



Leadgate Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Summer Term–April 2026

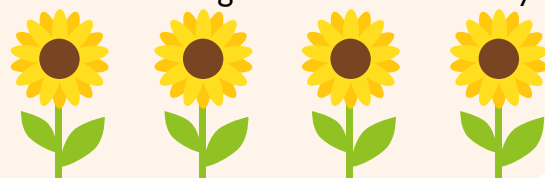
Welcome Back!

We are now one third of the way through the academic year, and it has already been a wonderfully busy and exciting time at school. It has been a real joy to see our children growing in confidence and flourishing in their learning and wider school life. It has also been lovely to welcome so many parents and carers into school for our special lunches and crafternoons. These shared moments create special memories for our children and really do show the strong sense of community, partnership and togetherness that makes our school such a special place.

This term feels particularly special as it is the final one for our Year 6 children, who continue to be fantastic role models for everyone in school. We are incredibly proud of the maturity, kindness and responsibility they show each day. At the same time, it hardly seems possible how quickly our Reception children are growing up they have come on in leaps and bounds and continue to impress us all.

With exciting trips, memorable experiences and important transition activities planned, there is so much to look forward to as the term unfolds. The Summer term always brings with it a sense of sunshine, happiness and celebration, and we are looking forward to making the most of every moment together.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



Designated Safeguarding Team

At Leadgate Primary School, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. We are fully committed to ensuring that all children feel happy, safe, and secure. Creating a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment is at the heart of everything we do.

Our Safeguarding Team:

- Miss Laura Weaver (DSL)
- Mrs Clare Hannon
- Miss Katy Nesom
- Miss Lucy Scarr
- Miss Helen Handy



If you have any concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing, or if you need support or advice related to safeguarding, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our safeguarding team. We are always here to listen and help. Together, we work to ensure that every child can thrive in a safe, caring, and respectful environment.

Concerns Outside of School

If you have concerns outside of school hours about a child or young person who lives in County Durham, please contact First Contact on: ☎ 03000 267 979



AfterSchool Clubs

Childcare provision runs every Monday to Thursday until 5:00pm. Families can also make use of childcare vouchers and Tax-Free Childcare to help with the cost of after-school provision. Places can be booked on Arbor.

★ OPAL Play Update

We are absolutely delighted with how successful the launch of OPAL Play has been. The children are loving lunchtime, and it has been fantastic to see the wide range of play opportunities now available to them. It has been a real pleasure to watch children developing teamwork, problem-solving and resilience, as well as creativity and independence through their play. Lunchtimes are buzzing with energy, engagement and happiness, and the positive impact on our school day is already clear.

We are now preparing to move into Phase 2 of OPAL, which will focus on developing our wheeled play area and slide. To support this next step, we would be extremely grateful for any donations of unwanted bikes, scooters or anything with wheels. These resources will help us continue to enhance play opportunities for all children.

Most importantly, it is wonderful to see just how happy and engaged the children are. As one of our Year 6 pupils perfectly summed it up: "Playtimes are 100% better!"

Thank you, as always, for your continued support as we grow and develop OPAL Play at our school.



🌿 Wellbeing Enrichment Days – 29th & 30th April

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting children's physical, emotional and mental wellbeing, we are looking forward to two exciting whole-school Wellbeing & Enrichment Days taking place on 29th and 30th April. These days are designed to give children time to pause, reflect, move their bodies, and learn valuable skills that support healthy minds and bodies both in and out of school.



Wellbeing Day: Stretch & Relax

On one of the days, KS1 and KS2 will take part in workshops a Stretch & Relax Wellbeing Day, led by an experienced wellbeing practitioner.

Children will:

- Take part in age-appropriate stretching, movement and relaxation activities
- Learn techniques to help them calm their minds and regulate their emotions
- Explore wellbeing through fun games and practical activities
- Develop simple skills they can use to support their own mental and physical health.



Health & Fitness Day

Our second enrichment day will focus on Health and Fitness, led by a specialist PE teacher who will deliver a full day of learning and activity.

The day will include:

- A whole-school assembly highlighting the importance of staying active
- Practical sessions focused on physical health and fitness
- Discussion and ideas to help children understand how they can keep active both in and out of school

Children will be encouraged to see physical activity as something enjoyable and achievable, helping to build healthy habits for the future. These enrichment days reflect our strong emphasis on wellbeing, personal development and healthy lifestyles, ensuring every child feels supported, confident and ready to learn. We are really looking forward to the two days



Circus Day Comes to the Lower Site!



Just a reminder that our Circus Day is coming to the Lower Site on Tuesday 19th May, when the Big Top will be set up on the school field for a very special day. Children will enjoy a range of circus-themed activities and workshops inside a real circus tent, designed to build confidence, teamwork and creativity. Children are welcome to come to school in circus-themed fancy dress or non-uniform. This will be a memorable and magical experience for everyone we can't wait!



Stepping Into Learning with Virtual Reality Workshops

On Wednesday, pupils across Key Stage 2 enjoyed an exciting and immersive Virtual Reality (VR) workshop day, bringing their learning to life in a truly memorable way.

Each year group explored a different curriculum focus through VR:

- Year 3 travelled inside erupting volcanoes
- Year 4 stepped back in time to learn about the Vikings
- Year 5 explored the world of the Ancient Maya
- Year 6 deepened their understanding of climate change and its global impact.



These workshops enriched our humanities curriculum, linking history and geography in an engaging and meaningful way. Using VR technology allowed pupils to experience places, environments and moments from the past that would otherwise be impossible to visit—transporting them through time and space without ever leaving the classroom.

Experiences like these help bring learning to life, spark curiosity and imagination, and create real excitement around curriculum topics. Pupils were fully engaged, asking thoughtful questions and making strong links to their classroom learning.



SEND Coffee Afternoon

We would like to warmly invite parents and carers to our SEND Coffee Afternoon, taking place on Tuesday 28th April from 2–3pm. This relaxed and informal session is a lovely opportunity to meet other parents and carers. We are also pleased to welcome Cheryl from the Consett Hub, who will be joining us to talk through the support and services available through the Hub, and to answer any questions you may have. Whether you would like information, reassurance, or simply a friendly space to talk, we would love you to join us. We look forward to seeing you.



WhatsApp and Online Messaging – A Reminder for Families

We have recently seen an increase in conflicts and inappropriate messages arising from children's use of WhatsApp and group messaging outside of school. These issues can have a significant impact on pupils' wellbeing, mental health and relationships and often cause conflict between peers in school.

We would like to remind families that WhatsApp is not recommended for children under the age of 13, in line with the platform's own terms and conditions. Despite this, we recognise that many of our older pupils do access WhatsApp, often to stay in touch with friends. Where children do have access to WhatsApp or similar messaging apps, we kindly ask parents and carers to be extra vigilant in:

- Monitoring messages and group chats
- Ensuring content shared is appropriate and respectful– be Kind!
- Discussing safe and responsible online behaviour with their child
- Supporting children to speak to a trusted adult if something online makes them feel uncomfortable



It is important to remember that messages sent outside of school can affect children in school, and we are keen to work in partnership with families to help keep all pupils safe and happy.



Phonics Screening

Year 1 Phonics Screening will take place throughout the week beginning Monday June 8th.

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Year 6 SATS

As SATs approach, our Year 6 pupils continue to work hard and remain positive and focused. Preparation is part of our normal classroom routine, with staff supporting children to feel confident, calm and well prepared. We would like to reassure families that SATs are just one small snapshot of learning. They do not measure creativity, kindness, resilience, teamwork or personal growth all of which our children demonstrate every day. We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils and all the effort they show every day. SATs will take place from Monday 11 May to Thursday 14 May 2026.

Year 6 Leavers' Celebration

Our Year 6 Leavers' Production and Presentation will take place on Thursday 16th July, beginning at 1:30pm, followed by refreshments. This special afternoon will be a chance to celebrate, reflect and look back on our pupils' time at primary school, marking the end of an important chapter and the start of an exciting new one. It promises to be a very special and emotional occasion... tissues at the ready!

Upcoming School Trips

We are delighted to share that pupils across the school will soon be enjoying a wide range of exciting school trips, giving them valuable opportunities to learn, explore and make lasting memories beyond the classroom.

Planned visits include:

- Nursery – TBC
- Reception – Hall Hill Farm
- Year 1 – Discovery Museum
- Year 2 – Sea Life Centre
- Year 3 – Oriental Museum and Beamish
- Year 4 – South Shields Surfing
- Year 5 – Whickham Thorns
- Year 6 – Arbeia Roman Fort and South Shields beach

These trips offer a fantastic variety of hands-on learning experiences.



Diary Dates Spring/Summer

Mon 4th May– School Closed Bank Holiday

Mon 11th May– Y6 SATS Week

Tue 19th May– Lower Non Curriculum Day

Fri 22nd May– Upper Non Curriculum Day

Mon 25th May– Half Term Week

Thu 18th June– Lower Father's Day Lunch

Fri 19th June– Upper Father's Day Lunch

Mon 22nd June– New Reception Parents Meeting 3.30–4pm

Mon 29th June– New Reception Stay and Play 9.30–10.30am

Fri 10th July – Summer Fair

Tue 7th & Wed 8th July – Parents Evening

Thu 9th July– EYFS/KS1 Sports Day

Mon 13th July– Rec/KS1 Crafternoon

Tue 14th July– KS2 Crafternoon

Wed 15th July– KS2 Sports Day

Thu 16th July– Y6 Celebration

Thu 16th July – Y2 Moving up Party

Fri 17th July– Last Day of Term

Date Change. Please note that our Summer Fair will now take place on Friday 10 July. This change has been made as our original date unfortunately clashed with Year 6 secondary school transition days.



Year 6 Transition Consett Academy

We would like to inform families of the upcoming Year 6 transition dates for pupils moving on to Consett Academy:

- Monday 29th June – Wednesday 1st July: Enhanced transition sessions
- Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd July: Transition days for all Y6 pupils

These sessions are designed to help pupils feel confident, supported and excited about the next step in their education. Further details will be shared soon as they are confirmed.





Leadgate Primary School

Diary Dates Sept 2025- July 2026



SEPTEMBER

welcome
**BACK TO
SCHOOL**

Thu 4th - School Reopens
Thu 4th & Fri 5th - Reception
8.50-12pm
8th-10th - Reception 8.50-1pm
11th-12th - Reception Full Time
15th-19th - Meet the Teacher
Week

OCTOBER

Tues 14th & Wed 15th Parents
Evening
Tue 21st- Lower Non
Curriculum Day
Wed 22nd- SEND Coffee
Afternoon 2pm-3pm
Fri 24th Upper Non
Curriculum Day
27th-31st -Half Term Holiday

NOVEMBER

Mon 17th Maths Week
Fri 28th - School Photos

DECEMBER



Tue 2nd- Panto Rec-Y6
Mon 8th-10th - Y6 Residential
Mon 8th- EYFS Stay & Play
Tue 9th- KS1 Crafternoon
Wed 10th- EYFS Nativity
Thu 11th - KS2 Crafternoon & Xmas
Jumper Day
Fri 12th - Xmas Fair
Tues 16th & 17th- KS1/2 Nativity
Wed 17th - Christmas Lunch
Thu 18th - Xmas Party

JANUARY



Mon 5th Jan- School Reopens
Tue 20th Jan- SEND Coffee
Morning 9-10am
Tue 27th- Rock Kidz Workshop

FEBRUARY

Tue 17th - Lower Non
Curriculum Day
Fri 20th - Upper Non
Curriculum Day
23rd-27th - Half Term Holidays

MARCH

2nd - School Reopens
Thu 12th - Upper Mother's Day
Lunch
Fri 13th - Lower Mother's Day
Lunch
Tues 24th & Wed 25th Parents
Evening
Mon 30th - KS2 Crafternoon
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Tue 31st- Rec/KS1 Crafternoon

APRIL

1st- Nursery Stay and Play 9-10
Fri 3rd- School Closed Bank
Holiday
Fri 3rd- 17th Easter Holidays
Mon 20th - School Reopens
Tues 28th- SEND Coffee
Afternoon 2pm-3pm

MAY

Mon 4th May- School Closed
Bank Holiday
Mon 11th - Y6 SATS Week
Tue 19th - Lower Non
Curriculum Day
Fri 22nd- Upper Non
Curriculum Day

JUNE

Thu 18th - Lower Father's Day
Lunch
Fri 19th - Upper Father's Day
Lunch
Mon 22nd- New Reception
Parents Meeting 3.30-4pm
Mon 29th- New Reception
Stay and Play 9.30-10.30am



JULY

Fri 10th July - Summer Fair
Tue 7th & Wed 8th - Parents
Evening
Thu 9th- EYFS/KS1 Sports Day
Mon 13th- Rec/KS1 Crafternoon
Tue 14th - KS2 Crafternoon
Wed 15th- KS2 Sports Day
Thu 16th- Y6 Celebration
Thu 16th - Y2 Moving up Party
Fri 17th- Last Day of Term



**Important
Dates**

Please find attached the academic year dates. While changes may occur, we will ensure you receive sufficient notice of any necessary adjustments. Thank you for your understanding!