

24th May 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

As I find myself at the end of this half term I really can't believe how quickly time has flown. Since Easter so much has been going on in school and looking ahead the second half of the Summer term looks even busier. I am sure the children are already looking forward to our first week back with our 'Made in the North East' week with lots of visits happening.

As ever, the children have had a busy week this week. The inclement weather has not dampened the enthusiasm in Key Stage 1 as they had an amazing, if somewhat wet, Forest School week. They have enjoyed exploring both in school and in The Common building dens, cooking pizzas, scavenger hunts and exploring stories outside. Please check out the fantastic pictures in the Flyer.

Early Years continued the nature theme and I was blown away by the amazing independent writing from Reception about bees! Not to be outdone Year 4 have shared their end of unit learning about Ancient Greece in some fantastic double page spreads.

It has also been great having Mr. Bell in school this week. He has worked alongside Year 5 helping them develop their culinary skills culminating in them designing, cooking and tasting their own fruit crumbles.

Mrs. Lowes is having a busy half term as she is walking the 84 mile length of Hadrian's Wall over 6 days to raise money for the British Heart Foundation. Please see later in the Flyer for more information and how to support her if you wish to do so.

Well done to Reception with the best attendance this week: 97.3%.

Well done to Year 4 for the best attendance for the year to date: 96.4%.

Thank you very much for all of your support this half term and for the term ahead.

I hope that you enjoy reading this flyer and have a peaceful and relaxing break.

We look forward to seeing everyone safe and well back in School on **Monday 3rd June 2024.**

Mr. A. Wheatley,
Headteacher

Attendance Matters



ATTEND today...
ACHIEVE tomorrow...
ATTENDANCE matters.

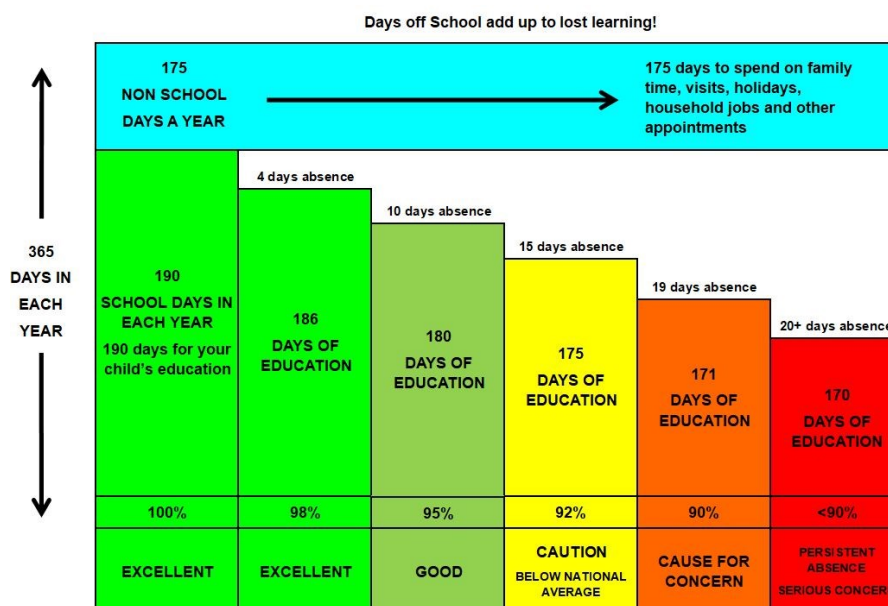


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

| Class | Attendance this week | Attendance this year | Class | Attendance this week | Attendance this year |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Reception (Owls) | 97.3% | 95.3% | Year 3 (Gibside) | 88.9% | 95.1% |
| Year 1 (Wallington) | 90% | 94.7% | Year 4 (Lindisfarne) | 96.8% | 96.4% |
| Year 2 (Cragside) | 90.7% | 96.0% | Year 5 (Bamburgh) | 94.5% | 95.3% |
| | | | Year 6 (Dunstanburgh) | 89.4% | 95.6% |

Please see the graphic below which shows the significant impact of absence over time.



'Whatever you do work at it with all your heart'



We have continued our 'Great Outdoors' learning this week by learning all about life cycles! We have been developing our cutting skills by sequencing the life cycle of a bean.



We have also been labelling the parts of a plant and we have been thinking about what a plant needs, as well as the important job of the roots.

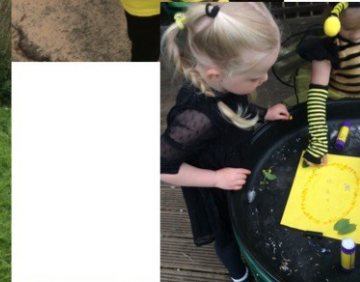



PIC • COLLAGE

There was a real 'buzz' in the air in Reception on Monday as we celebrated World Bee Day!



We made Bee nature collages, wrote down just some of the many facts we have learned this half term, made flying bees, symmetrical bees and baked some delicious bee biscuits.



What a fun day! Owls, you are just Bee-rillicant! 

PIC•COLLAGE

Forest School with Key Stage 1

What a busy week we have had at forest school! We have embraced the weather this week and had an amazing time doing our forest school activities! We have been working on teamwork, problem solving, peer relationships, maths and storytelling.



PIC•COLLAGE

More Forest School with Key Stage 1

We enjoyed making mazes, mud monsters and our own dens!



Whatever you do work at it with all your heart

Colossians 3:23

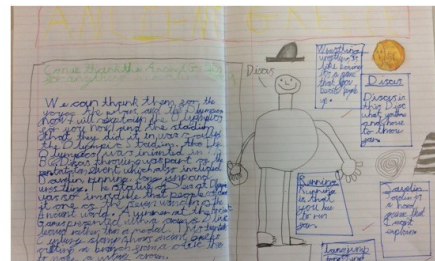
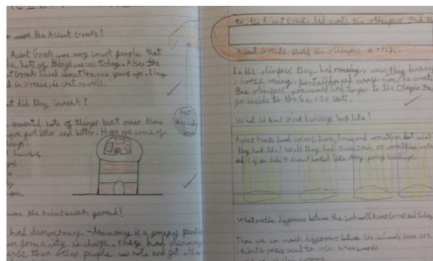
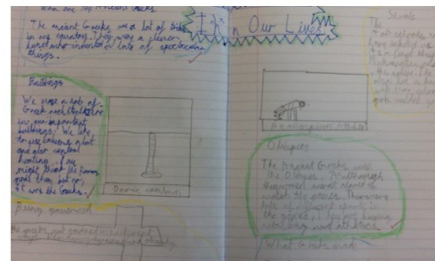
Designing and Making Tiles with Year 3

Year 3 have been focusing on relief and bass relief designs in our Art topic. Look at our fabulous tiles that we etched and printed with!



Learning about Ancient Greece with Year 4

This week Year 4 finished the History topic about the Ancient Greeks. We made some fabulous posters to show how much we had learned. Throughout the topic, we used Ancient Greek artefacts to find evidence about what life was like in Ancient Greece.



Sports Leadership with Year 5 (and Year 2)

This week, Year 5 have had an exciting opportunity to support and deliver a Key Stage 1 Multi-Skills event. Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed working alongside Year 2 and explaining each multi-skill station in detail. It was amazing to see how well the children from both year groups engaged and interacted with one other in a kind, caring and supportive way.



PIC•COLLAGE

PE and Periscopes in Year 6!

We started this week with a lovely PE session with Year 1. The Year 6 children helped run different stations during the Key Stage 1 multi-skills festival. It was great to see the older children coach, encourage and cheer on their younger schoolmates. Then, in our science lessons looking at "Light", we used a periscope template to help us understand how light behaves when reflecting. Have a wonderful half term Year 6!



Our Achievements

Congratulations to Joseph in Year 3 who has taken first place in rounds 3 and 4 of the British Championships. This adds to his two first places in rounds 1 and 2. Well done Joseph!



Congratulations to Finn and Ella in Year 6 who have successfully auditioned for parts in the performance of A Christmas Carol at the Tyne Theatre. Finn will be playing 'Young Scrooge' and Ella will be playing 'Nicholas Cratchit'. Well done Finn and Ella!

Congratulations to Poppy in Year 4 who has successfully auditioned for a dancing role in Alice in Wonderland at the People's Theatre in Newcastle. Well done Poppy!

Earlier this term we were hearing from Elliott in Year 6 about his skills in building his own computer. Our ICT Technician, Ben, was really interested in meeting Elliott and talking to him about this. Ben came in and spent some time with Elliott talking about computers and also about what a career in ICT entails.



National Mental Health Awareness Week Wake Up Shake Up

Check out some of the pictures from our whole school Wake Up Shake Up last Friday for Mental Health Awareness. It really woke us up for the day ahead!



Mrs. Lowes' Long Walk for Charity!

Mrs. Lowes and ten members of her family are taking on the challenge of walking the whole length of Hadrian's Wall (84 miles) over 6 days during half term.

They are doing this to raise money for the British Heart Foundation in memory of her brother who passed away last year.

If anyone would like to support her in this challenge I have included the information and link from her 'JustGiving' page below.



Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to British Heart Foundation, so it's the most efficient way to give - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.

You can donate to Mrs. Lowes' JustGiving page by [clicking here](#)

JustGiving sends your donation straight to British Heart Foundation and automatically reclaims Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer, so your donation is worth even more. Thank you.



COFFEE MORNING AT ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH
HEDDON ON THE WALL
25TH MAY
10AM-12NOON

Come along for coffee, scones
and a good catch up
and help us raise some funds for Christian Aid

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING HEALTHY FRIENDSHIPS

Navigating the complexities of childhood and adolescent friendships can be challenging – but with the right guidance, children and young people can cultivate meaningful, supportive relationships, some of which may last for many years. These top tips provide a comprehensive approach to fostering healthy friendships among children and young people. It's important to remember, however, that each child is different, and will require an individual approach to relationship support.

1 GRANT FRIENDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Encouraging children and young people to join extracurricular activities can foster healthy friendships by providing shared interests and common ground. Engaging in these pastimes offers a platform for interaction, sometimes alleviating the social pressure of knowing what to say, and helps children develop meaningful connections.

2 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

The children and young people in our lives see how we behave, the connections that we've made and the interactions between us and others. When we model healthy friendships, we set an example and help youngsters to understand what healthy friendships looks like and how to navigate them.

3 HELP THEM LOVE THEMSELVES

Healthy friendships aren't just about dynamics with other people. They're about our relationship with ourselves. For overall wellbeing, it's important for a child to have the space to build their self-esteem and a positive self-image, as these factors can have a notable influence on the friendships they form throughout life.

4 MONITOR SCREEN TIME

Too much screen time can affect some children's wellbeing in general, but it can specifically impact friendships if it results in fewer positive social interactions. In some cases, reducing screen time and encouraging children and young people to find ways to interact face-to-face can have positive results. It's also important to remember that young people can make positive friendships online, but they will require support to do this safely.

5 TEACH PROBLEM-SOLVING

Inevitably, friendships can run into problems. However, this is also an opportunity to support children and young people to work through any difficulties that may arise. It can be tempting to intervene and try to fix these issues for those involved, but helping them consider ways of resolving conflict or managing difficult situations for themselves can help them create stronger friendships.

6 EMPOWER THE CHILD

When we give children and young people the confidence to choose their friends, navigate interpersonal boundaries and consider how they want to interact with the different people around them, we empower them to take control of the friendships they have. When young people feel in control of these things, they're more likely to make positive choices and remain aware of the signs of a negative relationship.

7 TEACH EMPATHY

'Healthy friendships' doesn't always mean 'perfect'. Sometimes, disagreements can happen. When we teach children and young people to have empathy, we help them to see both sides of a relationship; to be mindful of the challenges a friend might be facing or whatever else might be going on. This can help children and young people to build stronger friendships.

8 BE OPEN TO QUESTIONS

Talking to young people about their friendships, who they spend time with and who they interact with can open the door to questions if they have concerns. Initially, these queries may be straightforward, but if we are receptive to discussion from the outset, young people are more likely to come to us for help when they are older as well.

9 UNDERSTAND BOUNDARIES

One of the keys to a healthy friendship is honouring boundaries. This can include anything from respecting personal space and belongings to acceptable language and behaviour. Understanding the importance of setting these limits and upholding those set by others can help children stay safe. If young people figure out their boundaries and feel comfortable enforcing them, they're more likely to call someone out if they go too far.

10 SPOT THE SIGNS

We can't always supervise young people; sometimes, we need to step back and give them some space. However, it's important to consider any indicators that they may be struggling in their friendships. Are they becoming increasingly irritable? Does their behaviour alter when they've been with their friends? Are they becoming withdrawn or reluctant to take part in certain activities? These could all be signs that they're finding things difficult, and we should remain alert to such changes.

Meet Our Expert

Becky Dawson is an experienced educator who has worked in primary and secondary schools for 20 years. She is a facilitator, consultant and coach working with young people and the adults who work with them, with a focus on developing understanding and skills around mental health, wellbeing and safeguarding.



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Dates for your Diary - Summer Term



| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Friday 24th May 2024 | HALF TERM |
| w/c Monday 3rd June 2024 | Made in the North East Theme Week |
| Monday 3rd June 2024 | Year 5 Visit to Woodhorn Museum |
| Tuesday 4th June 2024 | Year 2 Visit to Discovery Museum |
| Tuesday 4th June 2024 | Year 4 Train Trip to Haltwhistle |
| Wednesday 5th June 2024 | Year 1 Trip to Newcastle Quayside |
| Wednesday 5th June 2024 | Nursery visit to Bays Leap Farm |
| Wednesday 5th June 2024 | Year 6 Visit to Sunderland Maritime Museum |
| Thursday 6th June 2024 | Year 3 Visit to Castle Keep in Newcastle |
| Thursday 6th June 2024 | Nissan Visit to talk to Year 4 |
| Friday 7th June 2024 | Reception visit to La Luna Farm |
| w/c Monday 10th June 2024 | Year 1 Phonic Screen Check Week |
| Monday 10th June 2024 | Class Photographs |

Dates for your Diary - Summer Term

| | |
|--|---|
| Monday 10th June 2024 | Phil Earle (Author) visit for Key Stage 2 |
| w/c Monday 17th June 2024 | Year 6 Bee Week Transition Project |
| Wednesday 19th June 2024 | Year 6 Leavers Service at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Newcastle. |
| Sunday 23rd June 2024 - Thursday 27th June 2024 | Year 6 France Trip |
| Friday 28th June 2024 | Armed Forces Day |
| Wednesday 3rd July 2024 | Current Year 6 Parents Evening at Ponteland High School |
| Thursday 4th July 2024 & Friday 5th July 2024 | Year 6 Transition Days at Ponteland High School |
| Thursday 11th July 2024 | The Tempest - Music and Drama Showcase in School Hall (Matinee performance also) |
| Friday 12th July 2024 | Rocksteady Concert at 10am in School Hall |
| Thursday 18th July 2024 | Year 6 Leavers Assembly at 1.30pm in School Hall |
| Friday 19th July 2024 | SUMMER HOLIDAYS |