



GAINFORD C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026

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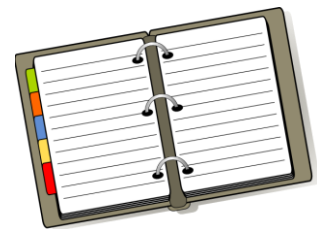
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Rooted in love, flowing together, flourishing for life

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Tuesday 13th October** – Harvest Festival at **2:30pm** at St Mary's Church
- **Tuesday 13th October** – NHS Height and Weight Screening (Rec & Y6)
- **Friday 16th October** – Wear Red Day – Show Racism the Red Card
- **Wednesday 21st October** – FOGs AGM @ 7:00pm
- **Saturday 31st October** – Y6 Pupils / Deadline to apply for Secondary School Places
- **Monday 2nd November** – INSET Day School closed to pupils
- **Tuesday 3rd November** – Pupils return to school / Start of Autumn Term 2
- **Friday 13th November** – Children in Need
- **Friday 13th November** – World Kindness Day
- **Monday 16th November** – Odd Socks Day
- **Monday 16th - Friday 20th November** – National Anti-Bullying Week



A big warm welcome to all our new families - we're so pleased to have you with us at Gainford C of E School! The term is now well underway, and it has been wonderful to see the children settling into their new classes and enjoying their learning. We've got lots of exciting things planned for the year ahead and we'll keep you updated through our Arbor app, newsletter, school website and Facebook page.

As always, if you've got any questions, please just ask, we're happy to help!

Thanks so much for all your continued support; it really does mean a lot! ❤️

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our Harvest Festival is on **Tuesday 13th October** at **2:30pm** at **St Mary's Church, Gainford.**

Everyone is welcome!

As part of our celebration, **we will be collecting food donations in support of our local food banks.**

Your kindness and generosity are greatly appreciated - thank you!

We hope to see you there.



PARENTS EVENING – AUTUMN TERM

A reminder that Parents' Evening will take place straight after half term. Appointments can be booked via Arbor, and information about how to do this has already been sent out. If you experience any difficulties with booking your appointment, please do not hesitate to contact the school office and we will be happy to help.

Many thanks.



FLU IMMUNISATION

If your child missed having the flu vaccine in school, there is a catch-up clinic in Bishop Auckland on **Tuesday 27th October.**

To book onto a clinic please call 0333 358 3397

Monday – Friday 9AM – 5PM



WELL DONE MILLIE!

On behalf of Friends of Gainford School, we'd like to extend our thanks and gratitude to our pupil, Millie, who completed the Mini 50 Great North Run in September, in support of FOGs.

Millie raised a whopping £670 which will directly benefit the pupils of Gainford Primary School!

Fabulous effort and achievement.

Well done Millie - what a superstar! ★

[Click here](#) to read the article in The Northern Echo.

FRIENDS OF GAINFORD SCHOOL (FOGS)- URGENT NEW MEMBERS NEEDED!

Many of the extra opportunities our children enjoy are made possible by Friends of Gainford School (FOGS). Over the years, FOGS has helped fund initiatives such as Accelerated Reader, transport for school trips and our wonderful performance stage.

As several long-serving committee members will be stepping down at the next AGM, we are now looking for new parents and carers to get involved. Without new volunteers, it will become increasingly difficult for FOGS to continue providing the support and fundraising that benefits all of our children.

Whether you can spare a little time, help at events, or would be interested in joining the committee, your support would be greatly appreciated.

Our AGM will take place online on **Wednesday 21st October at 7.00pm.**

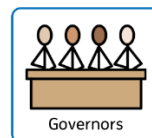
This is a great opportunity to find out more about FOGS, meet other parents and hear how you can help.



ACADEMY COUNCILLOR VACANCY

We currently have a vacancy for an Academy Councillor and are looking for an enthusiastic individual who would like to support and challenge the school as part of our local governance team. We would be particularly interested in hearing from anyone with any Early Years experience, although we welcome expressions of interest from people with a range of skills and backgrounds.

If you would like to find out more about the role, please contact Mrs Whitaker or the school office.



SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD

❤️ WEAR RED DAY

On **Friday 16th October**, we will be supporting Wear Red Day, organised by Show Racism the Red Card. The day encourages schools and communities across the UK to stand together against racism and promote respect, equality and inclusion.

Children are invited to wear something red / non-uniform to school on the day. There is no charge for this.

We look forward to marking the occasion and reinforcing the importance of treating everyone with kindness and respect



EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

Please can you let the office know if you have recently updated any of your contact details **especially mobile phone numbers and email addresses** as it is essential that we have two contact numbers per child – thank you!



HEALTHY SNACKS REMINDER

To help keep everyone safe and healthy and as we have several children in school with allergies, we kindly ask that snacks are limited to:

Fresh fruit or vegetables
Breadsticks (no sesame)
Plain crackers
Rice cakes

Unfortunately, we cannot allow **cereal bars, biscuits, chocolate, nuts, crisps or similar snacks.**



PE DAYS

- **Swale Class** (Pre-school & Reception) Thursday
- **Tyne Class** (Y1 & 2) Monday & Friday
- **Wear Class** (Y3 & Y4) Tuesday & Friday
- **Tees Class** (Y5 & Y6) Tuesday & Friday



Also, for PE lessons, we kindly ask that children either wear trainers to school or have a pair of trainers and socks (especially if they usually wear tights) packed in their PE bags – thank you.

REMINDER COLD WEATHER PREPARATION

As the weather is getting colder, please can we ask that parents ensure children wear and/or bring a:

- **school jumper or cardigan**
- **warm, waterproof coat**
- **wellies or suitable footwear**
- **hat**



KEY STAGE 2 BIKEABILITY

It has been great to see our KS2 children taking part in their [Bikeability](#) sessions and most importantly, thoroughly enjoying themselves! The children showed fantastic enthusiasm, listened carefully to their instructors and developed valuable cycling skills and confidence. Bikeability is designed to help children learn how to ride safely and confidently on today's roads, building important awareness of risk and road safety.

Well done to everyone who took part.

Fantastic effort, KS2!  



PLIMSOLLS

Just a friendly reminder that children should have a pair of plimsolls in school to wear indoors.

A big thank you to everyone who has already provided these. Having indoor footwear has made a real difference in reducing the amount of mud and dirt coming into classrooms and corridors, helping us keep our school clean and tidy for all.

If your child does not currently have a pair in school, we would be grateful if they could bring some ASAP.

Thank you for your continued support.



RECEPTION CLASS PLACES 2027

If you have a child who turns five between 1st September 2027 and 31st August 2028 you can now apply for a school place.

Visit www.durham.gov.uk/primaryschoolplaces where you can access a useful guide to help with your application. Online applications are encouraged but paper application forms are available on request from Durham County Council.

Applications close at midnight on 15th January 2027.

For more information, please contact School Places and Admissions Team on **03000 265896**.

SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES (Y6 PUPILS ONLY)

Parents can make their application for Secondary School online by visiting the [Durham County Council Page](#)

The closing date for Secondary School applications is **Saturday 31st October 2026**.

If parents do not wish to apply online they can complete a paper application form, and these are available on request from the School Admissions Team. A letter from Durham County Council has been sent home previously.

ATTENDANCE

A huge well done to all of our classes, who have exceeded this target. What a fantastic achievement!

- **Swale Class (EYFS): 98.9%**
- **Tyne Class (Y1 & Y2): 99.5%**
- **Wear Class (Y3 & Y4): 99.2%**
- **Tees Class: (Y5 & Y6) 98.6%**

Our whole-school attendance is currently **99%**, which is absolutely amazing!

Thank you to all of our pupils and families for your continued support in ensuring children attend school regularly and are ready to learn.

Keep up the fantastic work everyone! ★ 🙌 🎉



HEIGHT AND WEIGHT CHECKS NHS

Every year in England, children in Reception and Year 6 have their height and weight measured as part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). If your child is absent on the day, one further attempt will be made to gather the information.

The checks are done by NHS nurses who visit the school and explain to the children why it is done. Parents will be contacted via mail by the NHS if their child is outside the 'healthy' weight and height range. The QR code below contains more information.



**Rooted in love, flowing together,
flourishing for life**

"Like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in season"
Psalm 1:3



PRE-LOVED UNIFORM NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!

A quick reminder that The Friends of Gainford School (FOGS) have set up a pre-loved uniform website, making it easier than ever to order school uniform at fantastic prices!

Most items are in excellent condition, with very little wear, and are priced at just 50p or £1. It's a great way to save money, reduce waste, and support our school community.

The ordering process is completely discreet; simply order online, and your child will receive their items to bring home the very same day.

All proceeds go directly to **FOGS**, helping to fund exciting events, trips, and opportunities for our pupils.

Why not take a look (simply click on the weblink below)

<https://uniformerly.co.uk/listing-category/gainford-cofe-primary-school-dl2-3dr/>



Are there children with neurodiverse needs in your family?



We're running **FREE** drop-in sessions to offer help and advice



You don't need to have a diagnosis to attend



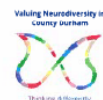
Get information on health, wellbeing, education and care and more



Come along and chat to professionals, charities and local groups and meet other families too.



Sessions run across the county, find your nearest at www.durhamsendiass.info/dropinsessions or scan the QR code



SAFEGUARDING

At Gainford C of E Primary School, we are passionate about and committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and we expect all staff and visitors to share this commitment. Any concerns about children are passed through the members of staff who are trained as Designated Child Protection Leads. In our school, these are myself (Mrs Whitaker) and Miss Smith. We also have two link Safeguarding Academy Councillors - Mr Deakin and Mrs Hawlor.



Mrs Whitaker



Miss Smith



Mr Deakin



Mrs Hawlor

We have robust policies in place to ensure the well-being of our children. These policies underpin our practice and values shared by every single member of staff in our school. Copies are available from the school office or via our website <https://www.gainfordcofeprimary.co.uk/web/safeguarding/> & https://www.gainfordcofeprimary.co.uk/web/school_policies/

Please note that if you are ever worried or concerned about a child's safety, please do not hesitate to speak to the Designated Safeguarding Leads straight away.

Term Dates 2026-2027

Holiday	Closing date	Date re-opens
Autumn half-term 2026	Friday 23 rd October 2026	Tuesday 3 rd November 2026
Christmas 2026	Friday 18 th December 2026	Tuesday 5 th January 2027
Spring half-term 2027	Friday 12 th February 2027	Tuesday 23 rd February 2027
Easter 2027	Thursday 25 th March 2027	Monday 12 th April 2027
May Day 2027	Friday 30 th April 2027	Tuesday 4 th May 2027
Summer half-term 2027	Thursday 28 th May 2027	Tuesday 8 th June 2027
Summer 2027	Wednesday 21 st July 2027	TBC

Teacher Training Days 2026-2027

- ~~Tuesday 1st September~~
- **Monday 2nd November**
- **Monday 5th January**
- **Monday 22nd February**
- **Monday 7th June**



Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs. K. Whitaker & The Gainford Team x