



The Drive Community Primary School

Mrs R Farren, Head Teacher
The Drive, Felling, Gateshead, NE10 0PY
Tel: (0191) 421 0390
www.thedriveprimary.org

Friday 9th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Website Updates – what has been uploaded this week?

All Friday letters and updates (not linked to specific areas: Safeguarding, Online Safety etc.), will be published in either: **Calendar – Read More – Friday Letters**

Friday Letter 9th January 2026

<https://thedriveprimary.ovw8.juniperwebsites.co.uk/>

Happy New Year!

Welcome back, everyone, and a very happy New Year to all our families and members of our school community. We hope you enjoyed a restful and enjoyable festive break with your families.

It has been wonderful to see the children return to school this week with such enthusiasm, smiles, and readiness for the term ahead. We are looking forward to another exciting term filled with opportunities for learning, growth, and shared experiences.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We truly value the partnership we have with our families and look forward to working together throughout 2026.

Wishing you all a healthy, happy, and positive year ahead.

Attendance – The League and attendance update (Please note, we work a week behind due to the Friday marks not being populated before the Friday Letter is issued).

0 points if attendance is below 96%

1 point awarded for weekly attendance figures between 96% - 97.5%

2 points awarded for weekly attendance figures between 97.6% - 98.9%

3 points awarded for weekly attendance figures between 99% - 100%

Not the most positive start, but please remember we are always a week behind and this is the data before we broke up for Christmas. During that week, we had a lot of nasty bugs and illnesses going around. I am sure next week's percentages will be much more encouraging.

With the introduction of our new system (Arbor), we will begin sending you a weekly message about your child's attendance.

These messages will include the following information:

- **100% and above 96% attendance** – We believe it is important to celebrate success and excellent attendance.
- **Below 96%** – A reminder of the attendance level expected for all pupils.
- **Persistent Absentee (PA)** – Attendance **below 90%**.

Please also be aware that if your child falls into the **Persistent Absentee** category:

- You **will receive a visit** from a member of the school team.
- If we are unable to make contact, a letter may be posted to inform you of the visit.
- If attendance does not improve, **future absences may not be authorised**, and a meeting in school will be arranged.

Thank you for your cooperation as we continue to work together to support every child's attendance and wellbeing.





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Teams	Total Points	Overall Weekly Attendance
Nursery	0	84.39%
Reception	0	94.09%
Year 1	0	86.09%
Year 2	0	88.18%
Year 3	0	91%
Year 4	0	92.07%
Year 5	0	83%
Year 6	0	88.39%

Have a great weekend – I hope it isn't too cold!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R Farren
Head Teacher

Dates for the Diary (as they stand) – dates will be added to and possibly changes made. Keep an eye on our website calendar also.

Just a reminder, a 'C' will feature next to an event that requires parent/carer consent. PLEASE NOTE, CONSENT IS NOW GIVEN ON PARENT PAY www.parentpay.com. All letters can be found in Letters and Flyer on our school website.

<https://www.thedriveprimary.co.uk/letter-and-flyers/>

Items highlighted in yellow are parent/carer events.

Please note, dates and times of events are also on Class DOJO in the Calendar and on our school website.

Spring Term 1 2026 – 7 week half term	
Thursday 15 th January	EYSF Multi-Sports C TBC by Local Authority. Children taking part in this event will receive a letter.
Thursday 22 nd January	KS1 Cricket Festival C Children taking part in this event will receive a letter
Thursday 29 th January	Year 5 Theatre Trip C More details to follow
Thursday 5 th February	KS2 TOP Sportability: Boccia C TBC by Local Authority. Children taking part in this event will receive a letter.
Tuesday 10 th February	Year 5/6 Mini Hockey C TBC by Local Authority. Children taking part in this event will receive a letter.
Wednesday 18 th February	Year 5/6 Swimming Gala C TBC by Local Authority. Children taking part in this event will receive a letter.
Thursday 19 th February	INTU – Year 5 - What is a university?
	KS1 Girls Football C TBC by Local Authority. Children taking part in this event will receive a letter.
Friday 20 th February	Break up for Half Term
Spring Term 2 2026 – 5 week half term	
Monday 2 nd March	Staff INSET Children are not in
Tuesday 3 rd March	Children return to school



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