



## Birtley East School Times Weekly Newsletter

2025-26 | 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026

This is the final newsletter for this term, we break up for the Easter Holidays on Thursday. Children return to school on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April.

### Dance Festival Delights

Congratulations to the Y3, 5 and 6 children who performed in the Dance Festival last week. They all did amazingly and were a credit to our school throughout the whole night.



### An exciting Spring term for Year 3!

This term the children in year 3 have been very busy exploring the local area in their curriculum work! They recently visited the Birtley Heritage group at Birtley Library to take on a history walk based on the Birtley Belgians who settled very close to our school during World War I. In addition they also visited Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy to take part in a football tournament! Out of 16 mini school teams from the local area - Mrs Linfield was delighted to see Birtley East placing 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.



### 100 Years Celebration

We are planning our 100 years celebration for 1<sup>st</sup> May. We have enjoyed delving into our school's history and have found out it is slightly more complex than we thought! The exact date of origin is variable, but there are 100 years and more to celebrate. We will send out full information separately but are hoping that we will have an event on 1<sup>st</sup> May you can come along to.

### Work Experience

It has been lovely to welcome back some ex-pupils of our school on their work experience this week - making everyone feel very old with how grown up they all are!

*Aiming Higher, Achievement for All*





## Fund Raising Raffle

We will be selling raffle tickets for three Easter hampers this week. All money raised goes towards the year 5 Kielder cycling trip. Tickets are £1 per strip.

## Parking Concerns

Concerns have been raised with us about unsafe parking around school. Please park considerately and safely near to our school gates and be aware that blocking paths and parking over junctions are offences.

## Fidget Toys

We have an increasing number of children who are bringing fidget toys into school. We recognise the benefits these can bring to some children, however we do feel we need to implement some management into what is coming into school. We are understanding and supportive of these for some children. Teachers in our school have attended specific sensory focussed training and can judge when these are best used and whether they are proving supportive or distracting. We also have concerns about the safety of some of the items that could potentially come into school. If you feel your child would benefit from a fidget toy in school please discuss this with your child's teacher. We have access to some funding for sensory resources and will happily purchase appropriate fidget toys for children in school, with your guidance if needed. We are going to work towards children accessing school resources only rather than bringing these from home in the future but will need to have a transitional period so that we can ascertain the appropriate resources to buy and have conversations with parents about what children will need. This is to ensure everyone's health and safety in school.

## INSET Days 2026-7

Next school year, we will be having staff training on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September and Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February, school will be closed to pupils on those days. A full list of term dates for 2026-7 is available on the Gateshead Council website and will be sent out to all parents next term.

Childcare Provision: Children can now be in school from 7.45am to 6pm each day.

To register for **Breakfast Club** please email [birtleyeastcommunityprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:birtleyeastcommunityprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk)

To register for **Wrap Around Provision after school** please complete this form: [After School Wrap Around Provision Registration Form - Fill in form](#)

Contact number for Wrap Around Provision after school office hours: **07734569973**

Contacting School: Email [birtleyeastcommunityprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:birtleyeastcommunityprimaryschool@gateshead.gov.uk) Telephone 01914102551

Permission to Walk Home - Y5 and 6 [Walking home permission for children in years 5 and 6 - Fill in form](#)

I was also wondering if you could let the Year 1 parents know that I am going to be holding a Phonics stay and play on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 9am. It will give parents a chance to see a small Phonics lesson to help them support their children at home in preparation for phonics screening. I will also share information about what the test looks like. There will be phonics activities and books to share too

