



# Whickham Parochial Church of England Primary School

*Let your light shine!*

## Newsletter 8/1/26

### News

#### Welcome back!

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and have settled back into the new year well. Our children have returned to school brilliantly and we've loved hearing about the time they've spent with their family and friends over the festive period.

#### Spelling Scheme

We wanted to update you with a change in one aspect of our English teaching. After Phonics Phase 6 in Y2, our pupils move onto a greater focus on spelling. We have been happy with our spelling programme and have achieved pleasing results in our statutory tests, but we feel we can do better. To this end, we have moved to a new programme called Ready Steady Spell. This programme emphasises spaced retrieval and embedded knowledge, so after a week of learning a spelling rule, the rule will be checked the following Friday. We're already really pleased with our pupils' response to this new style of spelling teaching and look forward to seeing the results.

#### Sponsorship

We are thrilled to announce that Lifestyle Legacy and North-East Trophies are the sponsors of our school football team this year. Thank you to both companies for providing our fabulous new football strips!

### Attendance

Year Group	Reception	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Year Six
Weekly %	93.29%	96.73%	96.91%	97.19%	97.03%	95.99%	96.36%
Whole School %	96.23%						

### Celebrations

Congratulations to our first Wonderwall winners of 2026!

The weekly house point trophy was given to Bamburgh and the TTRS winners were Year 5 with 79% – well done everyone!



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## Dates for your diary... (Remember, whole school dates are on our website and ESchools calendars)

- **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January** – Year 5 Vikings Workshop (funded by the PTA), Year 4 Romans Workshop (payment to be made on ParentPay)

## Things to remember...

- **Permissions Required** – Year 5 Whickham School transition days
- **Robinwood Souvenirs** - Robinwood souvenirs are available to purchase on ParentPay, the deadline for ordering a souvenir is Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February.
- **Year 6** – If CGP revision books have been brought home, please could you let Mrs Baird know that you've received them and that you'll return them when the SATs are finished. Also, if your child is attending the SATs booster sessions, please let Mrs Baird know if they'll be collected, or will be walking home after the sessions.
- **Choir** – Choir will be on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January, instead of Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January, for this week only.
- **I have attached:** Information about Gateshead Autism Hubs and Gateshead West Uniform Scheme, who are having a market this Saturday.
- **Parking:** As we have new families in school, this is just a reminder that the school car park and the street outside of our school gates, isn't to be used for parking or dropping off children. Parking is on Broadway, or the Coachmans car park, but we do encourage families to walk to school wherever possible.
- **Karate:** There are 5 spaces in Karate for KS1, on a Thursday morning, please get in touch with Ross at Kensho Karate if your child would like to join! I have attached the restart letters for Game Karate and Karate too, just incase you hadn't realised that classes resumed this week.

Don't forget, you can find lots of school information on our [website](#) – our letters are saved on there, you can find out about our curriculum, and we have our calendar and term dates too. If you are ever in need of information, it's a good place to start! Additionally, all dates are on our E-schools calendar.