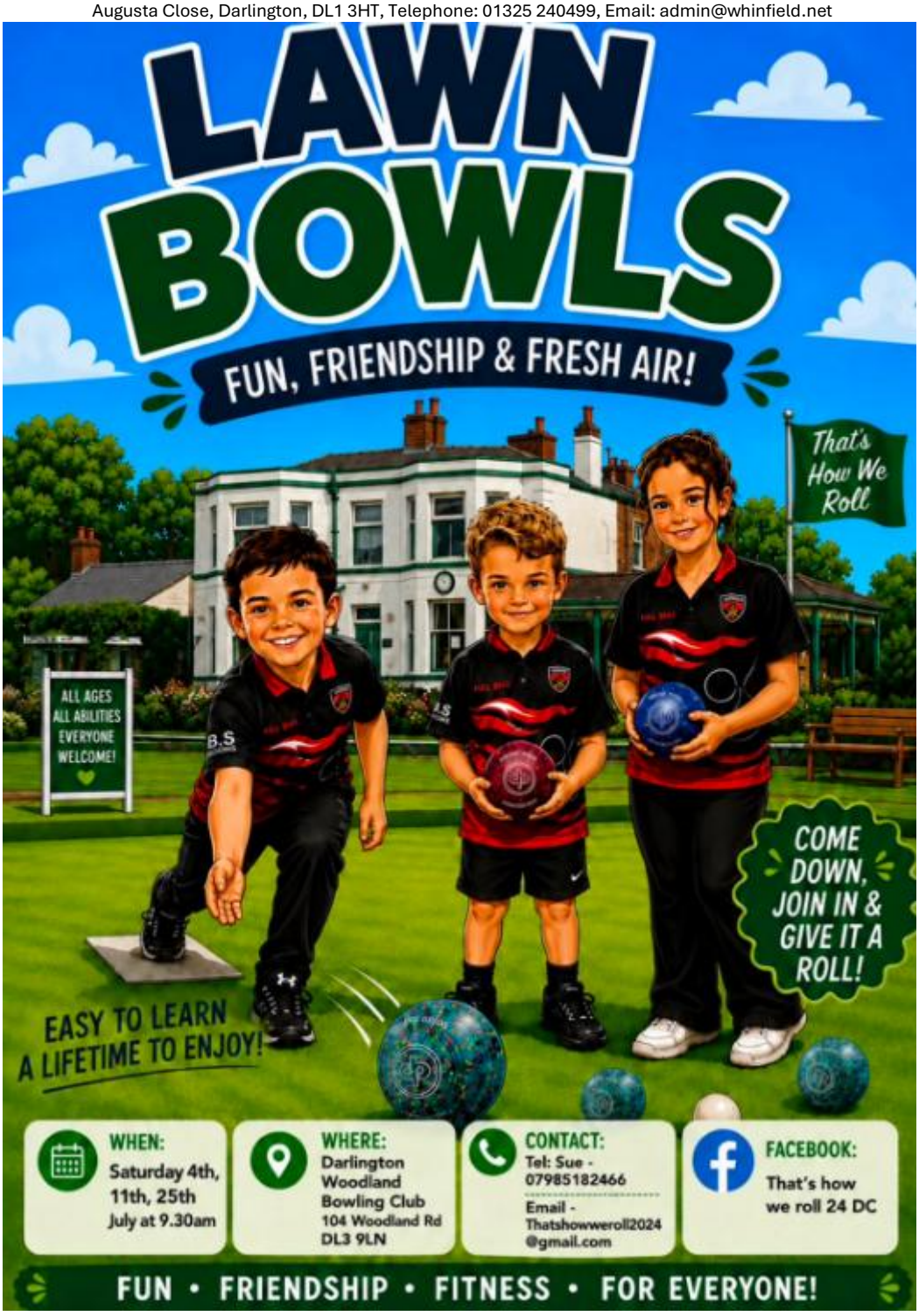

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ENJOY DARLINGTON

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.