



BYERS GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 04.09.2026

I hope you all had a lovely summer break. It has been a pleasure to welcome the children into school this week - there has been such a positive and happy vibe. I wish to take this opportunity to welcome our new families into the school community. We very much look forward to working with you over the coming year and hope it is one filled with high quality learning and fun along the way.

Benedict's Law: Keeping Children with Allergies Safe at School

At Byers Green Primary School, the safety and wellbeing of every child is our highest priority. From September 2026, schools across England are required to follow new allergy safety guidance known as **Benedict's Law**, named in memory of Benedict Blythe.

The new requirements are designed to make schools safer for children with allergies and include:

- A dedicated whole-school allergy policy.
- Annual allergy awareness training for all staff.
- Emergency adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) available on site.
- Individual Healthcare Plans for pupils with diagnosed allergies.
- Improved communication, record-keeping and emergency procedures.

At Byers Green Primary School, we are already reviewing our procedures to ensure we meet these new standards. We will continue to work closely with families and healthcare professionals to ensure all children with allergies are safe, supported and fully included in all aspects of school life.

If your child has an allergy, asthma, or another medical condition, please ensure that the school has up-to-date medical information, medication and care plans. Working together helps us provide the safest possible environment for every child.

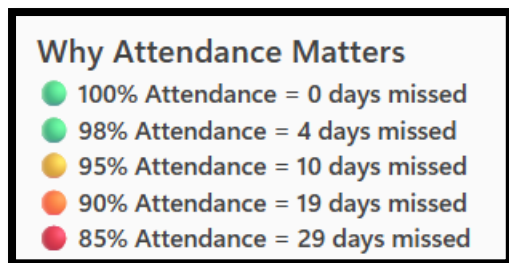
Parent Meetings – working together to support your child's learning journey

Ofsted now places greater emphasis on the progress children make over time, looking closely at how well pupils learn, remember and build on their knowledge. As a result, schools are focusing even more on understanding each child's individual learning journey and ensuring every pupil reaches their full potential. We will be holding class-based parent information meetings to explain what your child is learning, homework and reading expectations and how we can work together to support their success. It will also explore any statutory expectations such as Phonics Screening, Multiplication Checks and KS2 SATs. The meetings will take place in your child's classroom. Children are welcome to accompany you. The date and times of the meetings are as follows:

	3:30 – 4:00	4:00 – 4:30
Monday 14 th September	Class 3	Class 4
Tuesday 15 th September	Class 2	Class 1

Attendance

Attendance remains a key priority at Byers Green Primary School. Last academic year, our overall attendance was **94.6%**, which was broadly in line with national expectations, however it has been above national expectations in the past. Every day in school matters, and even small amounts of absence can have a significant impact on children's learning, friendships and confidence. We expect all children to attend school regularly and on time, and we ask families to avoid taking holidays during term time wherever possible. While we understand that family commitments arise, term-time holidays result in lost learning that cannot easily be replaced. By working together to achieve excellent attendance, we can ensure every child has the best opportunity to succeed. We will be doing a lot of work on attendance this year with certificates each half term for those children reaching figures above 97%. We will celebrate 100% attendance at the end of the academic year.



Behaviour

After many years of a truly embedded rules, rewards and consequences system, we are revising our behavior policy this term. We have shortened the school rules to three simple, straight forward rules, which we think are very easy to remember and encompass all of our expectations:

**Be Safe
Show Respect
Work Hard**

We have many positives in place such as house points and a race to be the winner of the weekly house point race. Praise assembly on a Friday is where we share the positives of the week. Staff give out stickers and prizes in class too. Mrs King is introducing a new 'Lucky Duck' initiative – more information will follow.

If things go wrong, which sometimes they do, we are changing what happens as a consequence. On the playground if a child breaks a rule, they will be given a warning. If they break that rule again, they will be sent into our 'Reflections Zone'. This is an area in school where they can take time out and calm down. I explained to the children, this is not something to be feared, but if they have had a warning already, we wish to eliminate the behavior and shut it down quickly. In Reflections, they will talk about their choices and how to improve for their safety and happiness. If a disagreement has taken place, we will use a Restorative Approach to discuss the incident with all parties, ensuring all voices are heard.

In class, the children will receive a friendly reminder, a warning and then the third warning will be recorded. The child will then visit the Reflections Zone during their next playtime. This is designed to keep low level disruption to a minimum and allow all children to learn in a calm and happy environment.

Wrap Around Care

Breakfast Club runs from 8am every day and is **£3** per session. Please note this is a price increase and the first one we have made since Breakfast Club began back in 2018. Sunset Club will run after school from 3:25 – 5:25 and will be charged at £5 per hour. If you require longer hours than this, please let us know and we can discuss options.

We are delighted to welcome Little Ballers back to school on a Monday night from 3:30 – 4:30. This is a basketball themed, high energy club which has received a lot of positive feedback. This will be charged at £5 per hour. If your child wishes to use after school club on a Monday, but not Little Ballers, they can still access wrap around care with our play leader. We have tried to make themes for the nights but have found that the children like the freedom to choose from the many activities we have on offer. If you would like to book your child into clubs, please contact Mrs Blenkiron.

PE Days

Please can children come to school on their PE day dressed in PE kit. PE kit comprises of navy joggers and jumper /hoody and a white t-shirt. Please can all hair be tied back and all jewellery be removed. Please wear plain or school branded items only.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Class 4 swimming at Spennymoor Leisure Centre			Class 1 and 2 Class 4	Class 3
PE with coach: Class 3 Class 1 and 2				

Class 4 will be swimming this term. A separate letter has been issued explaining what is needed. Hats are an essential due to the filtering systems in the pool and earrings must be removed due to health and safety set out by Spennymoor Leisure Centre.

Personal Items such as jewellery

Please can parents and carers support us with the items the children bring into school. We have always been supportive of comfort toys, fidgets and personal pencil cases. There are times however, when the amount of things pupils are bringing in is excessive and then difficult to keep track of. I ask that nothing expensive, sentimental or precious is brought into school. If things such as pencil cases are brought in, it is then the child's responsibility to keep them safe. I am going to be working on 'responsibility' a lot this term and talking to the children about looking after coats, jumpers and water bottles and ensuring they take responsibility for their own things.

Diary Dates

Please see important dates coming up this term

Date/time	Event
14 th September	Parents' meeting for Class 3 (3:30) Class 4 (4:00)
15 th September	Parents' meeting for Class 2 (3:30) Class 1 (4:00)
1 st October	School Photos – individual photos – school uniform please
19 th October	Parents' Evening
20 th October	Parents' Evening
23 rd October	School closes for half term
2 nd November	School re-opens for Autumn 2
11 th November	2pm Craft Afternoon for Parents and Carers – share a craft in school with your child – more details to follow
16 ^h November	Anti-bullying week to be celebrated in school
23 rd November	Bike-ability Training this week for pupils in YEAR 5
9 th December	Whole School Trip to 'The Gift' at Glow Theatre, Newton Aycliffe. We ask for £5 contribution for the bus – more details to follow
11 th December	Christmas Fair and 'Elfridges'
15 th December	1:15 – Class 1 and 2 Nativity Play 2:00 – Class 3 and 4 Christmas Show
16 th December	9:10 – Class 1 and 2 Nativity Play 10:00 – Class 3 and 4 Christmas Show
17 th December	Christmas lunch, Christmas jumper and Christmas party day!
18 th December	School closes for Christmas holidays
More dates will be updated in this table as other opportunities arise – please keep checking.	

Thank you for reading our newsletter. Please get in touch if I can help you in any way.

Kind regards,

C.E.Dodds

Headteacher