



Birtley East School Times Weekly Newsletter

2025-26 | 28th November 2025

A Cosmic Christmas Caper

Our Drama Club Christmas Show is on **Thursday 11th December at 4:30pm**.

Tickets are on sale. Tickets cost £1 and all proceeds go towards the club. The children have all been working really hard and can't wait to show you their performance. We hope to see you there!

Attendance

Our average attendance is slipping a bit low. This article sums up the approach taken by a school in Wales with very high attendance and it has prompted me to think about how we respond to attendance. [The Caerphilly school with almost 100% attendance - and how they did it - BBC News](#)

I am interested in the discussion about scrapping of 100% attendance awards as I do find them a bit problematic. Achieving 100% attendance is quite hard for some people and some children feel a lot of distress about not getting this award, even when reasons for absence are out of their control. There is a survey to complete for learners in Y5 and 6 (we will do this in school), parents and carers and staff. Here is your link: [Attendance Survey November 2025 - Fill in form](#). It's the same survey for everyone and you can complete the survey anonymously. The survey will close on 12th December and we will work on any changes after Christmas. The results of the survey and any changes we propose will be shared with you. The survey is very short and it is really important we gather as many views as possible so that we can work together to encourage learners to attend as much school as possible and get our response to attendance right for all of our school community.

Christmas Show

Please can all cast members bring in a black top and black bottoms. The school will be wearing Christmas jumpers if you have one, otherwise they can wear normal uniform.

Dates

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) - 10th December, 2.15pm
- Years 1-6
Relaxed performance (babies and toddlers welcome): Monday 8th December 1.30pm
Main Performances: Tuesday 9th December at 9am and 2pm

TICKETS: 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.

Here is the link to order tickets:

[Christmas Play Ticket - Fill in form](#)

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

Aiming Higher, Achievement for All





Y6 Christmas Stall

Over the next couple of weeks, Y6 will be making Christmas themed products to sell on a stall at the end of the school day. There will be a range of things, which may change, such as sweet treats, reindeer dust and handmade decorations. All money raised will go towards supplementing their end of year residential.

Y6 Handball event

On Thursday, year 6 attended a handball event at Lord Lawson School. They were split into 3 teams and competed in 9 mini games against other local schools. Every single pupil represented Birtley East amazingly by playing incredibly well and showing great sportsmanship. All team won, lost and drew games but they had a great afternoon and did themselves and our school proud.

Kielder Training Ride 1

Today, the group of Year 5 children who have chosen to take on the Kielder Challenge this year, went on their first training ride. Each and every one of them showed unbelievable character and resilience after the weather turned unexpectedly torrential. What a tremendous group of children! They enjoyed a hot chocolate in the cafe at Beamish which was thoroughly deserved after cycling through the rain without complaint. They all deserve a treat this weekend!

Christmas Parties

We've started getting so queries about Christmas parties so here are the dates:

Monday 15th December: Years 3 and 4 (PM)

Tuesday 16th December: Year 5 and 6 (PM)

Wednesday 17th December: Early Years

Thursday 18th December: Year 1 and 2

The arrangements are the same as previous years - children in years 1-6 should come to school in school uniform with party clothes to change into at lunchtime as their parties are during the afternoon. Children should bring a party tea packed for them to eat towards the end of their party. We will provide drinks. Miss Coxon will let you know about any specific arrangements for the Early Years party but these will be similar to the rest of the school with the exception that children in Early Years come to school dressed in their party clothes. We cannot accommodate parents coming to change their children during lunchtime and we would strongly discourage parents from taking their children home to change over lunchtime as it is actually part of the party experience to all get ready together, they get very excited!

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>

