



'Respectful and resilient; being the best that we can be.'

Timothy Hackworth Primary School



Monday 28th September, 2026

Welcome to our Parent and Carer Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our information update for the Autumn Term. Please read carefully – there are lots of updates and dates for your diaries. We thank you for your support.



Dates for your Diary

This colour means a whole school event.

This colour means an event for (a) specific year group(s).

This colour means school holiday opening/closing dates and staff training days.

October Half-Term is Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October. We look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 2nd November.

Autumn Term 1

Monday 28th September – Phonics Meeting for Reception Parents – 3.45 p.m. – Small Building Hall

wb28.09.16 Harvest Food donations being received

Thursday 1st October – Mini Police – Y6

wb 05.10.26 Harvest Food donations being received

Friday 2nd October – OPAL Shop

Tuesday 6th October – OPAL Stay and Play – Please see times above

Friday 9th October – 50 Years Shildon Methodist Church Celebrations – Golden Years Flower Festival – 10.00 – 4.00 p.m.

Monday 12th October – Y6 Bikeability Week

Wednesday 14th October – New Starters to Reception September 2027 Open Event – 4.30 – 5.30 p.m.

Thursday 15th October – Y6 Parents – SATs and Robinwood Meeting – 5.00 p.m. – Downstairs Hall

Friday 16th October- Wear Red Day for Show Racism the Red Card

Friday 16th October – Y4 Bikeability

Monday 19th October – Y5 Bikeability

Monday 19th October – Y1 and Y2 – Storyteller Workshop – The Bible



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Monday 19th October – Y3 – Diwali Workshop

Thursday 22nd October – Fussy Eaters Workshop for Parents – 12.30 p.m. – Sign up and enjoy a free school lunch!

Thursday 22nd October- Gladiators Experience Day for Years 1-6

Saturday 31st October – Deadline for Y6 Secondary School Place Applications

Autumn Term 2

Monday 2nd November - New Starters to Reception September 2027 Open Event – 4.30 – 5.30 p.m.

Wednesday 4th November – Year 5 - STEM Skills Day - The Locomotion

Thursday 5th November – OPAL Sponsored Bounce Day

Tuesday 10th November – Friday 13th November – School Book Fair – Downstairs Hall

Monday 16th November – School Photographs – Sibling Photographs

Monday 23rd November – School Photographs – Individual Children

Wednesday 25th November – Y3 Christmas Pantomime – Rapunzel – Durham Gala Theatre – p.m.

Monday 7th December – Y4 – Storyteller – The Christmas Story

Monday 7th December – Y1 and Y2 – Storyteller – The Christmas Story

Monday 7th December – Reception Christmas Performance – 9.30 a.m.

Monday 7th December – 2s and Nursery Afternoon and 30 Hours Children – Christmas Performance – 2.30 p.m.

Tuesday 8th December – Y1/2T Christmas Performance – 9.15 – 10.15 a.m. – Downstairs Hall

Tuesday 8th December – Y1/2H Christmas Performance – 10.45 – 11.45 a.m. – Downstairs Hall

Tuesday 8th December – Y1/2S Christmas Performance – 2.15 – 3.15 p.m. – Downstairs Hall

Wednesday 9th December – Y3 Christmas Performance – Shildon Methodist Church – 10.00 – 11.00 a.m.

Wednesday 9th December – Y4 Christmas Performance – Shildon Methodist Church – 2.00 – 3.00 p.m.

Thursday 9th December – Y5 Christmas Performance – Shildon Methodist Church – 10.00 – 11.00 a.m.

Thursday 9th December – Y6 Christmas Performance – Shildon Methodist Church – 2.00 – 3.00 p.m.

Thursday 10th December – Choir at Civic Hall – Christmas Carol Service – 6.00 p.m.

Friday 11th December - 2s and Nursery Afternoon and 30 Hours Children – Christmas Performance – 11.00 a.m.

Friday 11th December – School Christmas Fair – 2.45 – 4.00 p.m.

Monday 21st December – Christmas Holidays begin



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Wednesday 6th January 2027 – Children return after Christmas Holidays



Harvest Donations

[CRC Article 17 – All children have the right to information.](#)

[CRC Article 29 – All children have the right to be the best that they can be.](#)

Thank you for your very kind Harvest donations. All items will be shared with the local community via St. John's Church. Donations still very welcome until Monday 12th October.

Parent Teacher Meetings

[CRC Article 28 – All children have the right to learn.](#)

[CRC Article 29 – All children have the right to be the best that they can be.](#)

Our Parent Teacher Meetings will be held week beginning Monday 19th October. Session times will be available soon for you to book.

These are very important meetings where information will be shared with you about your child's progress. Please make every effort to attend. We politely ask, where at all possible, if babies and toddlers do not attend. We look forward to seeing you!

School Holidays and Staff Training Days 2026-2027

Our School Holidays are available on our school website. They are also here for your information below:

Holiday	School will close at the end of the day on:	Date School Re-opens
Autumn Term 2026	Friday 23 rd October 2026	Monday 2 nd November 2026
Christmas 2026	Friday 18 th December 2026	Wednesday 6 th January 2027
Spring Half-Term 2027	Friday 12 th February 2027	Monday 22 nd February 2027
Easter 2027	Thursday 25 th March 2027	Monday 12 th April 2027
May Day 2027	Friday 30 th April 2027	Tuesday 4 th May 2027
May Half-Term 2027	Thursday 27 th May 2027	Monday 7 th June 2027
Summer Holidays 2027	Friday 16 th July 2027	Thursday 2 nd September 2027

Staff Training Days 2026-2027:

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Monday 4th January 2027

Tuesday 5th January 2027

Friday 28th May 2027

Monday 19th July 2027

Free School Meals Forms



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[CRC Article 29 – All children have the right to be the best that they can be.](#)

Please ensure that you have returned your Free School Meals form, even if you do not claim Free School Meals. School can apply for additional funding when these forms are returned. The Government have changed the way that Free School Meals are funded – please return your form to us as soon as possible. Thank you.

[OPAL Stay and Play](#)

[CRC Article 31 – All children have the right to play and rest.](#)

We look forward to you joining us on Tuesday 6th October for our OPAL Stay and Play:

11.15-11.45 – 2s and Nursery Morning and 30 Hours Children

2.00-2.30 – Reception, Y1, Y2 and Y3

2.45-3.15 – Y4, Y5 and Y6

We look forward to seeing you!



[Safeguarding and Road Safety](#)

[CRC Article 19 – All children have the right to be safe.](#)

Unfortunately, there is an increasing number of babies and toddlers being left in cars, unsupervised, by parents and carers, when dropping off and collecting older children from school. This is a serious safeguarding issue and incredibly worrying. Any such incidents will continue to be reported to Children's Services. Please do not leave babies and toddlers unattended in any vehicle.

Mrs. Simpson, our Road Safety Crossing Patrol, is not always able to help you and your children cross the road safely due to cars parked on the yellow lines and across the cones. This is not safe for anyone. Please show respect by not parking on the yellow lines, or in front of the cones. We must all work together to make crossing the roads safe for everyone. Thank you for your support with this.



[No Pyjamas Please!](#)

[CRC Article 29 – All children have the right to be the best that they can be.](#)

An increasing amount of parents and carers are wearing pyjamas and dressing gowns to drop off children at school. We politely request that you do not wear pyjamas or dressing gowns when dropping your child off at school. This is not appropriate clothing to wear when dropping off at school. It is important that we set an expected standard to all of the children.



[Helping your child to stay safe online – Useful Videos](#)



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CRC Article 19 – All children have the right to be safe.

These videos provide a quick overview on establishing family tech rules and tips on how to use AI.

https://player.vimeo.com/video/1217983810?badge=0&autoplay=0&player_id=0&app_id=58479

<https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/09-2026-Back-to-school-and-AI-Sept-2026.mp4>



School Uniform

CRC Article 29 – All children have the right to be the best that they can be.

We have a lot of school uniform in Lost Property. Lost Property will shortly be disposed of as we are unable to keep this large amount of unwanted clothing in school.

Please remember to label all uniform items with your child's name. Most of our lost property is not named. Thank you.

Please remember to send your child to school in full school uniform. Earrings and trainers are not part of school uniform.



Attendance

CRC Article 28 – All children have the right to learn.

Your child's attendance at school is very important. It is therefore crucial that children attend school every day so that they have their right to learn.

It is a parent's responsibility to ensure that children attend school on time, every day. As a school, we expect 100% attendance.

Please be aware that your child's progress and ability to meet their educational targets will be severely compromised if they have poor attendance.



Punctuality

CRC Article 28 – All children have the right to learn.

It is a parent's responsibility to ensure that children attend school on time, every day.

Any child arriving late to school will need to wait with their family member until staff are available to take their child to class.

We are a very busy school and do not have members of staff who are able to take latecomers to class as they arrive late. Taking children to class who arrive late to school takes a lot of staff time, and takes them away from their important jobs in school.



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Families arriving late will be expected to wait until a staff member becomes available to help. Please therefore ensure that your child arrives on time to school each day. We thank you for your support with this.



Christmas Performances 2026

CRC Article 29 – All children have the right to be the best that they can be.

It is that time of year again!

Please see Christmas Performance times below for your information:

Monday 7th December

Reception – 9.30 a.m.

2s and Nursery Afternoon and 30 Hours Children – 2.30 – 3.00 p.m.

Tuesday 8th December

Y1/2T – 9.15 – 10.15 a.m.

Y1/2H – 10.45 – 11.45 a.m.

Y1/2S – 2.15 – 3.15 p.m.

Wednesday 9th December

Y3 – 10.00 – 11.00 a.m. – Shildon Methodist Church

Y4 – 2.00 – 3.00 p.m. – Shildon Methodist Church

Thursday 10th December

Y5 – 10.00 – 11.00 a.m. – Shildon Methodist Church

Y6 – 2.00 – 3.00 p.m. – Shildon Methodist Church

Friday 11th December

2s and Nursery Morning and 30 Hours Children – 11.00 – 11.30 a.m.



Parent and Toddler Group

CRC Article 31 – All children have the right to play and rest.

CRC Article 29 – All children have the right to be the best that they can be.

Come along to our Parent and Toddler Group every Tuesday morning, 9.00-11.00 a.m. Mrs. Nixon and Catherine Hunter from the NHS will welcome you with a cuppa, any advice that you require and time for a chat. Everyone welcome!

If you have any questions that you would like to ask us, please contact our School Office on 01388 772959 where Mrs. Doughty and Mrs. Heslop will be pleased to help you, or, alternatively, you can send us an email to timothyhackworth@durhamlearning.net

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Boulton

Mrs. Simpson-May



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Head Teacher

Deputy Head Teacher