



4th September 2026

It has been lovely welcoming everybody back to school this week. Everyone has settled back into school life so well and I have seen lots of hard-working, smiling children in every class! There is a really lovely atmosphere all around school. A special welcome to our new pupils and parents who have joined us in Reception Class and next week we will welcome new Nursery children as well. I will continue our policy of sending out newsletters every other Friday to update you with happenings here in school. The newsletters will go out via Compass, so please make sure you have it downloaded and working - it's invaluable for keeping you updated. If you are struggling with getting Compass to work, please give us a ring at school and we will be able to assist. The newsletter is also added to our website for your reference.

Right of the Fortnight



As we have now all settled into school life I think it is only right that our Rights Respecting thought is **Article 29**: 'Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full.'

New Starters

All staff, governors and pupils would like to wish a warm welcome to Cleves Cross to our new starters this year - both to school and nursery!

Nursery Class - Welcome to Arla, Everleigh, Laney, Autumn, Lucy, Martha-Millie, Maggie, Zeke, Ella-Mae, Myla, Clyde, Elliott, Joshua, Louie, Pearl, AJ, Elodie, Ellis, Rohan, Bobby-Lee, Albie, Luca, Arielle and Evelyn and our returning Nursery children Jaxon, Wilder, Leo, Theo, Darla, Poppy, Vinnie, Freya, Bloom, Bonnie, Emilia, Ria, Ashton, Penny and Arla.

Reception Class - Welcome to Henry, AJ, Arthur, Grayson, Blake, Jackson, Damien, James, Maggie-May, Archie, Jamie, Amelia, Layla, Darla, Lyra, Reuben, Louis, Harry, Jax, Elijah, Summer, Violetta, Naomi, Esmae, Teddy, Maddison and Grace. We would also like to welcome Mrs Ryczel who is our Y4 teacher.



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Attendance and Arrival Times

We have had a fantastic start to the year and everyone has been in school on time - long may this continue! Children can arrive from 8.35am and go straight into class via the appropriate entrance. School does start at 8.45am so please ensure children are in school by this time and ready to get off to a good start with their lessons. If you do arrive after this time, please bring your child to the main door. We do need to monitor lateness, so if this happens regularly, we will be in touch to see what support we can offer to help.

Thank you for making sure your children arrive on time and ready to learn.

Recording of absence is really important and we therefore ask that if your child is poorly, you telephone school before 9.30am to advise us. If we don't hear from you, you will be contacted by a member of the admin team to check what is wrong. This is part of our safeguarding procedures. The guidance for attendance has changed over the summer and you will receive updates in the coming weeks.

Communication – we want to keep you informed

There is always lots going on in school and we are looking forward to having a full year of welcoming you back into school for a variety of events such as MacMillan Coffee Morning, Stay and Plays, Class Assemblies etc

We do want to keep you updated and also share with you many of the activities and learning that happens all of the time.

As well as **newsletters every other Friday** – sent via our app, and posted on our website, we also use **Facebook** to share information and photographs.

Our calendar on Compass is also populated with events that are planned. Check it out, together with lots of other school information at <https://www.clevescrossprimary.org.uk/>

It's a great way of sharing our school life with you.

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057499927779#>

We still have our class emails so if you have questions, information or would just like to give some feedback to your child's class teacher please email using their direct class email. They are all in the same format e.g. Nursery Class - NurCleves@clevescrossprimary.org.uk Reception class - reccleves@clevescrossprimary.org.uk , Year 1 - Yr1@clevescrossprimary.org.uk etc.

Please do not use this email for your child's absence or if you have any concerns - it is always best to speak face to face or on the phone.

The class emails and any emails sent to the school mail account will be responded to during the hours of **8am - 5.30pm on a school day**. It is absolutely fine to send emails outside of these hours and staff will respond to them as quickly as possible. Thank you for your support with this matter.



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Packed lunches, healthy snacks and water bottles

The school meals here are lovely and there is always a great deal of choice for the children - we have a brilliant kitchen team! I do want to remind you that our Packed Lunch Policy is available on our website. Please ensure that if your child does bring a packed lunch, the contents are in-line with this. The biggest mistakes are with crisps - where they need to be low in salt and in fat (details are in the policy). Please don't include chocolate coated items such as cake bars or chocolate biscuits. Always include at least one portion of fruit and/or vegetables please and national guidance also advises to avoid 'healthy looking' items that are really high in salt or sugar - fruit winders and pre-packed processed foods are typical of this. We are a **nut-free school** so please do not put any items that contains nuts into your child's lunchbox. Fruit is provided for Reception, Y1 and Y2 pupils free each day and older children are able to bring a healthy snack - fruit or vegetables are ideal. Every child is also asked to bring along a water bottle to use throughout the day. Please ensure that it is only **plain water** that is brought to school. If there needs to be a change to this, then please pop in to see me.

School uniform expectations

We want to ensure that all children feel part of our school and our uniform is a key part of our identity and gives us that sense of belonging. Thank you for your support with ensuring our children attend school in the correct uniform.

Clearway outside school

Just a reminder about the clearway outside of school. Please can you ensure that you park outside of the clearway and are also not tempted to just 'drop off' your child at the car park entrance. We need to be good role models to our children and uphold the law. It is just an additional 2-minute walk. We also need to be respectful of our neighbours when parking. Please do not block driveways and ensure that there is enough room for emergency services to get to residences.

Thank you for your support.



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Starting school in September
2027

Scholastic Book Fair – Tuesday 22nd
September – 28th September



**Do you or someone you know have a
child who is due to start school
September 2027?**

If so, you need to complete an application
online. Visit

www.durham.gov.uk/primaryschoolplaces
where you can access a useful guide to
help with your application. The easiest
way to apply is online. If you are unable
to apply online, paper application forms
are available on request. You still need to
apply even if your child attends our
nursery or already has a sibling at
school.

Applications open 1 September 2026 and
close midnight 15 January 2027.

Application are now open for secondary
school places - all Y6 children must apply
for a place. Deadline for submitting
applications is 31st October.

The Book Fair will take place
every night after school during
this time **until 3.45pm** and it
will be open during the coffee
morning on Friday too. School
does receive free books from
the fair on a commission basis,
so please take a moment to pop
into school to see what is on
offer. Every little helps!



MacMillan Coffee Morning

**MacMillan Cancer Support
Coffee Morning - Friday 25th
September**

Our annual coffee morning
event is happening on Friday
25th September. Please come
along and join us if you can.
Money raised will go to the
Macmillan Cancer Support - I
am sure you will agree, a very
worthy cause and one very close
to our hearts.

This year, because of
Benedict's Law and mitigating
risk, we will be providing the
cakes - there is no need to
donate.



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Dates to remember so far...



September

Tuesday 1st - PD Day

Wednesday 2nd - Children return to school

Tuesday 8th - Winmarleigh Parents Evening 5:30pm

Friday 18th - Winmarleigh Residential

Tuesday 22nd - Monday 28th - Scholastic Book Fair

Friday 25th - MacMillan Coffee Morning

Tuesday 29th - Individual School Photographs

Wednesday 30th - Football League (Invited Children)

October

Friday 2nd - Cross County, Ferryhill School

Wednesday 7th - Nursery Music & Move at Ferryhill Leisure Centre

Friday 9th - Y6 Parent Storytime in our library 2:45pm

Friday 16th - Y5 Parent Storytime in our library 2:45pm

Tuesday 20th - Nursery Storytime in Nursery 2:30pm

Friday 23rd - School Closes for Half Term

November

Monday 2nd - PD Day School Closed to Children

Tuesday 3rd - Children return to School

Friday 6th - Y1 Parent Storytime in our library

Monday 9th - Y5 Ferryhill Library Visit

Thursday 12th - Y6 Ferryhill Library Visit

Monday 23rd - Y1 Ferryhill Library Visit

December

Thursday 3rd - Whole School Pantomime Visit

After-school Clubs 3.15pm – 4.15pm

Clubs will start week beginning **14th September**. Forms are on the Compass app and will be available from next week. Please have a chat with your child to make sure that they do want to do the club. Sometimes, spaces will be limited and they will be offered on a first come, first serve basis. We don't include reception children in this first half-term to allow them to settle in.

Residential Trips

We do have a range of residential trips throughout the year for KS2. Y3 will be going on a Stone-age residential early October, Y4 will be going on a Roman residential which also takes place in October. Mr Blood and Mrs Ryczel will be sending out further details of this next week and will be holding parent information meetings in the next couple of weeks. Y5/6 will be going to Winmarleigh for the weekend on the 18th September - the parent information meeting will take place on **Tuesday 8th September at 5.30pm**.



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Top Tips for SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S RETURN TO ROUTINE

Returning to school after the holidays can be challenging for some children and young people, and both families and education settings can play an important role in helping them readjust. Consistent routines, clear expectations, and supportive communication can support children and young people's wellbeing, self-regulation, and academic success. These practical tips can help make the transition back to school feel more manageable.

1 START EARLY

Gradually reintroduce school-day sleep, meal, and wake-up routines around a week before term begins. In education settings, familiar routines and expectations can also be introduced from the start of term to help pupils settle back in. A gradual and predictable approach can make the transition feel less abrupt and give children and young people the time they need to readjust to the structure of school life.

2 REBUILD ROUTINES TOGETHER

Involve the children and young people in your care in the rebuilding of familiar routines at home and in education settings. Having a say in their daily schedule can increase predictability for them and give them a greater sense of control. This might include discussing morning routines at home or reviewing classroom timetables, expectations, and activities together at the beginning of the school day.

3 ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBILITY

Giving children and young people age-appropriate responsibilities can help foster their autonomy and engagement. For younger children at home, this might include getting dressed independently or checking their school bag. In education settings, children and young people could organise their learning materials, complete simple classroom tasks, or follow a familiar morning routine. These manageable responsibilities can help them feel more involved in the school day while developing useful skills.

4 RECONNECT WITH PEERS

Re-establishing friendships can help children and young people feel more confident and connected when they return to school. Families might arrange opportunities for their children to speak to or spend time with school friends, while educators can use group activities, 'buddy' systems, or collaborative tasks to help rebuild classroom connections.

5 SUPPORT HEALTHY NUTRITION

Regular, balanced meals, particularly at breakfast, are linked to improved concentration, behaviour, and academic outcomes. Families can gradually return to familiar school-day mealtimes, while education settings can reinforce healthy eating routines at the start of term and signpost breakfast provision where available. Consistent access to food can help support children and young people's energy levels and concentration throughout the day.

6 COMMUNICATE OPENLY

Talk to the children and young people in your care about how they feel about the return to school and give them the opportunity to share any worries or questions. Anxiety around going back to school, particularly when starting a new year group, can be common, and children and young people may benefit from your reassurance and support. Parents and educators can all help with this by listening calmly to concerns and questions, and sharing relevant information with one another where appropriate.

7 RECONNECT WITH LEARNING AND PEERS

Light educational activities before term begins can help children become familiar with learning routines again without creating any unnecessary pressure on them. In school, low-pressure recap activities and familiar tasks from the previous year group can serve a similar purpose during the first few days back. Keeping learning positive and achievable can help rebuild children's concentration, confidence, and academic motivation as they settle back into their usual routine.

8 PRIORITISE SLEEP

Ensure the children and young people in your care get age-appropriate sleep and begin returning to their usual bedtime habits before term starts. Reducing screen use before bedtime may also support better sleep quality. Educators can also be mindful that tiredness may temporarily affect children's concentration, behaviour, and emotional regulation as they readjust to school routines.

9 PREPARE AHEAD

Organising uniforms, bags, lunches, and other school essentials in advance can reduce unnecessary stress when school mornings begin again. Educators can also help by preparing pupils for any changes to classrooms, timetables, staff, or behaviour expectations. Giving children clear information about what to expect ahead of time can make the return feel more familiar and help build up their confidence and independence.

10 BE PATIENT AND FLEXIBLE

Children adjust to changes in their routines at different rates, so your patience and flexibility can be important during the first days and weeks back. Some may settle quickly, while others need longer to adapt to earlier mornings, classroom expectations, or busy schedules. Parents and educators can support children and young people's readjustment by maintaining consistent routines, all the while recognising that concentration, behaviour, or confidence may temporarily look different for them.

WELCOME BACK!

Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School, and a business development specialist for Minds Ahead, which works with schools to improve their mental health provision.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website