

Larkspur Autumn News 2025



Larkspur

Community Primary School

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Headteacher Highlights



I hope this newsletter finds you all well as we continue through what has been a wonderful autumn term.

A Great Start Back

We've had a fantastic start to the academic year, with our children settling back into school life brilliantly. The energy and enthusiasm in classrooms has been wonderful to see, and I'm incredibly proud of how our children have approached their learning.

Welcome to Miss Conway

I'm delighted to share that Miss Conway has joined our leadership team this term. She has already made a positive impact on our school, bringing fresh ideas and dedication to her role. The children and staff have welcomed her warmly, and we're excited to have her expertise as part of our team.

Thank You for Your Support with Attendance

A huge thank you to all parents and carers who have been supporting us with our drive to improve attendance and ensure children arrive at school on time. Your efforts are making a real difference. Regular attendance and punctuality are crucial for your child's learning and development, and we're grateful for your continued partnership in this important area.

Parent Consultation Meetings

Our Autumn Term Parent Consultation Meetings, which will take place week commencing 20th October 2025, are now available to book on the Arbor App or Arbor Parent Portal. Staff are very much looking forward to updating you on how well the children are progressing in school. **On Wednesday 22nd October there are face to face appointments in school from 3.20pm – 6pm.** Alternatively, there is also the opportunity to book a **telephone appointment between 1pm and 4pm** that week. We hope by offering both options it gives all parents and carers flexibility. Please book as soon as possible and contact Mrs Shuker in the office if you require assistance.

Farewell to Mr Curry

Recently, we said goodbye to Mr Curry. Whilst it was sad to see him leave, we wish him all the very best in his future endeavours and thank him for his contributions to our school community.

Exciting News: Welcome Mr Rankin

I'm thrilled to announce that on 1st November, we'll be welcoming Mr Rankin as our new site manager. Having not had a site manager since January, we are very excited to have him join our team. Mr Rankin will play a vital role in maintaining our school environment and ensuring everything runs smoothly behind the scenes.

Congratulations to Our New Head Girl and Head Boy

Huge congratulations to Enya, our new Head Girl, and Rilley, our new Head Boy! Both presented exceptionally well during the selection process and were voted in by our school community. We're incredibly proud of them both and look forward to seeing them represent our school with pride and enthusiasm throughout the year.

Parent Governor Vacancies

We are pleased to have appointed two new parent governors to join us at Larkspur. This is a wonderful opportunity to support our school and contribute to the strategic direction of our community.

A Special Visit from Our Local MP

It was a real pleasure to host Mark Ferguson MP into school recently. He joined us for assembly, enjoyed a tour of our school, and met with staff and our school council. It was wonderful to share the fantastic work happening at Larkspur with him, and our pupils were brilliant ambassadors for our school.

Thank you all for your continued support. Together, we're making Larkspur Community Primary School the best it can be for our children.



Larkspur Highlights



Macmillan Coffee Morning Success

What a wonderful morning we had at our Macmillan Coffee Morning! Thank you to everyone who joined us for this special event and for all the generous donations we received. It was lovely to see so many of you come together as a community, enjoying delicious cakes and good company for such an important cause. Together, with our cake sale, we raised an amazing £130 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Your support truly makes a difference!

Harvest Cereal Box Domino Challenge

Thank you very much to everyone who donated a box of cereal to enable us to take part in Gateshead Food Bank's Harvest Cereal Box Domino Challenge. Not only was it great fun watching the huge domino chain around our hall, you donated over 75 boxes of cereal to a very worth cause.

The Gateshead Food Bank were thrilled and sent us this message:

"We wanted to send our heartfelt thanks to you and your students for taking part in our recent challenge to raise donations for the food bank. Your enthusiasm, generosity, and community spirit have truly made a difference.

Thanks to everyone's efforts, we're able to provide essential food and support to more local families who need it most. Every item and every pound raised helps us continue our work, and we couldn't do it without the kindness of people like you."

Early Years



The children in our Early Years classrooms have all settled in extremely well and have been a pleasure to teach!

Our new dedicated area, for our youngest children, is proving a great success. They are enjoying exploring their new environment and building strong relationships with their keyworkers.

Children in the Nursery and Reception class have been learning all about autumn. We have made autumn crafts, looked for signs of autumn outdoors and read autumn stories such as *Rosie's Walk*.

The Reception children have loved joining in with our Drawing Club sessions. They have been developing their fine motor skills and producing some fantastic drawings based on our text of the week. They are even starting to apply what they have learned in their phonics sessions to write their magic codes!

Key Stage One

What a start to the year! It has been so busy with children in Year 1 and 2 completing some fabulous work. It is always a challenge for pupils to move from Early Years into Year 1 but we are so proud of every child for being *ready, respectful and resilient* during this transition.

In English, the class have been studying the text *Old Bear* by Jane Hissey, they have been completing re-counts of the story gaining a thorough understanding of the characters and plot. The children have also created some lovely pictures demonstrating their understanding of the story's setting.

In maths, we have been concentrating on forming numbers correctly and have started to explore numbers up to 100. Children have also been comparing different amounts and learning some new 2D shapes. We encourage children to practice counting at home as much as possible.

In History, our focus has been the Great Fires of Gateshead and Newcastle and London. Children can recall lots of facts about this period of time. In Geography, we have focused on the location of the school and where they live. Children were very excited to spot their house on Google Maps!

Friday enrichment afternoons have been a blast. Children have enjoyed baking, time in forest school and even learning how to do some basic first aid.

Remember PE kits should be worn on our PE days which are Mondays and Tuesdays, as well as for Enrichment on Fridays. Earrings should not be worn in school please for safety reasons.

Reading books and any homework will be handed out on a Fridays to be returned by the next Wednesday. Please ensure you add a comment to your child's reading journal when you have read with them.





Here is a picture of year 2 working on their maths and baking skills during enrichment afternoon.



We are so proud of our Year 1 and 2 pupils who represented us at the KS1 Athletics Festival. If your child did not attend this time there will be many more opportunities for them to attend events in the future.

Key Stage Two



Year 6

Year 6 have had a great start to this academic year! The children have returned to school showing that they are READY to learn and READY for the year ahead. During Writing, they have enjoyed immersing themselves in the story of 'Rose Blanche' and after carrying out lots of work around this text, they each completed an excellent diary entry, stepping into the main character of the text. In addition, they have recently finished their first P.E unit; further developing their basketball skills. The children worked on their attacking and defending, as well as perfecting their shooting skills, before applying these skills to a competitive game. They certainly have some amazing basketball players within the class! Year 6 are glad to see Enrichment Fridays back and this half-term they have enjoyed working with New Writing North and football coaches: Dan and Henry.

Year 5

What a brilliant start to the year it's been for Year 5! The children have settled wonderfully into their new class routines and have shown fantastic focus and enthusiasm in all areas of their learning. In English, they have been exploring the theme of space through the inspiring book "*When We Walked on the Moon.*" After completing their own exploration narratives, they are now hard at work writing Formal Mission Logs, using their imagination and growing confidence as writers to bring their work to life.

In Maths, the focus has been on Decimals. The children have enjoyed plenty of hands-on learning, using practical equipment and group activities to strengthen their understanding. Their teamwork and problem-solving skills have really shone through!

PE has been a real highlight this half term. Year 5 have completed a fantastic basketball unit, developing their passing, dribbling, shooting, and defending skills. They are now switching sports and taking on the challenge of badminton, learning new techniques and showing excellent coordination and sportsmanship.

It's been a busy and exciting few weeks in Year 5 — full of hard work, creativity and fun. We're incredibly proud of the effort and enthusiasm every child has shown so far!

Year 4

The children have made an excellent start to the year. They have loved the book we have focused on in English '*The Whale*' which has seen them write an amazing setting narrative and now newspaper reports about the sighting of a sea creature in our local area.

In Maths they have been practicing their addition and subtraction skills using the column method which they have become very efficient in.

The class have found the start of our Geography topic (Where are earthquakes and volcanoes most likely to happen?) and History (Children during World War 2) extremely interesting. They have taken part in lessons with enthusiasm, asked many questions and are eager to learn more.

In PE they have enjoyed building their skills in basketball and as part of World Mental Health Day thought of strategies to help their own mental health.

It's been a fantastic start to the year... keep up the great work year 4!

Year 3

We have really enjoyed returning to school for this Autumn term. The children have been amazing by already showing that they are not only ready to learn but they have shown respect with excellent manners and a determination to keep on trying and not give up.

In English we have been exploring the fantastic book *The Iron Man*. They wrote their own stories about the Iron Man approaching and how the characters felt about this. Now they are moving on to designing and giving instructions on how to trap The Iron Man.

In Maths we have been learning about numbers beyond 100. We have used dienes, place value charts and learnt different ways to add and subtract numbers to 100.

The children have a great enthusiasm for art, looking at prehistoric art, making their own animal sketches and experimenting with natural objects such as leaves, grass twigs and berries to make different colours.

Our focus in PE has been on basic skills. We have been reviewing techniques of balancing, jumping, running and ball skills. This will enable us to move on to other skills through the year.

Well done Year 3 for a great start.



INSET and Occasional Days

School will be closed to pupils on Monday 1st December and Friday 13th February.

After the 2 week Christmas holiday, children will return on Monday 5th January 2026.

A full list of school holidays is available on our website - [holiday calendar](#)

Please avoid taking holidays in term time. **Holidays will not be authorised and may incur a penalty notice of £160 per parent per child from the Local Authority.** Please note from autumn term 2024, only 2 Penalty Notices can be issued to the same parent in respect of the same child within a 3 year rolling period and any second notice within that period is charged at a higher rate. A third Penalty Notice cannot be issued therefore alternative action will be taken instead such as prosecution.

PE Days

PE days remain the same after half term:

Year 1 and 2	Mondays and Tuesdays
Year 3	Tuesday and Wednesday
Year 4	Swimming on Mondays, PE on Thursdays
Year 5	Tuesdays and Thursdays
Year 6	Mondays and Wednesdays

All children should also wear PE kit on Fridays for Enrichment activities. Please remember to write their name in PE hoodies to help us return lost property.

Attendance and punctuality

We would like to congratulate the amazing children who have 100% attendance this school year. We also have lots of other children whose attendance is above our target of 97% and many others who have improved their attendance considerably this term.

All children need to arrive at school on time. Missing the first part of the school day means they are not ready for the day ahead. Please can all parents and carers support us in ensuring your child arrives on time.

School attendance is essential. If your child has attendance less than 90%, they are classed as **persistent absentees** and their attendance in school is a cause for concern. You will receive a letter if your child is persistently absent or late for school advising you of steps that will be put in place if improvements are not made.

A REMINDER holidays taken during term time are not permitted, will be unauthorised and you may receive a penalty notice of £160 per child per parent.

School Uniform and Coats

Thank you to all the children who are wearing their correct school uniform and bringing a coat to school every day.

As a reminder, all children should be wearing the correct uniform at all times:

Uniform days

- White polo shirt

- Royal Blue sweatshirt, jumper or cardigan
- Grey trousers or skirt
- Sensible black flat school shoes or trainers

PE days (see above for which days your child has PE)

- White t shirt
- Royal blue shorts or black leggings/jogging bottoms
- Royal blue hoodie
- Trainers

Jumpers, cardigans and hoodies do not need to have the school logo but can be purchased from [Logos Unlimited](#) who also have a store at Team Valley.

Coats

As the weather has started to turn colder, we also expect that all children have warm coat with them every day to ensure that they can play and learn outdoors. As the weather gets colder, children should also bring a hat and gloves.

Please ensure that all items of clothing including coats and shoes have names written inside on the labels. Children's clothing is getting mixed up every day as there are lots of similar coats and shoes.

If you have an issue providing your child with the correct uniform, please discuss this with their class teacher.

Sporting Success



It has been a fantastic half term of sport, with plenty of opportunities for children across the school to get active, learn something new, compete and show off their sporting talents!

Children in Key Stage 1 took part in an exciting Indoor Athletics Festival at Gateshead Stadium. They enjoyed a variety of running, throwing, and jumping activities, and all showed brilliant energy and teamwork. A special well done to Toby, who was presented with an award for being the fastest runner of the day!

A group of children also represented the school at a cross country run at Watergate Forest Park. Despite the tough, hilly course and some very windy, rainy conditions, all 18 pupils completed the race and demonstrated fantastic resilience and determination throughout.

The Year 5/6 Football Team played their first matches of the year at Glynwood, competing in three exciting games. Riley was the star performer of the day, showing brilliant dribbling skills and scoring a well-deserved goal!

Our Year 5/6 Girls' Football Team also took to the pitch for a tournament at Goals in Gateshead — on a very wet afternoon! The girls played superbly, conceding only one goal all day and finishing third in their group — a fantastic achievement!

Finally, Reception pupils visited Gateshead Stadium for a fun-filled day of sports activities. They impressed everyone with their enthusiasm, teamwork, and growing skills as they rotated through a carousel of exciting games and challenges.

What a brilliant half term of sporting success — well done to all our pupils for their effort, determination and wonderful team spirit!

School Council and Eco Council



Our Eco Council are concentrating on recycling and saving energy this term. One of their jobs is to ensure all classrooms have a recycling bin and that it is being used correctly. They are also helping to keep our school clean and tidy by litter picking and tidying our forest school area.

This term our school council have been very lucky. They had the wonderful opportunity to meet and chat with our local MP Mark Ferguson. This was a fantastic chance for them to ask any questions they had and to tell him just how fantastic our school is.



Mark Ferguson MP meeting with our school council.

Clubs

This term children have really enjoyed their after-school clubs. They have learned lots of new skills and made new friendships.

Our after-school clubs for Autumn Term 2 are now available to book on Arbor:

Next half term's afterschool clubs will run from WC 3rd November until WC 8th December. Please sign up on Arbor to secure your child's places. Please only take a place if your child wants to attend and is committed to attending every week.

Mondays – Movie Club - Years 1-6

Tuesdays – Quiz and Games – Years 1-6

Wednesdays – Larkspur House – Key Stage 2 (continuing for current members)

Wednesdays – Football - Year 5/6 (continuing for current members, no need to sign up)

Thursdays – Larkspur House – Key Stage 1 (continuing for current members, new sign ups contact Larkspur House)

Thursdays – Computer Club – Years 3-6

Thursdays – Netball Club – Years 5-6

Dates for the diary (more to follow)

October

17th and Fridays every week New Writing North parent workshop for Year 5/6 and their parent or carers at 8.45am

21st and Tuesdays every week Early Words Together for Nursery and Reception children and their parent or carers at 9.00am

22nd Parent Consultation Meetings - Face to face appointments available to book on Arbor

23rd/24th Parent Consultation Meetings - Telephone appointments available to book on Arbor

24th Last day of half term. School closes for the half term break at 3.15pm

27th -31st School closed for 1 week half term holiday

31st Deadline for 2026 Secondary School Applications - Year 6 parents please ensure you have completed the online application with 3 choices.

November

3rd School reopens to children

WC 3rd New after schools begin

6th and Thursdays every week until 11th Dec Thrifty Christmas Family Learning Course for Years 3-6 and their parent or carers at 1.45pm-3.15pm - Sign up on Arbor

10th Safety Works visit for Year 6

25th -27th Tree planting, more information to follow

December

1st Occasional Day – School closed

16th Years 1-6 Pantomime Trip, children return to school late at 3.30pm

WC 15th No after school clubs this week

19th Last day of term. School closes for the Christmas break at 3.15pm

22nd - 2nd School closed for 2 week Christmas holiday

January

5th School reopens to children

Contact Us

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