



Wolsingham Primary Newsletter

4th September 2026

Volume 1

www.wolsingham-pri.durham.sch.uk

New Beginnings

Welcome to a new term and a new school year at Wolsingham Primary! We are delighted to welcome all of our new pupils and new parents. We can't wait to see what this year brings!

The staff and children have once again all made a fantastic start to the year and are already hard at work. There is a lovely quiet and productive atmosphere throughout the school. As always, our aim is to continue to instil in all of the children the need to do everything to the very best of their ability, further developing their learning behaviours, so that they can become increasingly independent and take control of their own learning. The expectations of all of the staff will be very high in all aspects of school life from behaviour to remembering PE kits to learning weekly spellings and completing homework. We want the children of Wolsingham Primary School to have a thirst for knowledge and know what they need to do to improve. We expect our children to complete every piece of work to the highest standard possible. As part of their work over the last 3 days, they have been thinking about our school Code of Conduct (Respect Yourself, Respect Others and Respect the Environment), what they mean and how they might strive to demonstrate them this academic year.

Reminders

Just a reminder that it is essential that all children have their PE kits and water bottles in school at all times. If your child has had their ears pierced over the summer break, they must be covered for PE sessions until a period of 6 weeks following the piercing and then they **MUST** be removed for PE sessions. If your child is not able to remove their earrings themselves, then we recommend that they do not come to school wearing them on days when they take part in PE sessions (including swimming). For health and safety reasons, all earrings worn in school must be studs only and no bracelets or necklaces should be worn.

The majority of our children look extremely smart this week upon their return to school for the new school year, thank you to all those parents who have followed our uniform policy. However, we have many children whose shoes do not adhere to our uniform policy – please note that children should be wearing **black shoes** not trainers to school.

School Councillors and Team Captains

Voting has taken place to elect our new School Councillors and Team Captains. Those children wishing to take on the roles, put themselves forward and the children voted for who they would like to see in the roles. Congratulations to all of our new School Councillors and Team Captains!

Class 2	Ellie Henderson and Reggie Fearn
Class 3	Finn Briggs and Scarlett Paul
Class 4	Freya Hudson and Holly Wilson
Class 5	Frankie Fearn and Harris Hawksford
Class 6	Anna Henderson and Alex Smith

Green Team	Woody Miller and Willow Saunter
Blue Team	Finlay Sriwiang and Charlotte Donnelly
Yellow Team	Ruby Clarke and Summer Newby
Red Team	Alex Smith and Falyn Mayers

Extra-Curricular Activities

We are in the process of organising our Extra-curricular Activities for this half term and more details and booking links will be sent out via Arbor hopefully next week. As we found that we had very low uptake for clubs when a range was offered, this year we have decided to offer one sport based / physical club and one craft-based club for KS1 and KS2 pupils, with free places for children in receipt of free school meals.



Allergy Safety Policy

We are sure that many of you will be aware that from September 2026, schools must adhere to Benedict's Law, to provide a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment for all children, young people, staff, and visitors with allergies, recognising the serious and potentially life-threatening risk posed by anaphylaxis. We have formulated our dedicated Allergy Safety Policy and

the school holds spare adrenaline devices for use in emergency situations. All staff have been trained in the signs and symptoms and use of the devices. To support us in ensuring that we provide a safe and inclusive environment, please remember that ALL nuts or products containing nuts are not allowed in our school or on school visits in the form of snacks or in packed lunches. We also ask that any treats sent into school to share with their friends to celebrate a child's birthday is in the form of a small packet of sweets and NOT cake or biscuits. A copy of our Allergy Safety Policy is available on the school website.

New Recording System

This academic year, we have introduced a new online system in school. This system will help us to carefully record and monitor safeguarding, behaviour, accidents and first aid. Behaviour in our school is generally very good, however where a child's behaviour falls below the standard we expect, we will be monitoring it very carefully and asking parents to come into school more regularly to discuss their child's behaviour so that we can work more closely in partnership to improve it. We will also be sending accident/first aid and medicine administered notifications to parents via in-app messages in Arbor therefore parents will no longer receive a paper-based letter notifying them of these. We therefore recommend that all parents have push notifications for Arbor turned on so that they are aware of these messages.

Wrap Around Care

Don't forget that we run both Breakfast and After School Clubs at Wolsingham Primary for children from Reception to Year 6. Our breakfast club runs from 8am until the start of the school day for a cost of £3.50 per session without breakfast and £4.50 per session with breakfast included. After School Club runs until 5.30pm and can be booked either until 4.30pm for a cost of £6.50 per session and until 5.30pm for a cost of £9.50 per session. All can be booked up to 24 hours in advance via the Arbor app. We are also part of the Government Tax-free Childcare Scheme (<https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>) – if you are eligible for tax-free childcare and would like to know how to arrange to use it to help with childcare costs in school, please contact Mrs Rowell in the school office.

Nursery Wrap Around Care

This year, we are trialling providing Breakfast Club and After School Club options for our Nursery children. The times and prices will be the same as that for Reception to Year 6 pupils, however as an additional member of staff is required to supervise the Nursery children, places are limited due to child to adult ratios required and booking for this service must take place by the Friday of the week prior to which the session is required. Please use the Nursery Breakfast Club and Nursery After School Club options on Arbor when booking. The tax-free Childcare Scheme can also be used.

School Lunch Payments

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that school lunches this year cost £3.08 per day and should be paid for via Arbor on the **Monday** of each week or at the beginning of the term if you wish to pay for the whole term at once. A reminder to parents of our Year 3 children that free school lunches are only for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and therefore lunches for Year 3 children will be charged.

Notifying School of a Child's Absence

As children's attendance at school is part of our safeguarding duties it is important that we know why children are not in school each day. Therefore, if your child is ill or will not be in school for any reason, it is important that parents contact the school **each day** of their absence to notify us. This can be done by calling the school and leaving a message in the absence mail box, an in-app message via Arbor or by emailing the school at wolsinghamprimary@durhamlearning.net prior to 8.45am. Absences where we have not been notified will be followed up by Mrs Rowell until we have contact from a parent.

Holidays in Term Time

Regular attendance at school is essential if children are to make good progress in their learning – we would like to take this opportunity to thank those parents who worked hard to ensure their child has a good level of attendance last year we were able to exceed the target set by the DfE by 0.3%. Any absence from school can have such a huge impact on the progress they make. We would like to remind parents that holidays in term time **will not** be authorised. Unfortunately, on occasions, parents report their child's absence as illness rather than completing the Pupil Leave of Absence form. If we have reason to believe that an absence has been due to holiday rather than illness, these absences will be recorded as unauthorised. Any case of irregular attendance due to unauthorised leave of absence in term time of **5 school days for more** in a minimum 10 rolling school week period **will** be referred to the Attendance Improvement Team to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice. We would also like to remind parents that non-urgent medical and dental appointments wherever possible should also be made out of school hours.

Please note: Evidence of medical appointments during school time, should be provided to the school office prior to the appointment and Leave of Absence forms should be completed at least 3 weeks prior to the planned absence. Thank you.

Applying for a school place for next year

Applications for primary and secondary places are now open. Applications close at midnight on 15th January 2027 (primary) and 31st October 2026 (secondary). Find out more: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>. We will be holding an Open Event for any parents of children due to start primary school in September 2027 later in the half term. Please keep an eye out for more details and encourage anyone you know with children of Nursery age to come along to have a look around and find out more about our school.

Swimming Sessions

Class 6 will be swimming on Tuesday afternoons until Christmas. Children will require a swimming kit consisting of a one-piece swim suit or trunks (not shorts), a towel and swimming hat which is essential (swimming hats can be purchased from the pool at a cost of £2). Goggles are permitted, but are not essential.

Changing Lunchtime Arrangements

As the ingredients for our school lunches are pre-ordered it is important that we have at least one week's notice regarding any children changing from school lunch to packed lunch or vice versa, even following the summer break. We would be grateful if parents could contact the school office to make the necessary arrangements.

Meet the Teacher Night – including information about Statutory Assessments

Parents and carers of children in Years 1-6 are warmly invited to our 'Meet the Teacher Night' on **Monday 14th September at 5.00pm**. Teachers will be explaining class procedures and providing important information where appropriate about statutory assessments such as the Year 1 phonics check, Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check and KS2 SATs. The meeting should last no longer than half an hour and is for **parents and carers only**; please try and attend if you can. We look forward to seeing you!



Online Wellbeing

The safeguarding and wellbeing of our children is of upmost importance. As part of our safeguarding duty, throughout the year we will be signposting parents to useful web links and documents linked to online safety and wellbeing. Hopefully you will find these useful and informative. If you ever require

more support in ensuring your child is safe online, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Please use the following link to find out more about how you can support your child's online wellbeing including tips for managing wellbeing online and 'Positively Online' six top tips to help your child feel good about how they use the internet. [Online wellbeing | NSPCC](#)

Is My Child Too Ill for School?

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school or nursery when they're unwell. There are government guidelines for schools and nurseries about [managing specific infectious diseases at GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/keeping-children-off-school-nursery). These say when children should be kept off school and when they shouldn't. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school each day. Let us know that your child won't be in and give us the reason. If your child is well enough to come school but has an infection that could be passed on, such as a cold sore or head lice, let us know. For more information and support, please use the following link <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> for advice.

Dates for your diary...

Year 1-Year 6 Meet the Teacher Evening	Monday 14 th September 5pm
Flu Immunisations	Thursday 1 st October
Class 6 Assembly – Class 6 Parents Welcome	Wednesday 14 th October 10.30am
School Closes	Friday 23 rd October
School Opens	Monday 2 nd November

S. Kitching

Headteacher

School Holiday and Term Dates 2026/27

Holiday	Closing Date	School Opens
Summer Break	Friday 17 th July 2026	Wednesday 2 nd September 2026
Autumn Half-Term	Friday 23 rd October 2026	Monday 2 nd November 2026
Christmas Break	Friday 18 th December 2026	Tuesday 5 th January 2027
Spring Half-Term	Friday 12 th February 2027	Monday 22 nd February 2027
Easter Break	Thursday 25 th March 2027	Monday 12 th April 2027
May Day	Friday 30 th April 2027	Tuesday 4 th May 2027
Summer Half-Term	Friday 28 th May 2027	Monday 7 th June 2027
Summer Break	Friday 16 th July 2027	TBC