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

Newsletter 11th September 2026

Messages from Mr Robson:

UNIFORM

Thank you to the vast majority of parents and carers who are supporting our school by ensuring that children attend in the correct uniform. Your support helps us maintain high standards and a strong sense of belonging across the school.

From Monday, please ensure that **pupils with long hair come to school with their hair tied back**. Also, as you know, we have listened carefully to feedback regarding earrings and have made some adjustments to our expectations. Pupils may continue to wear **small stud earrings** only. However, pupils **must be able to remove and replace their earrings independently for PE lessons**. If a pupil is unable to do this, for whatever reason, they will **not be able to take part in the physical aspects of the lesson for health and safety reasons**.

Trainers worn on PE days should be as plain as possible and should **not include bright fluorescent colours, flashing lights or similar features**.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a smart, practical and safe learning environment for all children.

SCHOOL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

You will now be able to view our school calendar up to Christmas. We have worked hard to provide families with as much notice as possible for key events and celebrations. We hope that you find this useful.

This year, we are delighted to invite parents and carers into school for our **Macmillan Coffee Morning**. This is always a wonderful opportunity to come together as a school community while supporting a fantastic cause.

Please remember that any changes or additions will be highlighted in red as we move through the term! Thank you.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY MATTER - EVERY MINUTE COUNTS

Good attendance and punctuality are essential if children are to make the most of their education. Missing even a few minutes of learning each day can quickly add up over the course of a year.

- Please ensure your child arrives at school **on time** every day.
- Reception and **Key Stage 1** registers are taken promptly at **8:45am**.
- **Key Stage 2** registers are taken promptly at **8:50am**.

If a child is not in class **when the register is taken, they will be marked as late**. Any pupil arriving **more than 30 minutes after registration closes will receive an unauthorised absence**. Arriving on time ensures children start the day calmly, take part in important morning learning and avoid missing key instructions. Thank you for your continued support in helping us achieve excellent attendance and punctuality across the school.

PARKING AND RESPECT FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

We are asking all **parents and carers to use the Asda car park for drop-off and collection wherever possible**. It is only a short walk from school and helps to reduce congestion and improve safety around our site.

We continue to receive concerns from local residents about parking and children accessing private property. Please do not park in a way that blocks driveways, causes obstruction or creates hazards for other road users. We also ask that children and families are respectful of residents' homes, gardens, walls, fences and driveways at all times.

As a school, we are proud of our place within the local community and ask all families to help us maintain positive relationships with our neighbours through considerate and respectful behaviour. **Thank you 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.

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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

Year 6 open evenings

Programme of Dates 2026

Wyvern Academy: Thursday 10th September 2026, 5.00pm
Carmel College: Monday 14th September 2026, 5.30pm
St Aidan's CoE Academy: Wednesday 16th September 2026, 5.30pm
Longfield Academy: Thursday 17th September 2026, 5.30pm
Haughton Academy: Monday 21st September 2026, 5.30pm
Hummersknott Academy: Tuesday 22nd September 2026, 5.30pm
Hurworth School: Wednesday 23rd September 2026, 5.30pm
Polam Hall School: Thursday 24th September 2026, 6:10pm

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PE DAYS

Please send your child to school in their PE kits on their PE days.

Class	PE days	PE days
Reception		
RN	Thursday	
RL	Friday	
Year 1		
1HA	Wednesday	Friday
1C	Wednesday	Friday
Year 2		
2G	Monday	Thursday
2S	Monday	Thursday
Year 3		
3WH	Tuesday	Wednesday
3M	Tuesday	Wednesday
Year 4		
4W	Tuesday	Wednesday
4T	Tuesday	Wednesday
Year 5		
5B	Wednesday	Friday
5BD	Wednesday	Friday
Year 6		
6D	Monday	Thursday
6L	Monday	Thursday

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SCHOOL CALENDAR OF EVENTS AUTUMN TERM 2026/27

Date	Event
Wed 2nd Sept	**First day of Autumn Term (1st half)**
Fri 25th	Macmillan Coffee Morning for Parents and Carers (9.30am)
Tues 29th and Thurs 1st Oct	Autumn Term Parent / Carer Consultations
Fri 2nd Oct	Reception Harvest Celebration (2pm)
Wed 7th Oct	Reception and Y1 Phonics Workshop
Wed 14th Oct	Reception Open Event for New Starters 2027
Fri 16th Oct	Individual and Sibling Photographs
Wed 21st Oct	Whole School Flu Immunisations
Thurs 22nd Oct	**Last day of Autumn Term (1st half)**
Fri 23rd Oct	**PD Day for Staff (no pupils – school closed)**
Mon 2nd November	**First day of Autumn Term (2nd half)**
Fri 13th Nov	Children in Need Day
Wed 2nd Dec	Reception and Y6 Height and Weight
Thurs 10th Dec	Reception Nativity (2pm)
Fri 11th Dec	Year 1 Nativity (10am and 2pm)
Mon 14th Dec	Year 2 Christmas Performance (10am and 2pm)
Tues 15th Dec	Year 3 Christmas Performance (10am and 2pm)
Wed 16th Dec	Year 4 and Year 5 Carol Performance (10am and 2.30pm)
Mon 14th – Wed 15th Dec	Y6 Robinwood Residential
Thurs 16th Dec	Non-uniform Day, Christmas Dinner and Christmas Parties
Friday 17th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
Fri 17th Dec	**Last day of Autumn Term (2nd half)**
Mon 4th Jan	**First day of Spring Term (1st half)**