



Birtley East School Times Weekly Newsletter

2024-25 | 10th October 2025

Year 5 Kielder Residential

The children in Year 5 will get a letter today with information about the annual Kielder Challenge that we offer for up to 12 Year 5 children. This challenge is a brilliant opportunity for children who are confident cyclists to push themselves in a testing but thoroughly rewarding residential with unforgettable memories. This will be our fifth year of running the event. There will be a parent meeting on Wednesday 5th November 2025 for additional information and a chance to ask Mrs Small and Ms Riley any further questions and gather more information. If you would like your child to take part but cannot make the meeting please let us know and staff can get in touch with you.

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:

[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.

Parking around school

We have had concerns raised again about how unsafely people are parking around the school entrances in order to drop off and pick up their children. Very few families have a need to bring their car to school to collect or drop off their children, most families can walk and we would encourage this wherever possible. If you do need to bring your car please be mindful of road safety. Please do not park near to junctions and please ensure that you are parking so that there can be clear passage along the road, for example for a Fire Engine or Ambulance responding to an emergency.

Cycling Skills - updated dates

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.

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

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Wednesday 5th November - Year 5

Year 3 - 20th November

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.

Christmas Show Dates - Advance Notice!

We know some parents like to book in time off work to come and see our Christmas shows so the dates for these are included below:

Early Years (Nursery and Reception) - TBC (but will be during WB 8th December)

Years 1-6

Relaxed performance (babies and toddlers welcome): Monday 8th December 1.30pm

Main Performances: Tuesday 9th December at 9am and 2pm

Families will be able to request up to 2 tickets for the Y1-6 shows will be able to apply for more tickets if we have any capacity available.

We will also invite families to join us on the last afternoon of term to sing carols together at 2pm.

Halloween Stay and Play

Please find attached our invitation to parents of children in Reception and Nursery classes for our Halloween themed Stay and Play.

Packed Lunch Guidance - Choking

Over the summer the school meals service and the Gateshead Early Years team met to discuss food requirements for children in Reception and Nursery classes taking into account the latest guidance on nutrition and guidance to prevent choking. When children (of all ages) are eating in school there are always paediatric first aid qualified staff present, however we are concerned about the contents of some packed lunches being brought into school. These are not always nutritionally the best combination of foods but also there are often items in packed lunches that could increase the risk of choking. We have attached the FSA's guidance on preparing foods to avoid choking and would respectfully ask that all foods sent into school for children in Nursery and Reception classes are prepared in a way that adheres to this guidance. School meals provided comply with these standards for our Early Years children. We would strongly encourage all families to consider ordering school meals for their children rather than sending in packed lunches. It is amazing to see what foods children will eat in school that they would not eat at home. The school meals service can accommodate special diets and allergies if parents complete the relevant paperwork.

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