

7th February 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

I would like to begin the Flyer with some staffing news. At the end of this half term we will be saying goodbye to Mrs. Lowes. I am sure that you will join me in offering thanks to Mrs. Lowes for all her hard work and dedication to the school. We wish her well in all her future endeavours. I am pleased to be able to let you know that Mrs. Leja will be joining Mrs. March in teaching Year 4 for the remainder of the year.

It was wonderful to see so many of you joining the children and staff on the yard this morning for our special 'Wake Up Shake Up'. Thanks to the children in Year 6 who choreographed and led the dance (along with Mrs. Walker!). Thanks also to all of you who joined in the dancing with us.

As you will see from the class pages in the Flyer, this week has been Children's Mental Health Week. Each class has been working on the theme of 'know yourself, grow yourself'. They have been exploring personality islands and imagining themselves as trees with the roots being the people and things who shape us and help us grow and the leaves and branches being the kind of people we are. It has been a great opportunity for the children to think about themselves, what makes them unique and special, helping them to love and value themselves as expressed in our school vision.

As part of promoting good mental health for the children please check out our parents guide to scams and fake news later in the Flyer. As you are aware we are all bombarded each day with all kinds of news and offers. Even as adults it can be difficult to work out what is real and what is fake and this is greatly magnified for the children. The guide has some useful tips to help support and guide the children in this area. As per last week there is a link to listen to the guide as a podcast if you wish to do so.

Please check out the 'Diary Dates' page as we have added the dates for our Mothers' Day Services and Key Stage 2 Easter Service at St. Andrew's Church.

The School Council have arranged a special 'break the rules' day. For further details about this the children have provided a special poster for the Flyer.

Well done to Year 6 with the best attendance this week, an amazing: 100%.

Well done to Year 5 for the best attendance for this year: 97.1%.

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

Mr. A. Wheatley,
Headteacher



Attendance Matters



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

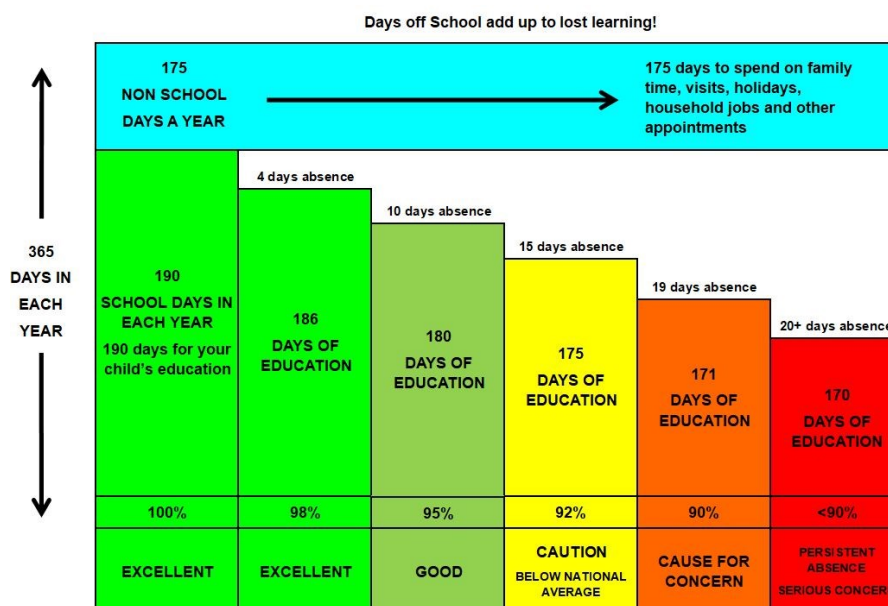


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Nursery (Hedgehogs)	94.7%	95.7%	Year 3 (Gibside)	97.6%	95.7%
Reception (Owls)	98.9%	94.7%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	97.7%	96.7%
Year 1 (Wallington)	92.6%	97.1%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	98.5%	97.2%
Year 2 (Cragside)	95.2%	96.6%	Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	100%	97%

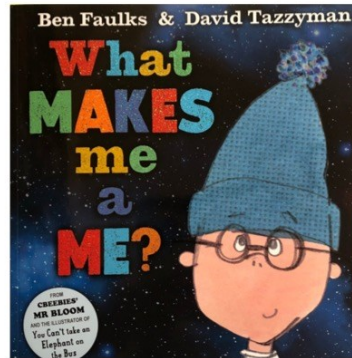
Please see the graphic below which shows the significant impact of absence over time .



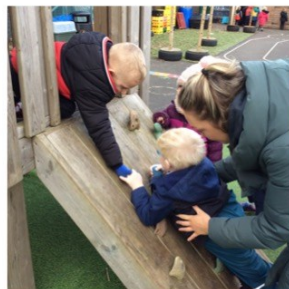
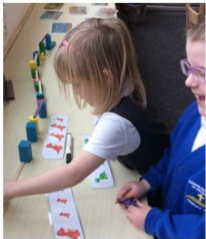
'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14

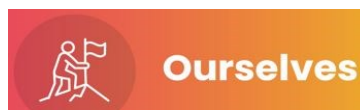
This week, as part of our 'Amazing Animals' topic, we have started learning about dinosaurs! The Hedgehogs have been super busy painting their own dinosaurs, developing their subitising skills, using scissors to cut around dinosaur pictures, playing with dinosaur small world, as well as lots of playing outside!



As part of 'Children's Mental Health' week, we read the story 'What Makes me a Me?' We discussed all of the different ways we are different and unique.



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Ourselves



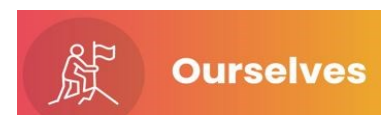
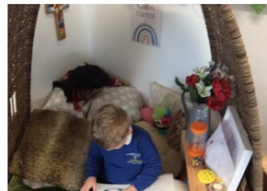
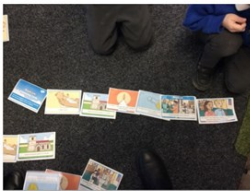
Learning

A Busy Week in Reception

We have had another busy week in Reception thinking about 'People Who Help Us' and also learning about keeping our mental health healthy. On Monday we went to St Andrew's Church and thought about our family and the church family. We took our doll along to be Baptised, some children had some very important roles as parents and Godparents. Our visit also included bell ringing, organ playing and looking at the different things you can find in a church.

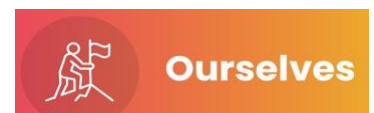
In the provision we have been making the number 8 and thinking about what numbers make 8 and where it sits on the numberline. We used what we'd learnt at church to sequence a baptism. Outside we had fun making patterns in the frost. We have a new area in the classroom called the curiosity corner, children can look at the objects and suggest what they might be or ask questions about them. This week it was items linked to the text 'The Colour Monster'.

Linking to Children's Mental health week we thought about things we're good at: Climbing, dancing, helping my mummy were just a few. Things that make us smile: Going somewhere we really like, playing with our friends, cuddles and not forgetting ice cream!



Know Yourself, Grow Yourself with Year 1

The theme of mental health week this year has been 'know yourself, grow yourself' so in order for the children to be able to grow they need to know and understand themselves first. As part of this in Year 1 we have been creating our own personality islands, so we have chosen the things that make us who we are and drawn them as our own island then we used rope to represent roots and connected the islands to our names. Each morning we have also been discussing how we feel as we come into school and we even had Mrs Walker join us for one of story times this week to read a story all about filling each other's 'buckets' to make others feel happy.

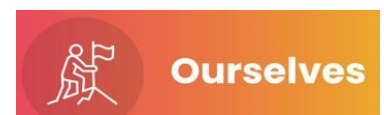


'Let all that you do be done with love'

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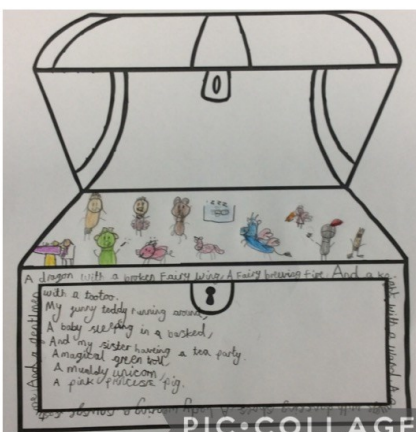
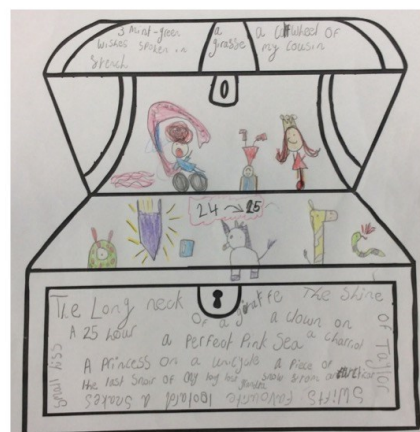
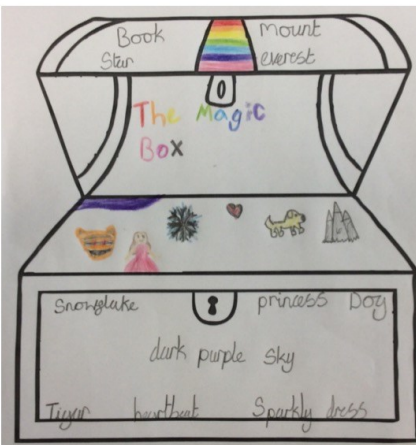
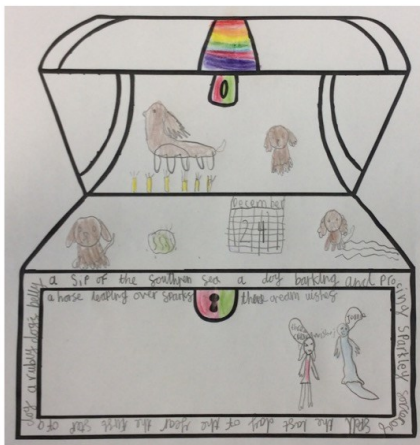
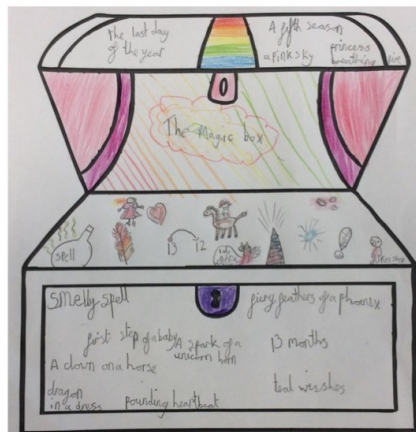
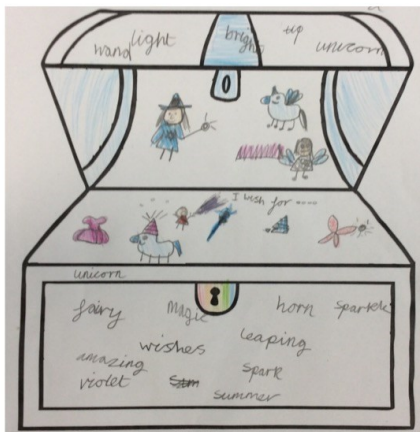
Children's Mental Health Week with Year 2

Year 2 enjoyed discussing what helps to form our own roots, whether this is our family, friends, hobbies or where we live. We were inspired by the artist, Ricky Martin to draw our roots as the roots of a tree and thought about how we can aim to 'know ourselves, grow ourselves'.



The Magic Box with Year 3!

Year 3 are getting excited for their poetry exhibition at the end of the term! This week our focus has been the poem 'The Magic Box' by Kit Wright. We used this for inspiration to write our own magic box poems and we designed our own magic boxes using the items that we wrote about in our poems.

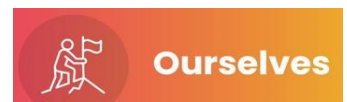


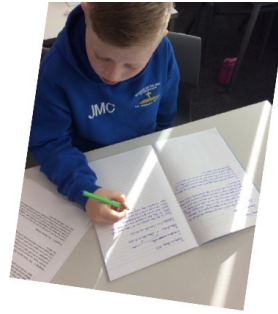
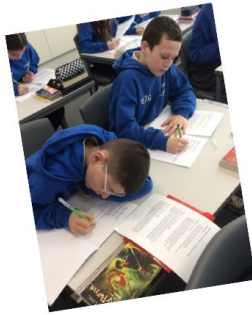
Thinking about Ourselves with Year 4.

This week Year 4 has been thinking about Mental Health Week. We watched a clip from 'Inside Out' and discussed how important all our feelings are and how it is ok to feel all of them. We then thought about ourselves as being like a tree. The roots, which help us grow, are the people and things we are and the plant is the kind of person we are.

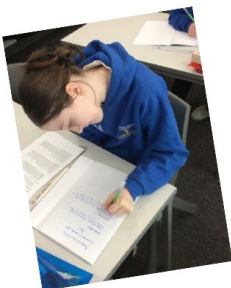


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In Year 6 this week we have finished writing our Titanic newspaper articles, as well as finishing our quizzes in computing lessons. The children enjoyed sharing their quizzes with their classmates.



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Learning

Money and Measurement

Some of the children in Year 6 have been working on their money and measurement skills.

To apply this in a real life context, we headed to the Spar to buy ingredients to bake some cookies. If the cookies taste as good as they look, the parents at home are in for a treat!



Planning a shopping list and adding up the cost of all the items. Buying the ingredients and working out the change we will be given. Now time to follow the recipe and bake the cookies!!



Our delicious cookies!
Following a recipe, weighing, mixing, stirring and baking.



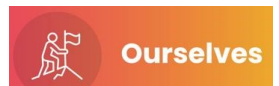
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Wake Up Shake Up for Children's Mental Health Week!

Research has shown the importance of exercise on both physical and mental health. It was great to see so many children, staff and parents joining in and having a great time this morning dancing together. Thanks to Year 6 for choreographing and leading the dancing this morning, ably supported by Mrs. Walker!



Science Club at Ponteland High School.

Five children from Year 6 attended the high school science club this week. They listened carefully to a presentation from an employee of Northumberland Zoo. The presentation showed the children different enrichment activities on offer to the animals; vital for their happiness and well being. The children were then tasked with having to design their own enrichment activity, based upon research they collated on a particular animal. Next week we will find some time to 'draw up' our designs using chromebooks, before sending them over to the zoo.



BREAK the RULES DAY

Non uniform or
pyjamas

Wacky hair!

Bring a teddy!

Juice in your
water bottle!

Bring an
unhealthy snack
(nut free!)

Wear slippers
(indoors only,
you still need
your shoes!)

Nails painted/
temporary
tattoo!

50p per rule
or £3 to
break all of
the rules

The money raised
will go towards
OPAL Play
resources

When?
Friday 21st February 2025



Paired shoes



BAG 2 SCHOOL



Belts



Handbags



Clothes



Scarves and ties

Our next Bag2School collection
has been arranged for

Thursday 13th March



Jewellery



Hats



Socks



Bags

Please bring your donations to the school
office from Tuesday 4th March onwards.

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

"CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk for more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fake-news-and-scams>



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Click the speaker to listen to the guide

'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14

Dates for your Diary - Spring Term 1



Monday 10th February 2025	Year 6 SATS Meeting for Parents in school at 4.00pm
Tuesday 11th February 2025	Year 6 Visit to Nissan
Friday 7th February 2025	Wake Up Shake Up on top yard at 8.45am (Bring your dancing shoes to join in!)
Monday 17th February 2025	Let's Dance at Heddon
Wednesday 19th February 2025	Year 3 Poetry Exhibition from 3.15pm
Friday 21st February 2025	Break the Rules Day
w/c Monday 23rd February 2025	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 3rd March 2025	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR TRAINING DAY
Friday 7th March 2025	Choir at Ryton Festival
Wednesday 12th March 2025 - Tuesday 18th March 2025	Scholastic Book Fair
Thursday 13th March 2025	Year 5 Careers Fair at the Metrocentre
Thursday 13th March 2025	Year 6 France Trip Parents Meeting - 4.30pm - 5.30pm at Darras Hall Primary School

Dates for your Diary - Spring Term 2



Thursday 13th March 2025	Bags2School collected.
Monday 17th March 2025	Individual Photographs
Tuesday 18th March 2025	Parents Evening
Thursday 20th March 2025	Parents Evening
Thursday 27th March 2025	Last Night at the Proms Concert for the Choir with the Ad Murum Singers - 5.30pm at the Knott Hall.
Friday 28th March 2025	Early Years and Key Stage 1 Mothers' Day Service at St. Andrew's Church - 9.30am
Friday 28th March 2025	Key Stage 2 Mothers' Day Service at St. Andrew's Church - 10.15am
Friday 4th April 2025	Friends of Heddon School Pamper Evening (details to follow)
Friday 11th April 2025	Key Stage 2 Easter Service at St. Andrew's Church - 9.30am
w/c Monday 14th April 2025	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Monday 28th April 2025	School Re-opens
w/c Monday 12th May 2025	Key Stage 2 SATS Week