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

Newsletter 4th September 2026

Messages from Mr Robson:

WELCOME BACK

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to school this week. Our children have returned with enthusiasm, positivity and a real readiness to learn, and we have been incredibly impressed by how quickly they have settled into their new classes and routines. A new academic year always brings excitement and opportunities, and we are looking forward to working together with our families to support every child to **Be Kind. Be Ambitious. Grow Together.** Thank you for your continued support as we begin another successful year at Whinfield Primary School.

MEET THE TEAM

We are delighted to welcome two new members of staff to Whinfield Primary School this term. **Mr Metcalf** joins our Year 3 team and **Miss Towler** joins Year 4. We are thrilled to have them as part of our school community and know that they will make a valuable contribution to school life.

As you are now aware, Mrs Souter left us at the end of the summer term. We are currently recruiting for a **new teacher** to join our Year 2 team and will keep parents updated as this process progresses.

There have also been some changes to our leadership structure. Our Senior Leadership Team now consists of:

- **Mr Robson**, Principal
- **Mrs Hall**, Deputy Principal
- **Mrs Murray**, Assistant Principal and SENCo

Together, Mr Robson, Mrs Hall and Mrs Murray form the school's **Designated Safeguarding Leader (DSL) Team** and are responsible for overseeing safeguarding and child protection across the school.

We look forward to another successful year working in partnership with our families and wider community.

UNIFORM REMINDER

Thank you to families for supporting our revised school uniform policy. As a reminder, pupils should attend school wearing the correct uniform and appropriate footwear. We would also like to remind parents that the following are not permitted under our uniform policy:

- **Shaved lines**, patterns or designs in hair
- **Died** or **coloured hair** (including highlights)
- Large or decorative earrings (**small, plain stud earrings only**)
- **Nail varnish** / false or acrylic nails

These expectations help maintain a smart, safe and inclusive environment for all pupils. We appreciate your support in ensuring children attend school ready to learn and in line with our uniform policy.

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.**

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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

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P.E days

P.E will start WC 7th September. Please send your child to school in their P.E kits on their P.E 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

IMPORTANT DATES 2026/2027

A full calendar of dates will be published next Friday!