



Wolsingham Primary Newsletter

18th September 2026 Volume 3

www.wolsingham-pri.durham.sch.uk

Attendance

Our average attendance so far this year is **97.4%**. Well done to Class 6 who are our Awesome Attenders this week!

Attendance this week	
Class 1	96.8%
Class 2	97.89%
Class 3	97.78%
Class 4	97.93%
Class 5	98.67%
Class 6	98.82%

Class 6 Handball Festival

Class 6 attended a handball festival at Parkside Academy this week. The aim of this fast-paced game was to pass the ball and shoot into the goal but you are only allowed 3 steps and 3 seconds with the ball. The children worked together well to score goals and one of the teams managed to become the overall winners. Well done Class 6!

Meet the Teacher Night

A huge thank you to all those who came along to our Meet the Teacher Evening. We hope that you enjoyed the chance to meet your child's new class teacher and find out more about what will be happening in the classroom. Thank you for your support.

Healthy Snacks

Our children in Key Stage 1 are provided with free fruit for snack at breaktime. As children move into Key Stage 2, they no longer receive free fruit. We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that snacks children bring to school to eat at breaktime should be healthy and should consist of fruit, plain biscuits, a cereal bar (not containing nuts or chocolate) or crackers. Crisps, sweets and chocolate are not considered as healthy snacks and children will be asked to put them back in their bags to take home.

Free School Meals

We are just making parents aware that from September 1 2026, all children in households receiving Universal Credit now qualify for free school meals regardless of their household income. The government introduced these rules for the 2026 to 2027 academic year. You can check official eligibility and apply via the [Apply for free school meals](#) page. Benefits-based free school meals are now split into two categories:

Targeted FSM: For households receiving Universal Credit with annual net earnings of £7,400 or less. These pupils also qualify for extra school funding like the Pupil Premium.

Expanded FSM: For households receiving Universal Credit with annual earnings above £7,400. These pupils get free meals, but they do not attract extra disadvantage funding. Schools and local councils now complete annual re-checks to confirm ongoing eligibility.

If you think that you might qualify for free school meals, please get in touch with the school office.

Flu Vaccinations

Flu vaccinations for children in Reception to Year 6 will happen in school on Thursday 1st October. Parents will be contacted by intra-health via the NHS and asked to log in to MAVIS (Manage Vaccinations in School) to register their child to be immunised at school on this date. Keep an eye out for the communication which should come through to you directly from the NHS.



Read, Write, Inc. Meeting for Reception Parents

On Thursday 24th September Mrs Dakers will be holding an information meeting for Reception parents. This meeting will provide parents with information about the programme and how

they can help their child at home with their early reading. Please note that this meeting is for parents only.

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.

Parent Governor Vacancies

We currently have two vacancies for parent governors.

All parents other than those employed at the school for more than 500 hours per year or who are elected members of the Local Authority (LA) are eligible to stand for election. This includes:

- parents of children attending nursery either full-time or part-time
- any person who is not the natural parent but has parental responsibility for or who has care of a pupil registered at the school (Education Act 1996, Section 576)

If you are interested in becoming a Governor, please contact the school office and we will arrange an informal chat about the role with some of our current Governors so that you can find out more about the role and what it involves. Nomination forms will be attached to the school newsletter email in a few weeks.

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.

Cleaner Required

Another vacancy for a cleaner has become available within the school. The hours are 9 ¼ hours per week (3.30pm – 5.30pm Monday to Wednesday; 3.30pm – 5.15pm Thursday; 3.30pm – 5.00pm Friday), Grade 1 pt3 £12.85 per hour. We would be grateful if you could pass on the information to anyone who may be interested. For more information, please contact the school office 01388527457 or via email at wolsinghamprimary@durhamlearning.net



Parental Controls

Parental controls allow you to block and filter upsetting or inappropriate content. They work across your WiFi, phone network, individual apps and devices. Parental controls can help you to:

- Plan what time of day your child can go online and how long for
- Create content filters to block apps that may have [inappropriate content](#)
- Manage the content different family members can see.

Click on the following link to find out more: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/parental-controls/> Please also see the poster attached to this week's newsletter containing links to advice for parents as to 'What to do When'.

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](#). 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...

RWInc Workshop for Reception Parents	Thursday 24 th September – 5pm
Class 5 Visit to Vindolanda	Tuesday 29 th September
Flu Vaccinations	Thursday 1 st October
Early Maths Workshop for Reception Parents	Thursday 1 st October – 5pm
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

This Week's Winners

Star of the Week

Class 1 – Polly
Class 2 – Ellie
Class 3 – Hallie
Class 4 – India-Rose
Class 5 – Frankie
Class 6 – Maverick

Class Dojo VIP

Class 1 – Olivia
Class 2 – Joey
Class 3 – Olivia
Class 4 – Noah
Class 5 – Thomas L
Class 6 – Charley

Top Spellers

Class 3 – Hallie
Class 4 – Jessica
Class 5 – Sophia
Class 6 – Maverick

Shed Score League

1st – Class 6 – 122,728,497
2nd – Class 4 – 42,529,154
3rd – Class 3 – 27,753,954
4th – Class 5 – 22,545,122

Highest Earners

1st – Jessica – Year 3
2nd – Ding Hao – Year 6
3rd – Joshua – Year 4

Most Improved

1st – Darcie – Year 5
2nd – Sophia – Year 5
3rd – Caroline – Year 5

Highest Earners

1st – Arthur – Year 2
2nd – Tommy – Year 2
3rd – Ellie – Year 2

Highest Accuracy

1st – Hudson – Year 1
2nd – Lucy – Year 2
3rd – Molly – Year 2