



Dates For Your Diary

Monday 5th January 2026- PD Day: children not in school

Tuesday 6th January 2026- Children return to school

Thursday 19th February 2026- Mass at 2.15pm (all welcome)

Friday 20th February 2026- Children break up for half term holiday

Monday 2nd March 2026- Children return to school

Thursday 19th March 2026- St. Joseph's Day Mass at 2.15pm (all welcome)

Thursday 2nd April 2026- Mass at 2.15pm (all welcome)

Thursday 2nd April 2026- Children break up for Easter holiday

Monday 20th April 2026- Children return to school

Monday 6th May 2026- Bank Holiday: Children not in school

Monday 11th to Thursday 14th May 2026- Year 6 SATs tests

Friday 22nd May 2026- Children break up for half term holiday

Monday 1st June 2026- Children return to school

Monday 8th to Friday 19th June 2026- Year 1 phonics screening check

Friday 17th July 2026- Children break up for summer holiday

Happy Birthday

to pupils celebrating their birthday during December



Abdulbaset Aurora Damien Brody Mayowa
Nadia Jahmari Evie Harley KJ Borys
Patrick Cruz Edie Alana



December Highlights

Visit to Lindisfarne Care Home-

On Friday 5th December, Year 5 visited Lindisfarne care home. They had a great afternoon chatting to the residents and making Christmas decorations together. They also were treated to a nice hot chocolate! All the children enjoyed the activities and really enjoy their visit.

Theatre Trip-

On Wednesday 10th December, Reception-Year 6 went to Darlington Hippodrome to watch Goldilocks and The Three Bears. Everyone had a great time- there was plenty of cheering and booing!

Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day-

On Thursday 11th December, the whole school wore their Christmas jumpers to raise money for Save The Children. The children also enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner- a huge thank you to Mrs Carr and Mrs Brown!

On Friday 12th December, Nursery went to Darlington Hullabaloo to watch Paper Dolls. They were fascinated by the giant paper rolls—eyes wide, hands pointing, and endless questions about how they're made. It was a perfect mix of fun and learning, sparking curiosity about everyday things we often take for granted.

Big Sing-

On Friday 12th December, Year 5 and 6 went to the Big Sing held at Ushaw College. Joining voices with children from other schools, they filled the hall with festive cheer as they sang Christmas songs alongside a live orchestra.

Afternoon Tea -

On Tuesday 16th December, the Mini Vinnies held an afternoon tea for parishioners. Everyone had a great time chatting, eating and of course a competitive game of bingo!



Attendance

Children are required to be at school by 9am as our core subject lessons (English and Maths) begin immediately after registration.

Appointments should be made out of school time where possible please.

Holidays should be taken outside of term time.

The Department for Education deems that if a child's attendance drops below 90%, they become known as a Persistent Absentee. All absences are monitored thoroughly.

To celebrate great attendance, children with 100% in a week receive 10 dojos on a Friday. The class with the highest percentage will also receive 10 dojos per child.

Below are the percentages of attendance for each class for December:

Matthew (Nursery/Reception) – 87.8%

Mark (Year 1/2) – 87%

Luke (Year 3/4) – 84.9%

John (Year 5/6) – 88.2%

The government's target for attendance for primary school pupils is at least 95%.

Our whole school attendance for December was 86.7%

A child is classed as late if they arrive at school after 9.20am.

0.2% of our pupils arrived late in December.

A child is classed as unauthorised absence if they arrive at school after 9.30am.

3.2% of our pupils had unauthorised absences in December.



Uniform

School uniform promotes a sense of pride in the school and makes children feel equal to their peers in terms of appearance.

If your child is not in correct school uniform, we will ask for correct uniform to be brought in for your child to change into.

Our uniform is:

- Red sweatshirt or sweat cardigan



- White polo shirt



- Grey trousers or skirt/pinafore dress



- Sensible, plain black leather shoes/ trainers



Jeans and leggings are not permitted. Skirts and trousers should be grey not black.

Homework

Homework reinforces and helps your child to retain information taught in the classroom. It also develops study habits and independent learning.

For Year 1 to Year 6, we kindly ask that your child is listened to reading daily and their reading record is signed. Your child will receive a dojo for each signature in their record.

For Year 1 to Year 6, your child will also receive maths and spelling homework each Friday to be handed back in by the following Thursday.

Times tables are extremely important for children in Year 3 to Year 6. In Year 4, children take a times tables test. Every child has log in details for Times Tables Rockstars - <https://ttrockstars.com/> We would greatly appreciate it if your child could regularly practise their times tables at home.

READING EVERY DAY...

...**CREATES** lifelong readers.

...**TEACHES** children to find adventure, ideas, and answers through books.

...**STRENGTHENS** relationships and creates memories as a family activity.

...**OPENS DOORS** through which children can learn about themselves.

...**BUILDS** a diverse vocabulary and strengthens fluency in reading.

...**ALLOWS** a child's imagination and creativity to blossom.

...**GIVES** children the tools needed to become successful students.

...**TAKES** the "scary" out of reading in the classroom.

...**HELPS** children make connections to new places, people, and concepts.

...**AWAKENS** children to the world around them.



PE

On PE days, children are to come to school dressed in their PE kit.

Mark (Year 1/2)- Monday

Luke (Year 3/4)- Monday

John (Year 5/6)- Monday

Our PE uniform is:



- Plain white T-shirt with no branding or logos from professional sports teams
- Plain black shorts or tracksuit bottoms with no branding or logos from professional sports teams



- Red sweatshirt or sweat cardigan or hoodie



- Suitable black trainers



If your child comes to school in PE kit on a day which is not their PE day, we will ask for uniform to be brought in for your child to change into.

Jewellery and Hairstyles

Wrist watches are permitted but not smart watches.

Piercings (including earrings) are not permitted.

Pupils with long hair must ensure that this does not impede their vision, cover their face or provide a health and safety risk. Long hair must be tied up during practical lessons, e.g. PE.

The following hairstyles are not considered appropriate for school:

brightly coloured, dyed hair, headwear with bold patterns or colours, excessive hair accessories.