



# Forest Hall Primary School



Website address: [foresthallprimary.co.uk](http://foresthallprimary.co.uk) Email: [office@foresthallprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@foresthallprimary.co.uk)

## NEWSLETTER 7: January 2026

### Welcome to the National Year of Reading 2026!

You have probably already heard about the National Year of Reading. This is a UK wide campaign designed to help more people rediscover the joy of reading. It is a Department for Education initiative, supported by more than 60 reading focused partners. They are asking us to **'GO ALL IN'**

They say that although we all know the benefits of reading, fewer of us are doing it. Reading expands minds, builds confidence and fuels creativity. Yet with more distractions and less time, reading for pleasure is in decline. The National Year of Reading 2026 is here to change that, by reconnecting reading with everyday culture.

The Education Secretary, Bridget Phillipson, urges parents to swap *scrolling* with *reading*, calling on parents to lead by example and make reading a daily habit to help reverse the decline in reading for pleasure, to help give children the best start in life.

*'it's time for all of us to play our part, put our phones down and pick up a book.*

*When parents take the time to read with their children early on, they lay the foundations for strong literacy skills, helping kids to be school ready. By making reading a daily habit, even just 10 minutes a day, we can help give kids the best start in life...'* [Bridget Phillipson]

In school we are planning to take part in Year of Reading activities and encourage all of our families to read more. There is a different focus for each school term starting with enjoying books by different authors in class this Spring. Then we are to look at reading focused events across the whole school in the summer, possibly holding a 'booknic'. Finally, including the whole community in our reading events. There will be more information to follow.

### Relocation to Ivy Road Site

North Tyneside Council have agreed to Cabinet's proposal that this school should relocate to the Ivy Road Primary School site when it closes and that the children from the two schools will combine from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026.

We all have lots of questions and no doubt you will have too, but actual planning for the relocation has not started so there are no answers - yet. What we do know, is that it is our governing body who will be taking Forest Hall Primary to our new site. We keep our name, our uniform, our curriculum, our ethos, and most of our 'stuff'. There will be some changes in adapting to the new site and welcoming former Ivy Road pupils to join us in September but we will keep you informed along the way.

There have been some meetings between the LA, our Chair of Governors, the Chair of the IEB at Ivy Road and the two headteachers. We are just beginning to work together to work out what needs to be done in readiness for a September start.

If you have any questions you want to ask about the relocation, catch me in the yard, at progress evenings or call school.

### New website

After half term you will notice a new look to our website as we are moving to a new provider. The website address will remain the same but it should be easier to locate information, newsletter etc.