



West Park Academy

Date: May 2026

Summer Term 1

Well that was a very short, jam-packed term! As we move into Summer 2, we look forward to welcoming you in for sporting events, Summer Fayre and showcasing our summer learning. We are hopeful that the lovely weather remains, (even though the half term looks like a return of wet and windy conditions), to enable us to maximise outdoor learning and activity. We would like to thank you for bringing your children into school on time, smart and ready to learn. Have a lovely half-term break and see you all at **8:45am on Monday 1st June 2026.**

STEM WEEK: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) week commences **29th June 2026.** This year's STEM week is a little different. The focus will be learning outdoors. The staff will all work in teams to provide lessons in STEM subjects for both older and younger children. The week will be full of fun and exciting sessions throughout the week.

LOST Property: Each day we find we have quite a lot of sweatshirts/jumpers/cardigans/coats/shoes/hats that are left in the playground/field or outside classrooms. All named items can be returned to the rightful owner. We have so many **unnamed** items, which end up unclaimed. Please can you ensure **ALL** items are clearly named. These items will be kept till the end of each school term only. Please take a look in the red box outside the school office or on the pegs at the side of the playground and retrieve anything that belongs to your child. All unclaimed items will then be given to charity or the Uniform Scheme Shop, Feethams, Darlington. (Back of Boyes near the Multi-storey Carpark).

Bags to School was also a success with lots of bags, the total weight was 160kg, making £32.00 towards school funds. Once again thank you.

Forthcoming Events:		
Wed 3rd June	5:00 PM	New Reception Starters Meeting
Fri 5th June	All Day	ECO Day - Wear something Green
Wed 17th June	All Day	Yr3 Education Visit - High Force
Wed 24th June	2:15 PM	Yr2 Sports Day - Parents invited
Wed 24th,25th & 26th June	All Day	Secondary school transition days - check website for information
Thurs 25th & Fri 26th June	All Day	WPA Transition Days
Tues 30th June	2:15 PM	Yr5 Sports Day - Parents invited
Tues 30th June	All Day	Yr1 Education Visit - Saltburn
Wed 1st July	2:15 PM	Yr4 Sports Day - Parents invited
Fri 3rd July	2:15 PM	Reception Sports Day - Parents invited
Tues 7th July	2:15 PM	Yr1 Sports Day - Parents invited
Wed 8th July	All Day	Yr6 Bike ride to Archers
Wed 8th July	1:30 PM	Nursery Graduation
Wed 8th July	2:30 PM	Summer Fayre
Thurs 9th July	2:15 PM	Yr3 Sports Day - Parents invited
Fri 10th July	2:15 PM	Yr6 Sports Day - Parents invited
Mon 13th July		School Reports home to parents
Mon 13th July	2PM & 7PM	Oliver with a Twist – D'ton Community Theatre - Ticket info to follow
Mon 13th July	All Day	KS1 School Games Day - No parents
Tues 14th July	All Day	KS2 School Games Day - No parents
Tues 14th July	2PM & 7PM	Oliver with a Twist - D'ton Community Theatre - Ticket info to follow
Wed 15th July	1:30 PM	Whole School Colour Run
Thur 16th July	TBC	Leavers performance
Fri 17th July	3:30 PM	Final Day - Closes for Summer holidays
1st & 2nd Sept	Both Days	School closed - Training Day
Thurs 3rd Sept	8:45 AM	School Re-opens New Term Starts

Sports Days: The gates will be opening at 2:00pm to allow parents/spectators to buy refreshments before watching the children in their races.

Changes to Free School Meals:

Since 2018, some children have received Free School Meals under 'transitional protection'. This meant that once a child became eligible, they could continue to receive free school meals even if their family circumstances changed. This protection will end at the end of current academic year (July 2026).

Parents/Carers currently in receipt of FSM funding:

From September 2026:

- Free School Meal eligibility will be based on your current circumstances
- Your child's eligibility will need to be checked and confirmed
- If your child no longer meets the criteria, their entitlement may end

Who will still qualify?

- All families receiving Universal Credit will be eligible for Free School Meals

This means some families who were not previously eligible may now qualify.

We ask all parents/carers to:

- Apply or reapply for Free School Meals where you are in receipt of Universal Credit - via form from school
- Ensure your details are up to date with school
- Even if your child currently receives FSM it is important to check your eligibility

Parents/Carers not currently in receipt of FSM funding:

What is changing:

The Government has announced that all children in households receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to Free School Meals, regardless of income level.

If you receive Universal Credit:

- Your child will be eligible for free school meals
- You could save around £400-£500 per year per child

Important: you still need to apply!

Even though eligibility is expanding you must still register so we can:

- Confirm your child's entitlement
- Ensure the school receives additional funding

Why applying is important (even if your child brings packed lunches)

Registering for FSM can help the school access extra government funding (Pupil Premium) which we use to support pupils through:

- Additional teaching support
- Trips and enrichment activities
- Learning resources

What you need to do now:

- Complete a Free School Meals Entitlement Verification Check, even though you may have just completed a FSM form, we need every parent/carer in receipt of Universal Credit to complete a new form.

Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

Contact the school office on 01325 380792 if you have any queries.

Summer Fayre will take place on **Wednesday 8th July 2026** at **2:30pm**, there will be lots of stalls and exciting fun activities. There will be more information nearer the time.

School Uniform: We want everyone to feel a part of the Academy and wearing uniform is a big part of our identity.

- Grey or black trousers, pinafore or skirt
- Yellow or purple polo shirt
- Green sweatshirt or cardigan
- Flat shoes, preferably black

In summer, grey shorts may be worn, or a green, yellow or purple gingham dress.

Each child also needs: A school reading folder/small bag.

PE Kit Requirements: PE is a compulsory subject in school. Please provide your child with a sensible PE kit. This kit should be in school colours and not branded. The only logo permitted will be the WPA badge, children will be loaned a spare school PE kit if not adhered to.

PE Kit must consist of:

- Yellow/purple or plain white t-shirt
- Black/green shorts
- Plimsolls
- Trainers
- Green or black bottoms, school sweatshirt for outdoor use for the cold weather

Jewellery: We welcome your co-operation with this matter. If you insist on your child wearing earrings, only 'stud' type earrings will be allowed. Our policy is no jewellery to be worn for PE which means earrings must be removed for PE and swimming lessons. Child are allowed to wear a watch but not a smart watch due to safeguarding.

2 Year Old Nursery: We are progressing well with our 2 year old provision and have been successful in acquiring planning permission and DFE funding. We are hoping to open in September in temporary accommodation with limited capacity, with the hope to be in the new building by January. We will keep you posted.

West Park Academy returns to school on Monday 1st June 2026, please ensure your child is in school and lined up ready for the bell to sound at 8:45am.