



## Summer Newsletter 2026

### What a busy term!

This term has been packed with exciting learning opportunities beyond the classroom, with pupils enjoying a wide range of enriching trips and sporting events. Year 6 celebrated the end of their primary school journey with a memorable visit to **The Forbidden Corner**, while Year 5 explored the wonders of science at **The Life Centre in Newcastle**. Year 4 stepped back in time during their visit to **Beamish Museum**, and Year 3 brought their history learning to life with a trip to **Segedunum Roman Fort**. Our Reception children had a fantastic day meeting and learning about animals at **Big Sheep, Little Cow Farm**. Year 2 enjoyed a visit from **Kirkleatham Owl Centre**. Alongside these curriculum visits, many pupils have represented the school in a variety of sporting events, including **Athletics**, the **Wilf Mannion Cup football tournament**, **Quad Athletics** and **swimming lessons**. These experiences play a vital role in enhancing our curriculum by bringing learning to life, developing pupils' confidence and independence, and creating lasting memories. We are incredibly proud of how our children have embraced every opportunity and thank our staff and families for supporting these valuable experiences.

Mr McLoughlin has also been working with our Junior Dukes to earn their award. The Junior Dukes programme helps the children to develop a range of life skills in a fun and motivational way. As part of the award, the children hiked up to Eston Nab on a particularly wet and windy day! The children have shown huge commitment, enthusiasm and motivation with this programme and we are so proud of our Junior Dukes. We hope to see them go on to complete their Duke of Edinburgh Awards when they move onto secondary school.





Year 5 Scientists in action at The Life Centre, Newcastle.



Year 3 Roman Soldiers in training!



Year 4 experienced Victorian school life at Beamish.



Reception fun at the farm!

## Careers and Aspirations

At Bankfields Primary School, we are committed to raising aspirations and helping every child understand the exciting opportunities available to them in the future. From Nursery through to Year 6, careers education is woven throughout our curriculum and enrichment programme, giving pupils regular opportunities to explore different jobs, industries and pathways. This term, Year 5 and Year 6 worked with the **North East Raising Aspirations Partnership (NERAP)** to learn about a wide range of careers and the skills needed to succeed. Year 5 also took part in a **Nissan engineering workshop**, designed to inspire the next generation of engineers, as well as the **VEX GO Competition** in partnership with Nissan Sunderland, where pupils applied teamwork and problem-solving skills. Through the **Tees Pioneers Workshop**, pupils developed enterprise skills and created innovative business ideas, while **Richard Gerrard** visited Year 5 as part of the **Pride in Place TS6 project**, encouraging children to think about how they could positively shape and improve their local community. These valuable experiences help our pupils broaden their horizons, develop ambition and confidence, and begin to consider the many exciting career possibilities available to them in the future.

## Site Security and Gate Opening Times

From September, we will be increasing site security as the front driveway and pedestrian gates are due to have locks and a buzzer system installed over the summer holidays. This will offer both staff and parents additional reassurance that the whole site can only be accessed by pupils, parents, carers and approved visitors. In order to maintain site security, gates will only be left open when staff are present on the gate. Please find below the gate opening times. Access around these times will need to be via the front gate where there will be a buzzer system connected to the school office. Children (with the exception of those going to breakfast club) should not arrive at school before 8:30am.

### Rear gate:

- Open at 8:30am / closed at 8:55am
- Open at 3:10pm / locked at 3:30pm

### Front gate:

- Open from 7:50am – 8:00am for Breakfast Club. Access from 8:00am – 8:30am via buzzer system to the office.
- Open at 8:30am / closed 8:55am

- All access during the day via buzzer system only.
- Open again from 3:10pm and locked at 3:30pm

**Breakfast Club Access:** front entrance only.

**After school clubs:**

- The rear gate will be unlocked 5 minutes before the end of any after-school clubs. This will be locked again 5 minutes after the end of the club.

## PD Days 2026/27

School will be closed to all pupils on the following dates for staff training:

- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September
- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September
- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January

## Sports Days and Summer Fair

Thank you to all parents and carers who came along to support our sports days and recent summer fair. We were so fortunate with lovely weather on these dates, and the children love to share all of their sporting achievements with you. Our summer fair was a huge success this year, and the children particularly enjoyed the new fairground rides. We managed to raise an incredible £2197.72 which will all go towards developing our OPAL provision and contributing towards trips, visits and experiences for the children. Thank you so much to everyone for your donations, contributions and for supporting us on the day – we are incredibly grateful.

## Breakfast Club Bookings

Just a reminder that from September, all breakfast club bookings will need to be made online via Parent Mail. Further information about how to do this will be sent out towards the end of the summer holidays. Bookings **MUST** be made by Friday of the previous week so that we can ensure we have sufficient staff in place each day.

## Summer Holidays

It has come to the time of year again where we bid farewell to our Year 6 children. They have worked so incredibly hard this year, have achieved fantastic SATs results at the end of the year and we are so proud of them. We'd like to wish them all the very best of luck as they move onto secondary school and hope to hear about all their future successes. We'd also like to wish you all a wonderful summer and look forward to welcoming the children back into school on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2026.

With kind regards,

Mrs Gatenby - Head Teacher