



Birtley East School Times Weekly Newsletter

2024-25 | 3rd October 2025

Site Safety Review

This term, we have been discussing preparations for the introduction of Martyn's Law. This covers the protection of public premises. We have been discussing and considering measures we can take to increase the safety and security of our school premises in response to the introduction of this law. We were awaiting a toolkit which is being prepared by Gateshead Council for schools to assist with this. In the light of events in Manchester yesterday, recent local community tensions and given that we had already met this term and identified actions we could take to manage access to the external parts of our site, I have made the decision to roll some changes out from Monday. This will mean that it is more difficult for you as parents to access the external parts of our school site at times but I hope you will support these changes and understand why we need to take these steps at this time. Please read the attached document so that you are aware of changes that will be in place from Monday.

An additional plea: Please refrain from using our toilet in the main entrance unless you are attending a meeting in school or it is an absolute emergency. Children will be directed to their own toilets to use rather than using this facility.

Cycling Skills

Richard Rothwell will be in school again this term to support the children with their cycling skills. Each class will have a full day of small group sessions where they will learn to ride and improve in their cycling ability. Children in EYFS up to Year 3 should bring their own bikes and helmets, if they are in good working order, to use during their session. Children in Years 4-6 will be provided with bikes and helmets from the cycling instructor.

Once again, we will be offering the Year 5 children the opportunity to complete the Kielder Challenge and more information will come out soon with dates where you can find out more information about it.

Monday 20th October - Nursery & Reception

Tuesday 21st October - Year 1

Wednesday 22nd October - Year 2

Monday 3rd November - Year 6

Tuesday 4th November - Year 4

Wednesday 5th November - Year 5

Year 3 - TBC

Tag Rugby

Last Friday a group of Year 5/6 children represented Birtley East in a tag rugby competition at Gateshead Rugby Club. They all showed great determination and skill in their games and represented our school proudly.

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with some children coming away with badges representing the Olympic and Paralympic values. Although we didn't make it through to the regional finals, the children all had a great afternoon and thoroughly enjoyed competing against other Gateshead schools. Gateshead Rugby Club are looking for new players, particularly girls, who currently train on a Wednesday night, so if you are interested contact the club for more information.

Football Team

Last night, our school football team represented Birtley East in fixtures against Kibblesworth Academy and Edmondsley Primary School. Unfortunately, we were defeated in both matches but the children gave their all and should be proud of how they are progressing as a team early in the season. There were definitely positives to take away from each match. Well done to all of the players! They will have their last match for this part of the season next Thursday night so please could the players make sure they have their full kit with them in school on Thursday morning.

Macmillan Event



Thank you to everyone who baked, donated and supported our wonderful MacMillan coffee afternoon this week. It was lovely to see so many of you in school and we raised over £340 for the charity.



We still had some cakes leftover after the sale and so this afternoon some of the school councillors visited a local care home to give them to the residents there - they were very happy with the treats!

Reminder: Reception 2026 - Applications Open

If you, or anyone you know, are applying for a child's place in reception class for September 2026 you are very welcome to book in for a tour of our school. We do tours individually rather than having an information meeting and try to arrange visits during the school day if possible so that families can get a feel for our school in full operation. We can accommodate tours after the end of the school day if families prefer. We were inspected by Ofsted in October 2024 and this report is available here: [Birtley East Community Primary School - Open - Find an Inspection Report - Ofsted](#)

You can apply for your child's place online via this link:

<https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/2796/Primary-school-admissions-September-2026>

A copy of the full admissions booklet is attached to this newsletter email for your information.

Reminder: Y6 Residential

Staff working with year 6 have found an amazing new destination for Year 6 to go to on their residential this year, the dates are 1st-3rd June 2026. Parents are invited to attend an information meeting at the end of the school day on Thursday 16th October at the end of the day in the year 6 classroom to find out more. There will be a representative there from the company hosting the residential who will be able to give a presentation to parents. If you cannot attend please let us know and we can send you the information out separately or meet with you to go through details at a mutually convenient time. In the meantime the link below will give you a taste of what will be on offer:

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[Parents Presentation - OneDrive](#)

The address of the planned residential is: Crag Pond, Barnard Castle DL12 9DJ

We are finalising the cost per child and will give more information about this at the information meeting.

Reminder: Flu Immunisation – a reminder to complete the consent form

Immunisation will take place in school for all children in Reception to Year 6 on 7th October. Flu is an unpleasant illness whatever age you are but is dangerous for young children and the vulnerable. Please use the information below to consent to the immunisation for your child:

<https://www.northumbriaimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

The school code is: NBIO8337

