



Explore, Learn and Grow Together

Brewery Road
Wooler
Northumberland
NE71 6QF
Friday 24th May 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the summer half term break next week I am writing to update you with news for our schools. There continues to be an awful lot going on across our nursery, first and middle schools with all the usual learning, curriculum and extra-curricular activities taking place. The second half of the summer term is always very busy with usual lessons, academic assessments, trips, visits, sports events, transition and end of year activities. Alongside all of this we are also managing the coming changes to our schools and wider partnership – which is very challenging for all involved. Parents and carers of Glendale pupils please take particular note of the information regarding industrial action being planned by teaching unions in June concerning consultation on these changes, school closures and potential staff redundancies. I anticipate that this action will impact our school along with the other two middle schools affected in Berwick. On other Glendale news I was hoping to be able to share the inspection outcome report from OFSTEd with this letter but we are still waiting for the final report to be published (it should be any day now). We have seen the draft and we are looking forward to be able to share this with everyone very soon.

Staffing

We have some staffing changes here in school next half term. Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to Emma in the office as she is moving to take up a new position in the administration team at The Duchess's Community High School. She has been a fantastic member of the team, keeping the administration of the school running smoothly. She will be much missed here and we wish her all the very best in her new role. We are also saying goodbye (for a while) to Mrs Milner at Glendale who is starting her maternity leave today – we will update further when the baby arrives 😊. Next half term her role will be taken up by Miss Agar who will also become Year 5 form tutor. Miss Agar is a well know face here at school as she has been working across our schools for post-covid catch up lessons and also undertaking supply cover. I will be teaching Yr8 geography and Miss Clarke will be joining us on Thursdays teaching PE alongside Mr Marklew. We will also be welcoming back Mrs Moscrop to WFS in late June as she returns from her maternity leave. She will be focusing on SEND and transition work for the last few weeks of the school year before returning to classroom duties in the autumn.

Uniform

I am really pleased to report that observance of our uniform policy is very good at our schools. I have however noted a few children coming into both Wooler First and Glendale Middle in trainers and some (mostly at Glendale) wearing sports shorts/leggings or very short skirts. We have also had some conversations with children about having their hair tied back for school, piercings and false nails!! My colleagues and I will continue to have high expectations for all pupils regarding uniform and presentation at school. All children also need to have their full P.E. kit in school for their P.E. lessons including sun protection. Regarding piercings a reminder that should you be considering allowing your child to have piercings this should be done right at the start of the summer holiday to allow them to heal and the piercings to be removed for school for the start of the new academic year in September.

Berwick Partnership Changes

As previously shared the change from a 3-tier educational system to a 2-tier system for all schools in the Berwick Partnership is now becoming a reality. As with any changes this brings challenges and opportunities – on a personal note it also brings sadness that the middle school that I love and has served our community so well for decades will not be here in a few years' time. This means that our schools will change significantly over the next two and half years. The change of system means that the 3 middle schools; Glendale Middle, Berwick Middle & Tweedmouth Middle will all close in August 2026 and the First Schools across the partnership will expand to become primary schools across 2025 and 2026. Berwick Academy will also expand to become a secondary school from September 2026 (in a new building). The local authority has now appointed project leads and architects to work on how school

buildings will need to be changed to accommodate the change in system (expansion of First Schools to accommodate Year 5 & Year 6 and a new building for Berwick Academy as it expands to accommodate Year 7 & Year 8 as a secondary school from September 2026). Extensive work is also underway looking at how the changes will impact on people working across the schools in the partnership – particularly colleagues at risk in the 3 middle schools. Work has also commenced to review the curriculum in response to these coming changes. The local authority has stated that the primary school here in Wooler will be a 1 form entry school. This means we are planning for having a single class in each year group across the school. Below I have attempted to summarise the key aspects of the changes:

Timeline for change:

2023-2024 academic year – no changes across our schools this year (September 2023 to July 2024)

2024-2025 academic year – no changes across our schools next year (September 2024 to July 2025)

2025-2026 academic year – changes start to happen as First Schools across the partnership will retain their Year 4 children as they move up to be in Year 5 in September 2025. The 3 middle schools will not admit any Year 5 pupils in September 2025 and will operate with children in Year 6, Year 7 and Year 8 only.

2026-2027 academic year – First Schools across the partnership will retain their Year 5 children as they move up to be in Year 6 in September 2026. The 3 middle schools close in July 2026 and all children across the 3 middle schools in the partnership will transfer to become Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 at secondary school in September 2026.

This means that our current Year 3 cohort will be the group who will stay at Wooler First School through to Year 6 before moving to secondary school in September 2027. All year groups below our current Year 3 will be part of the primary school in Wooler. The year groups above the current Year 4 will continue to progress through Glendale Middle school transferring to high/secondary school as they currently do. The exception to this will be the Yr6 to Yr8 groups in the 2025-2026 academic year as with Glendale closing they will all transition together into secondary school in September 2026.

Industrial Action – Glendale Middle School

I have received notification from the National Education Union and NASUWT Teaching Union this week informing me of planned teacher industrial action in June. This is in response to concerns regarding the consultation on the changes from 3-tier to 2-tier, school closures and potential staff redundancies. My colleagues at Glendale are indicating that they will be participating in this action which will likely result in disruption and partial or full closure of Glendale Middle School on the following dates:

Thursday 6th June – Partial closure of the school. Open to Year 5 & Year 6 but closed to Year 7 & 8.

Tuesday 11th June – Partial closure of the school. Open to Year 7 only for their climbing trip to Newcastle.

Thursday 13th June – Partial closure of the school. Open to Year 5 only for their climbing trip to Newcastle.

Tuesday 18th June – School closed to all year groups.

Wednesday 19th June – School closed to all year groups.

Thursday 20th June – Partial closure of the school. Open to Year 5 & Year 6 only but closed to Year 7 & Year 8.

I have noted above against each day what will likely be the impact and what we will be able to do regarding keeping the school open/partly open. I will update further in due course regarding what will be happening here at school as soon as I can. **This dispute only concerns Glendale Middle School – Wooler First School and Little Acorns Nursery will not be affected.** Hopefully the Unions and Local Authority will continue to talk and reach a negotiated settlement meaning the strike action can be called off. We have some trips arranged for some of the days affected but I am working to ensure that those activities will still go ahead.

If you have any questions regarding the above please contact me here in school. I intend to update further at the start of next half term if there are any changes to the plans noted above.

M.Deane-Hall
Executive Headteacher

Summer 2 dates: Start of Summer 2 – Monday 3rd June.

Monday 3rd June – GMS Yr7 Edinburgh day trip.

Tuesday 4th June – WFS Sean Simpson memorial football at Belford (Yr4 am) & GMS Yr5 rivers sessions (in school).

Wednesday 5th June – WFS 5YO dental survey (am), GMS Yr5 rivers session day trip at River Beamish & GMS Area Athletics at Berwick Middle.

Thursday 6th June – WFS countryside Day at Wooler Show field.

Friday 7th June – WFS Annual sponsored walk & joint WFS/GMS non-uniform (raffle prizes for summer fair).

Monday 10th June – GMS Yr8 coastering day trip & WFS phonics screening check week.

Tuesday 11th June – GMS Yr7 rock climbing day trip.

Wednesday 12th June – GMS Yr5 paddle boarding day trip & Inter-area athletics.

Thursday 13th June – GMS Yr5 climbing day trip.

Monday 17th June – GMS Yr6 York residential information meeting 5:30 to 6:30pm.

Tuesday 18th June – GMS KS3 Area Cricket at BMS.

Thursday 20th June – Dogs Trust follow up for KS2

Friday 21st June – GMS Yr6 Beamish day trip.

Monday 24th June – WFS Sports Day (9:15 to 11:15am).

Tuesday 25th June – WFS Yr4 Lifepath visit to Brinkburn Priory. GMS Yr5/6 interarea cricket (t.b.c.)

Wednesday 26th June – Joint Summer Fayre (1 to 3pm).

Thursday 27th June – GMS Sports Day (pm).

Friday 28th June – Alnwick Playhouse Concert Band visit. (Quiz night in aid of Canine Partners t.b.c.).

Saturday 29th June – GMS County Athletics Finals at Gateshead Stadium.

Monday 1st July – WFS Yr3 Pizza/park Trip, GMS Yr6 York residential (Mon – Fri) &

Tuesday 2nd July – GMS Area Rounders at BMS (Yr5, 7 & 8).

Wednesday 3rd July – WFS Yr4 The Big Sing trip to The Glasshouse Centre for Music. DCHS transition day. GMS KS3 Cumbria residential (Wed – Fri).

Monday 8th July – Nursery Maltings theatre trip (am) & GMS Yr6 paddle boarding day trip.

Tuesday 9th July – WFS Yr3 & 4 skipping festival in Berwick, & GMS Y8 climbing day trip.

Wednesday 10th July – WFS Cherry Class Alnwick Castle visit, Maple Class trip to Fox Lake. GMS Yr7 Coastering day trip.

Thursday 11th July – GMS Yr8 extra transition day to BA, Yr7 Edinburgh visit (t.b.c.), Yr6 climbing day trip & Yr5 Shang Dynasty workshop.

Friday 12th July – Berwick Partnership transition day.

Monday 15th July – GMS French Café (9:30am to 12noon).

Tuesday 16th July – WFS Yr4 Leaver's Assembly (9:15am).

Wednesday 17th July – WFS Ash Freestyle Football visit (t.b.c.), GMS Yr8 Cheviot Challenge and Leavers BBQ (evening).

Thursday 18th July – GMS Presentation Assembly (2pm).

Friday 19th July – GMS Leaver's assembly (2pm).

Safeguarding

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We are committed to safeguarding and have a culture of 'it could happen here' in all aspects of safeguarding and child protection. **Any of our staff can listen and act appropriately on your concerns.** We have specially trained safeguarding leads in our schools - these are our safeguarding team.

Our safeguarding team



Mike Deane-Hall
Headteacher and
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead (DSL)



Victoria Symons
Deputy
Headteacher and
Deputy DSL



Geoff Tong
Deputy
Headteacher and
Deputy DSL



Jennie Dunn
SENDCo and
Deputy DSL



Rachel Moscrop
SENDCo and
Deputy DSL



Sarah Milner
Designated
Teacher for LAC
and Deputy DSL

If you are worried about a child you can:

- Contact our safeguarding team via the usual school contact channels including our main phone number 01668 281 470
- Talk to the local safeguarding team 01670 622 720 or One Call, the Local Authority's single point of access on 01670 536400
- If you believe a child is in immediate danger you should call 999 and report your concern immediately to the police.

More information and our policy on safeguarding and child protection can be found on our website.

The following organisations websites can also provide information and their helplines can listen if you have concerns:

- NSPCC 0800 800 500
- CEOP
- Childline 0800 1111