



Leadgate Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Autumn Term-September 2026

Welcome Back!

Welcome to a brand new academic year at Leadgate Primary School! A very warm welcome back to all of our families as we begin another exciting school year. We hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful summer break, making special memories with family and friends and making the most of the sunshine, even if it was a little too hot at times! We would also like to extend an especially warm welcome to the new families joining our school community this year. We are delighted that you have chosen Leadgate Primary School and look forward to getting to know you over the coming months.

Last year was a fantastic year for our school, filled with achievements, memorable experiences, and many successes to celebrate. We are incredibly proud of all that our children accomplished and are excited to build on this as we move into another busy and rewarding year.

It has been wonderful to see the school come back to life during our first week. The children have returned with smiles, enthusiasm, and a real eagerness to learn. Our new Year 6 pupils are already taking their role model responsibilities very seriously and are setting an excellent example for the other children. We have also been delighted to see so many happy faces in Reception, where children have settled in incredibly quickly and made a fantastic start to their school journey. Year 3 pupils have also embraced their move into Upper School and are thoroughly enjoying their new environment especially OPAL!

We have an exciting year ahead, with lots of enriching learning opportunities, memorable experiences, special events, and celebrations planned for our children. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are delighted to have everyone back and cannot wait to see what we can achieve together this year.

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



Can You Spare a Couple of Hours a Week?

We are looking for enthusiastic parents and grandparents to join us in supporting our children's reading development. If you have a little time to spare each week and would enjoy listening to children read, we'd love to hear from you! Volunteering in school is a rewarding way to make a real difference—and your support helps build confidence, fluency, and a love of reading in our pupils.

If you're interested, please contact the school office. We will arrange a DBS check, which is required before you begin. Thank you for helping us nurture a love of reading in every child!



Childcare Provision

As many of you know, last year we introduced an after-school childcare provision to support our families. Thanks to additional funding, we were able to offer this service throughout the year regardless of attendance levels while we reviewed its usage and sustainability.

Throughout the year, we carefully monitored attendance and found that, whilst the provision is highly valued by the families who use it, there were many sessions with no bookings and others where only one or two children attended.

We recognise the importance of this service for working families and are keen to continue offering childcare. However, as we move into the new academic year, we need to ensure that the provision is financially sustainable and viable for the future.

From September, after-school childcare will be available at our Upper Site until 4:30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. The cost will be £5 per session. Children from the Lower Site will be safely escorted to the Upper Site by members of staff. Afterschool clubs, including sports, crafts and OPAL, will run as usual throughout the year and will be available to book from next week.



Parking Reminder – Keep Our Children Safe

We kindly ask all parents and carers to refrain from parking on the zig-zag lines outside the school. These markings are there to keep visibility clear and ensure the safety of our children during drop-off and pick-up times. Please also remember to park considerately in the surrounding area and be mindful of our neighbours.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Diary Dates Autumn

11th Sept– St Ives Heritage Trail Y4

18th Sept –KS2 Colour Run

23rd & 24th Sept– Y5 Beamish Residential

6th & 7th Oct –Parents Eve

12th– 14th Oct – Y6 Robinwood Residential

21st Oct– Halloween Disco

23rd Oct – Last Day of term

4th Nov – Y3 & Y5 Trip Washington Wetlands

6th Nov– Y6 St Ives Poppy

16th Nov –Maths Week

19th Nov– KS2 Cash Academy Workshop & **Parent after school session**

27th – School Photos 4th Dec– Y5 St Ives Xmas T

4th Dec– Xmas Fair (upper)

9th Dec – EYFS Nativity

9th Dec – KS2 Crafternoon

10th Dec – Xmas Jumper

10th Dec – Xmas Lunch

10th Dec KS1 AM Nativity

11th Dec– KS2 AM Nativity

11th Dec– KS1 PM Nativity

14th Dec– KS2 PM Nativity

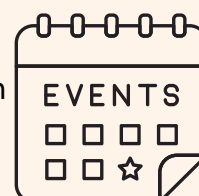
15th Dec– Roxy Panto

16th Dec– KS1 Crafternoon

16th Dec – Xmas Crafts

17th Dec – Xmas Party

18th Dec– Last day of term





Keep Us Updated!



Please let the school office know of any changes to your contact details, including phone numbers and emergency contacts. We must hold at least two emergency contacts for every child to ensure we can reach someone quickly if needed. If your child develops any new allergies, medical conditions, or health needs, please inform us as soon as possible so that our records can be updated. Thank you for helping us keep all our children safe

Curriculum Enrichment – Exciting Experiences Ahead!



At Leadgate Primary School, we believe that learning goes far beyond the classroom. Throughout the year, our curriculum is enriched through educational visits, visitors, sports events, themed weeks, and special activities that help children develop new skills, broaden their horizons, and create lasting memories.

We are excited to continue expanding our enrichment offer, including extending our residential opportunities. Alongside our Year 6 residential, we are introducing residential experiences for Year 4 and Year 5 pupils, and hope to launch an in-school sleepover for Year 3 children. This will ensure that all Key Stage 2 pupils have the opportunity to enjoy a memorable residential experience over the year.

We are also looking forward to welcoming a range of exciting visitors and workshops into school this year. Children will enjoy experiences such as Rock Kidz, Teach Rex, a visit from illustrator Liz Million as part of our Comic Con celebrations, and Cash Academy workshops during Maths Week, alongside many other enriching opportunities.

As part of this, we are keen to enhance pupils' understanding of different careers and workplaces. If you, or a family member, would be willing to talk to our children about your job or career journey, please contact the school office. We would love to hear from you.

Could You Be Eligible for Free School Meals?

With changes to Free School Meals eligibility from September 2026, more families may now qualify for support. Children in England whose households receive Universal Credit are now eligible for free school meals, regardless of household earnings, meaning many more families can benefit from this important support.

We encourage all families to complete an eligibility check, even if your child is already receiving Universal Infant Free School Meals in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2. Registering can provide additional funding for the school, helping us to support all pupils.

This not only supports your child with a nutritious meal each day, but also ensures you receive access to additional benefits such as: holiday activity club and food vouchers.

♥ Support Our School Fund – Every Contribution Counts! ♥

DONATE

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our School Fund last year. Your contributions helped provide Christmas treats, whole school Panto and festive celebrations, ice cream van visit and ice pops in the hot weather, exciting visitors and support towards school trips.

These experiences create special memories for our children and enrich their time at school. If you are able to contribute this year, no matter how big or small, your support will make a real difference. Thank you for helping us provide those extra special opportunities for our pupils.



We are on Facebook!

We are excited to launch our new Facebook page, where we'll be sharing school news, celebrations, achievements, upcoming events, and snapshots of life at Leadgate Primary School.

To help us celebrate and share our pupils' achievements, please ensure you have returned your child's photo permission form. This will allow us to include photographs of school activities and events where appropriate.

👍 Be sure to like and follow our page so you don't miss any updates. We can't wait to share our school journey with you! 📱💙

Reception & Secondary School Admissions – September 2027

If your child is due to start Reception or Secondary School in September 2027, please be aware of the following important dates and application details:

Apply Now

- 📌 Reception Admissions (Sept 2027)
 - Applications open: Autumn 2026
 - Applications will close on Friday 15 January 2027.
- 📌 Secondary School Admissions (Sept 2027)
 - The closing date to apply for a secondary school place for September 2027 is midnight on Saturday 31 October 2026.

All applications must be made through Durham County Council. Please ensure you apply within the given timeframe to secure your child's place.



Nursery Places Available – Apply Now!

We currently have spaces available in our Nursery for children aged three and above. Children become eligible for 15 hours of funded provision from the term after their third birthday. We also have a limited number of places available for two-year-olds, so please contact us if you would like to find out more about eligibility and availability.

Attending our nursery provides children with valuable opportunities to develop social skills, independence, and confidence, while building strong foundations for future learning. If you would like more information or arrange a visit, please contact the school office. We look forward to welcoming your child into our caring and supportive nursery setting!

Thank You for Your Feedback!

A huge thank you to all the families who completed our end-of-term survey. We value your feedback, which helps us celebrate our strengths and identify areas for further improvement.

It was particularly lovely to see the overwhelmingly positive comments about the impact of OPAL. Many families highlighted how much their children enjoy playtimes and the positive difference OPAL has made to their happiness, confidence, and enjoyment of school.

We are currently analysing all responses and will share the findings with families in due course. The results will also be discussed with governors and staff to help shape our future priorities.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us make Leadgate Primary the best it can be.

Leadgate Primary School

Diary Dates Sept 2026– July 2027

While changes may occur, we will ensure you receive sufficient notice of any necessary adjustments. Thank you for your understanding!



November

4th Nov – Y3 & Y5 Trip
Washington Wetlands
6th Nov– Y6 St Ives Poppy
16th Nov – Maths Week
19th Nov– KS2 Cash Academy
Workshop & Parent Session
27th – School Photos



February

11th Feb– Rock Kidz
12th Feb– Last day of term

May

10th May – Y6 SATS week
28th May– Last day of term



September

11th Sept– St Ives Heritage
Trail Y4
18th Sept –KS2 Colour Run
23rd & 24thSept– Y5 Beamish
Residential

December



4th Dec– Y5 St Ives Xmas T
4th Dec– Xmas Fair (upper)
9th Dec – EYFS Nativity
9th Dec – KS2 Crafternoon
10th Dec – Xmas Jumper
10th Dec – Xmas Lunch
10th Dec KS1 AM Nativity
11th Dec– KS2 AM Nativity
11th Dec– KS1 PM Nativity
14th Dec– KS2 PM Nativity
15th Dec– Roxy Panto
16th Dec– KS1 Crafternoon
16th Dec – Xmas Crafts
17th Dec – Xmas Party
18th Dec– Last day of term

March

4th March –World Book Day
4th March– Mother's Day
Lunch Lower
5th March – Mother's Day
Lunch Upper
8th March– Science Week
16th & 17th – Parents Eve
19th March – KS2 Crafternoon
22nd & 23rd –Y4 York
Residential
24th March EYFS/KS1
Crafternoon
25th March Last day of term

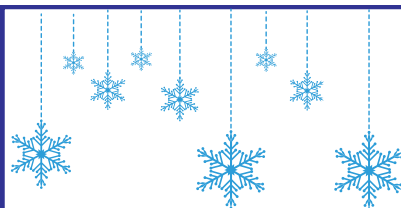
June

17th June– Father's Day Lunch
Lower
18th June – Fathers Day
Lunch Upper
21st Jun– New Reception
Parent Meetings

October

6th & 7th Oct –Parents Eve
12th– 14th Oct – Y6 Robinwood
Residential
21st Oct– Halloween Disco
23rd Oct – Last Day of term

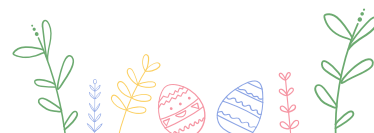
January



5th Jan– School Re-opens
18th Jan– Comic Con Week

April

12th April– School Re-opens
14th & 15th April – TeachRex
workshops



July



1st & 2nd July– Transition
5th July – KS2 Sports Day
6th July – Report Parent Eve
7th July – Lower Sports Day
8th July– Summer Fair
13th KS2 Crafternoon
14th July –Lower Crafternoon
15th July Y6 Celebration