

Date: Sept 2026

Autumn Term 1

Welcome back to school to all children and staff especially all new starters. The morning bell rings at 8:45am, all children need to be in class for registration at this time. Collection time is at 3:30pm - this is for all children.

Reception Phonics, Reading and Maths Information Session will take place on **Wednesday 30th September 2026** at **5:00pm–6:00pm** in the school hall.

Mental Health Awareness Day: Friday 9th October 2026. For a donation children may come to school wearing own clothes in 'Colours that Make them Happy'. Donations raised will go to The Listening Post.

Reception Open Event: We are holding an Open Event for prospective parents for children starting Reception in September 2027. This will be on **Wednesday 14th October 2026** at **4:00pm - 5:30pm**.

Harvest Festival we will be having a collection of food goods such as: tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, tinned fish, cereals, tinned meat, rice and UHT milk. This will be collected by King's Food Bank on the morning of **Friday 16th October 2026**. Many thanks in advance.



Nasal Flu Vaccinations. As part of the NHS National Immunisation schedule, we are offering the nasal flu vaccine in school on **Monday 2nd November 2026**. There will be information sent out via email to parents once we receive it **from the NHS** with how to give consent. Consent is via NHS not West Park Academy.

Parents Consultation will take place **3rd and 4th November 2026**, there will be more information to follow shortly.

Individual School Photographs will be taken on **Monday 23rd November 2026**. If your child has siblings who **do not** attend West Park Academy, they may come into school from 8.30am onwards, a ticket will be given on arrival for a place in the queue. **All** children who attend West Park Academy will have their photographs taken throughout the school day.



Forthcoming Events:		
Tues 29th Sept	AM	Yr2 Education Visit - Acorn Dairy
Tues 29th Sept	AM	Y4 C8 Library and Town Trail
Wed 30th Sept	AM	Rec Hippodrome - Gruffalo
Wed 30th Sept	5:00PM	Reception Phonics Reading & Maths Information Session
Thurs 1st Oct	All Day	Yr6 Ed Visit – Hamsterley Forrest
Tues 6th Oct	All Day	Yr5 Education Visit - Jarrow Hall
Fri 9th Oct	All Day	Mental Health Awareness Day – Wear a Colour for happiness
Wed 14th Oct	4:00PM - 5:30PM	Reception Open Evening - Drop in Session Sept 2027 starters
Fri 16th Oct	All Day	Kings Food Bank collection
Wed 21st Oct	3:30PM	School closes for half term
Thurs 22nd Oct	All Day	Training Day - School closed
Fri 23rd Oct	All Day	Training Day - School closed
Mon 27th Oct	All Week	School Closed for Half Term
Mon 2nd Nov	8:45 AM	School re-opens
Mon 2nd Nov	All Day	Pupil Flu Vaccinations
Mon 2nd Nov	AM	Yr5 Theatre Production in school
Tues 3rd & Wed 4th Nov	PM	Parents Consultation - Information to follow
Date TBA	All Day	Rec - Yr6 children Nasal Flu Vaccination
Mon 23rd Nov	All day	Individual Photos
Tues 24th Nov	AM	Rec and Yr 6 children Height & Weight Check
Thurs 26th Nov	PM	Christmas Fayre
Wed 2nd Dec	Lunchtime	Christmas Dinner - Info to follow

Future Events: Before the end of the Autumn 2 term there will be various Christmas activities. Leading up to Christmas we will be asking for Hamper donations. Raffle tickets will then go on sale for Christmas Hampers. Keep checking the school website: www.westparkacademy.org.uk

Contact Details: If you have moved address, had a change of telephone number or need to update emergency contact details you can now update your information on Arbor.

For up to date information you can look on the school website: www.westparkacademy.org.uk and click on 'Key Info' for news & events throughout the school year. For individual class curriculums, click on 'Curriculum'. Our website is regularly updated, why not have a look. We are also on Facebook, Twitter and information is also updated on Class Dojo.



Meal Pattern: If you would like to make a change to your child's current meal pattern: i.e changing from Packed Lunch to School Meal or vice versa then please inform the school office.

Nut Allergy: Just to make you aware that we do have children with nut allergies in school. Please be mindful when sending food into school, this includes products such as Chocolate nut spread and food stuffs that do not seemingly contain nuts. Children do not have to eat these products to have a severe reaction.

PE Kit Requirements: PE is a compulsory subject in school and children need to be provided with an appropriate PE kit. This kit should be in the school colours, see below – **NO** football kits allowed.



The kit consists of the following items:

- Plain yellow/purple or white t-shirt
- Black/green shorts
- Trainers (outdoor)
- Jogging bottoms/sweatshirt for outdoor use and for the cold weather. Children to wear plain or black sweatshirt

PE days may change to fit in with the needs of the school, therefore it is important that your child has appropriate PE kit in school with them **every day** to ensure that PE can be taught consistently and in line with the National Curriculum.

Breakfast Club: Breakfast Club runs each morning starting at 8:00am, the doors will close at 8:30am. The daily cost is £3.00. Your child can enjoy toast, cereals, fruit and a drink. Please remember to book your place on **Arbor**.



AWARDS:

Heritage Schools Awards: We are delighted to share that West Park Academy has successfully achieved the Heritage Schools Award. This award recognises schools that place local heritage at the heart of learning and help children understand who we are, where we have come from and how the history of our local area has shaped the community we live in today. Our submission was praised for the way we use Darlington's rich local history to bring learning to life and to help pupils develop a strong sense of pride and belonging. From our Museum in the Classroom project and work with local artefacts, maps and census records, to learning about significant local people and events, our children are encouraged to make meaningful links between their own community and wider national history. The assessor particularly highlighted the way we teach national events through a local lens, including the Roman period, the World Wars and the Great Fire of Darlington alongside the Great Fire of London. Our cross-curricular links with subjects such as art and geography were also praised. The feedback described our submission as "truly fantastic" and said that "pride and belonging come through this submission so strongly." We are incredibly proud that our history curriculum helps children understand the story of our school and our town, recognise the significance of the place they live, and feel proud of the heritage they are part of.

Eco-Schools Green Flag Award:

We are delighted to also share that West Park Academy has again been awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award this time with Distinction. This fantastic achievement recognises the work of our Eco Ambassadors, who are helping to drive positive change across the school. We were especially proud of our success in the Global Citizen category, supported by the content of our amazing curriculum, which helps pupils understand their role in caring for the planet and making a difference to the wider world.

Lost Property: We have so much Lost Property already! Lost items can be found in the red box at the front of the school and the hooks near the playground gates. Please help us by **clearly labelling all** clothing. Children are responsible for their coats, jumpers, cardigans etc. At the end of play/lunchtime all items are returned to the child, this can **only** happen if the clothes are clearly labelled.