

7th March 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

It was lovely to welcome all the children back to school this week following their half term break. Despite it being a shorter week there has been a lot going on in school as you will see in this longer than usual flyer. I have particularly enjoyed cooking pancakes for all of the children in Nursery and then spending an afternoon with Year 6 dissecting lamb hearts!

Added to this it has been National Careers Week this week too. The children have been reading special career related books during story time, learning about the jobs that the teachers in school had before they became teachers and watching a special video each day about different jobs. They also completed activities to learn about the key job sectors in the North East: Energy, Agri-Tech, Health and Life Sciences and Transport. We are excited to further develop this work over the coming months. I would like to thank Mr. McDonald for organising this in school.

While Thursday saw the children (and staff) in their pyjamas for World Book Day they were anything but sleepy! We had an exciting day themed around reading and books. There were some tricky staff 'shelfies' for the children to match to the staff member, special golden ticket chocolate bars on sale with exciting prizes (thanks to Heidi and to Mrs. Ashworth for organising this) and some special visits to Heddon Library (see later in the Flyer). My favourite part of the day was seeing the children in different classes reading to each other in their peer reading session. This exemplified the strength of relationships in school with children working together in a caring and encouraging way. It was wonderful to see the smiles and hear their conversation. I would like to thank Mrs. Abbott for organising this in school.

We were pleased to welcome Mrs. Lynn Blain, Deputy CEO (Pele Trust - Primary) and Mr. James Lewis, Assistant Diocesan Director, into school yesterday. They were visiting school to look specifically at aspects of the personal development of both children and staff. They joined Choir and Collective Worship in the morning and then visited classrooms, saw OPAL Play and spoke to children and staff. As always the children were fantastic representatives for our school. They spoke politely and eloquently with real warmth and pride about school.

Our parent guide this week also has a reading theme, focusing on using technology to boost reading skills. It is also available as a podcast so if you wish to listen to it rather than reading it please click on the speaker icon at the bottom of that page.

Please check out later in the Flyer for information about the Scholastic Book Fair which will be visiting school next week.

Please [click here](#) to read the School Admissions Policy for 2026-2027 as provided by the Pele Trust.

Well done to Nursery, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6 with the joint best attendance this week: an amazing 100%.

Well done to Year 6 for the best attendance for this year: 97.9%.

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

Mr. A. Wheatley,
Headteacher



'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14

Attendance Matters



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

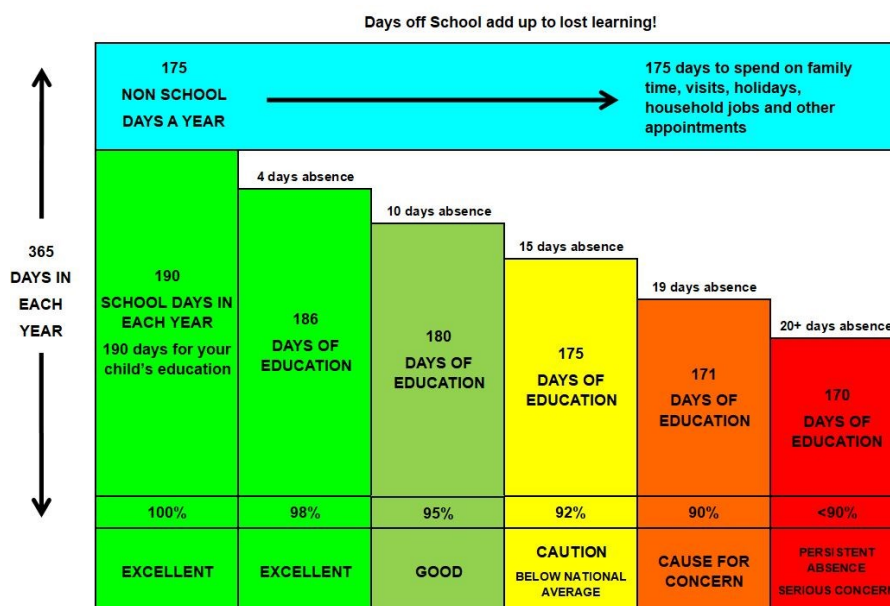


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Nursery (Hedgehogs)	100%	96.8%	Year 3 (Gibside)	100%	97%
Reception (Owls)	99.1%	95.9%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	100%	97.4%
Year 1 (Wallington)	99.2%	97.7%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	99%	97.8%
Year 2 (Cragside)	97%	96.9%	Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	100%	97.9%

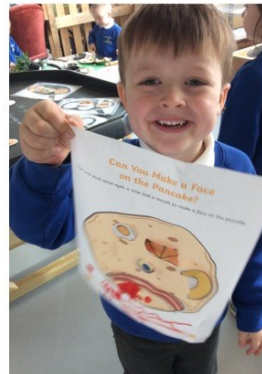
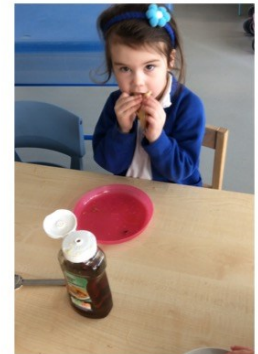
Please see the graphic below which shows the significant impact of absence over time .



'Let all that you do be done with love'

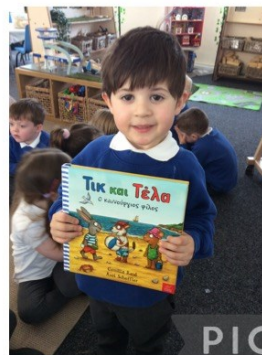
Shrove Tuesday!

We celebrated Shrove Tuesday this week and we were very lucky that Mr Wheatley came to make some pancakes with us. We had a range of toppings to choose from and the pancakes were absolutely delicious. Thank you Mr Wheatley!

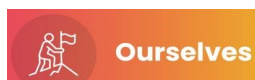


Theo celebrated his 'Name Day' this week and shared his Greek books with us!

The Hedgehogs loved learning different Greek words and sharing the treats Theo brought in for us.



PIC • COLLAGE



Ourselfes



Learning

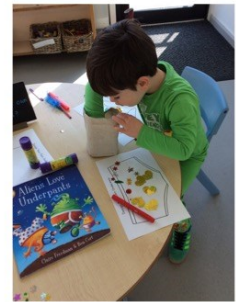


Life

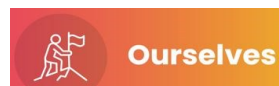


World Book Day!

The Hedgehogs had a brilliant day celebrating World Book Day! Each area of the classroom was linked to a different story; we used watercolour paints to paint Elmer, created our own Gruffalo's using play dough and decorated our own underpants based on 'Aliens Love Underpants'. We also took part in a book hunt outside. What a fantastic day!



PIC • COLLAGE

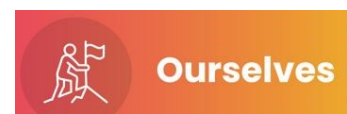




It was lovely to hear all about what the children had got up to over half term. After reading Mr Wolf's Pancakes we have been measuring the ingredients for our own pancakes and Miss Smith has kindly cooked them for us. As well as edible pancakes we have also used our fine motor skills to make frying pans out of junk materials, we have used play dough to make pancakes and we have painted pictures of Mr Wolf using water colours. In maths we have been thinking about how we can 'sort' different items, we have sorted by colour, size and shape. We have also been learning about doubles to 10. To introduce our new topic we went on a book scavenger hunt and then had a think about what our new topic could be. Our new role play area 'Grandma's House' has been very popular.



On Thursday we came to school in our PJ's for World Book Day and enjoyed a trip to Heddon library. Some of the older children in school came and read to us which was great. We also had a book and character treasure hunt outside. All the children used their book vouchers to buy a book of their choice which they get to keep.

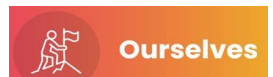


World Book Day with Year 1

We had a very busy World Book day filled with lots of fun activities, we went around school trying to guess which 'book shelfie' belonged to which teacher, we visited the book shop in the hall and everyone got their own book to take home. We even had the Year 4's come and visit us to do some reading together. Then in Year 1 we made our own Mr Men and Little Miss stories which then read to each other. It has also been careers week this week so we have been thinking about what we would like to be when we grow up.



PIC•COLLAGE



World Book Day in Year 2

Year 2 had a brilliant World Book Day and loved peer reading with Nursery; had a sunny walk on Tuesday to enjoy and learn about Heddon Library; wrote and illustrated their own books; purchased a World Book Day book from our school shop and managed to guess most of the 'teacher shelfie' photos correctly in our quiz - well done Year 2!



PIC·COLLAGE



Ourselves

Others



Life



World Book Day in Year 3

Year 3 had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day on Thursday! We enjoyed completing the shelfie quiz, choosing a book from the book shop and visiting Heddon Library. We also got together with Year 6 to do some peer reading. The children had a brilliant time reading with their friends and sharing the books they had brought to school.



PIC•COLLAGE



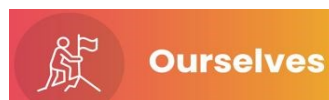
Ourselves

Others

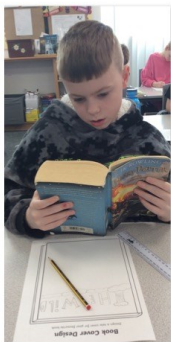


A Busy Week in Year 4

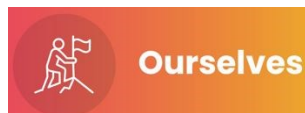
Year 4 have had a jam-packed week! We loved our World book Day Celebrations with highlights including shared stories with Year 1, a trip out to the library and designing and making our own origami book marks. Alongside this, we have been considering different careers we may choose in the future; we have read books to learn about new and exciting careers and have done some deeper exploration of the NHS. We have also done some careful self-reflection on the personal attributes we have that could come in handy in the future!



This week in Year 5 we had a fantastic World Book Day! We were able to read to early key stage and read some of our favourite books!



PIC • COLLAGE



A Busy Week in Year 6

A lovely first week back in Year 6. We started the week dissecting lamb hearts, identifying the four chambers and different blood vessels. We also visited the local library as part of our World Book Day activities.

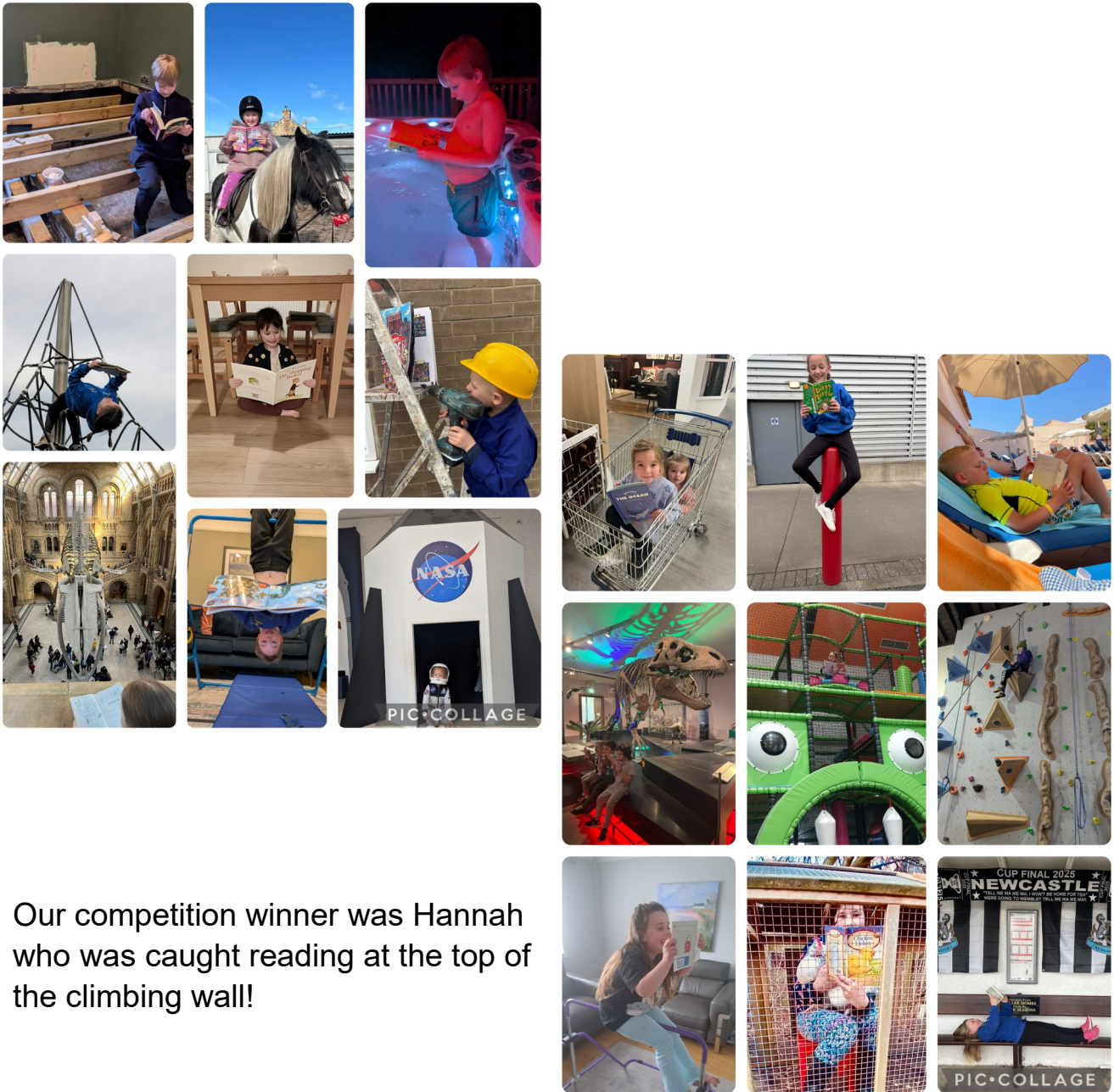


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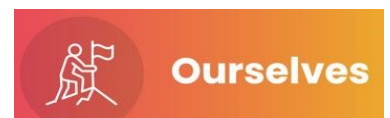


Reading in Strange Places!

We have been reading in some really unusual places this week.
Which one is your favourite place to read?

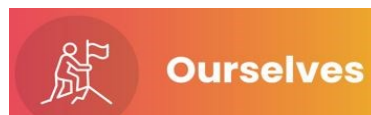


Our competition winner was Hannah who was caught reading at the top of the climbing wall!



Games Club

Games Club takes place each Tuesday night and is run by Mrs. Walker. The children have a great time playing games and chatting with each other. This week there was a real chess theme going on. I wonder if the next Grandmaster is here!



A Big Thank You to Heddon Library

We would like to say a big 'Thank you!' to all the volunteers at Heddon Library. They came in and opened up the Library for a full day to allow us to all enjoy a visit on World Book Day.

The Library is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 1pm until 4pm (so you can pop in with the children straight after school) and on Saturdays from 10am until 12pm.

We are so lucky to have a library in the village which is such a great resource and means that children can get to read both their favourite authors and any new releases free of charge!



Year 6 Transition Information from Ponteland High School

Ponteland High School have a dedicated page on their website with specific information about transition. To view the page please [click here](#).

They have also published a special Year 6 Welcome Pack. This contains a lot of useful information which you can share with your child. This includes general information about staff, the transition days in July and some frequently asked questions. We will be looking at this in school with the children but you might want to share this together with your child at home.

To access the Welcome Pack please [click here](#).

SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS

FREE BOOKS FOR YOUR SCHOOL WHEN YOU BUY AT THE BOOK FAIR!

COME TO THE **BOOK FAIR**

DATE: Thurs 13th - Tues 18th March

A POP-UP BOOK-STORE WITH HUNDREDS OF BOOKS FROM JUST £2.99

LAST YEAR YOUR SUPPORT HELPED DONATE £5.3M IN FREE BOOKS TO SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE

Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will be in school next week.

It will be open for parents (and children) straight after school on Thursday 13th March, Friday 14th March and Monday 17th March in the Studio.

All children will have a chance to visit the Book Fair during school time to have a look at the books available to buy.

Ages 2+

Ages 6+

EVERY BOOK YOU BUY EARNS FREE BOOKS FOR OUR SCHOOL

Ages 8+

Payment at our Book Fair

HELP EARN FREE BOOKS

EVERY BOOK YOU BUY EARNS FREE BOOKS FOR OUR SCHOOL

Be Considerate to our neighbours



Safer Parking
around our school

We care about our neighbours, please, never park across driveways or on corners or junctions.

As a driver you have a responsibility to park in a safe and considerate manner.

Park with care and help make the area near and around our school a safer place for everyone.

Fewer cars at the school entrance will help make it safer for everyone

What you could do instead....

- ✓ Try walking, cycling or scooting – even if its just one day a week, it can make a big difference.
- ✓ If you need to drive your child to school, consider parking away from school and walking the remainder of the way or car share with other families.



Walking, cycling or scooting to school contributes to the recommended daily physical exercise for you and your children.

It also helps to **reduce congestion** around school and **improves air quality**, providing benefits for everyone.





WEST NORTHUMBERLAND FAMILY HUBS

We are here for everyone. Feel free to call in at any time when we are open, a member of the team will be able to help or signpost to another service. We look forward to seeing you soon, you will receive a warm welcome.



	<p>SCAN ME</p>	<p>Wellbeing Service As part of the Family Hub offer, personalised support is now available to new and expecting mothers, fathers, and significant others (up until the child is two) who are experiencing mental health issues.</p>		<p>Universal Services AND Chill Out, Peep Stay & Play, Peep AND, Family Panel We want every family in our communities across Northumberland to enjoy the benefits of our Family Hubs. We offer a wide range of free activities for parents-to-be, babies, children and young people.</p>
	<p>SCAN ME</p>	<p>HENRY Provides tips and support for parents and carers. Explore how to provide a healthy, happy and supportive environment for the whole family. One-off workshops also available - Starting Solids, Fussy Eaters, Understanding Behaviour and many more.</p>		<p>Neuro Peer Support Groups A peer support group for young people with autism or a similar neurodiversity. Children North East's SEND and Neurodiversity Team offer groups to support young people with neurodivergence, and offer a space to relax, meet other neurodiverse young people and explore interests.</p>
	<p>SCAN ME</p>	<p>Feeding Friends Whether you're getting started with breastfeeding or starting solids and everything else in between, the Infant Feeding team provide emotional support, both antenatal and postnatal.</p>		<p>Wider Support Parenting Older Children A successful and mutually supportive course that helps with information and ideas that have been found to help parents navigate parenting older children and teens. Focuses on how parents can change what they do in order to help their kids change. A great approach to take the heat out of parenting and help keep mums and dads calm and in control, without shouting, screaming or worse!</p>
	<p>SCAN ME</p>	<p>Healthy Relationships Arguments are part of every healthy relationship but when they become frequent, intense and poorly resolved, they have a negative impact on you and your family. The Family Hub offers courses to support you and your family.</p>		<p>Partner Services First Aid Courses, Autism drop-ins, Relax Kids and Charge Up We offer services in partnership with other organisations. Contact your Family Hub for dates and times.</p>
	<p>SCAN ME</p>	<p>DadPad Family Hubs in Northumberland have teamed up with DadPad, which is an essential guide for new dads, developed with the NHS. The resource will support you and your partner to give your baby the best possible start in life.</p>		<p>Digital Services Healthy Relationships, Solihull, DadPad and DadTalk We are here to ensure that support services are accessible to families across Northumberland, and we offer a range of support including a wide digital offer. Contact your Family Hub for dates and times.</p>
	<p>SCAN ME</p>	<p>DadTalk Free online workshop for dads - during pregnancy and beyond! Topics include the importance of 'Dad', the rollercoaster of change, coping with crying, changing, sleeping and feeding, where to get more help and support and celebrating fathers.</p>		<p>Solihull FREE online courses These courses are designed to help you understand your child's feelings, as well as focus on your own feelings, as you go through life as a family. You will also learn to understand the changes in your child's development and how to make the most out of each relationship.</p>
	<p>SCAN ME</p>	<p>Solihull FREE online courses These courses are designed to help you understand your child's feelings, as well as focus on your own feelings, as you go through life as a family. You will also learn to understand the changes in your child's development and how to make the most out of each relationship.</p>	<p>SCAN ME</p>	<p>Find us on Facebook, and Instagram- @WestFamilyHubs</p> <p>Request information for services, or to become a member with West Family Hubs. westfamilyhubs@northumberland.gov.uk</p>

WEST NORTHUMBERLAND FAMILY HUBS

What's on at Prudhoe Family Hub



peep **FREE**

A range of groups supporting parents and children to learn together

PEEP STAY & PLAY
Mondays (0-5 years) 1:30pm-2:30pm at Richard Coates CE Primary School, Ponteland
Tuesdays (0-18months) 10am-11am at Prudhoe Family Hub
Wednesdays (0-5 years) 10am-11:30am at Albemarle (for military families only)
Thursdays (0-5 years) 10am-11:30am at Prudhoe Family Hub

PEEP FEEL GOOD FRIDAY **NEW!**
Starting Friday 14th March 1pm-2pm (0-5 Years)
Our new Feel Good Friday sessions follows the Peep 'Learning Together Programme'. Each week we will be exploring different themes to support learning through play.

PEEP AND (Additional needs and/or disabilities)
Friday 10am-11am
A group for families with a child under 5 with additional needs or waiting for assessment.

PEEP BABIES (0-6 months) & (6-12 months)
Explore hints & tips to help you in these first few months with your baby. These sessions create stimulating play experiences, encouraging communication with your baby and an understanding of each stage of their development.

PEEP TODDLERS (1-2 years +)
Connect with others and discuss key aspects of your child's development as they learn and grow, which will support you in helping your child make the most of the world around them.

PEEP EARLY COMMUNICATORS (15-36 months)
These sessions support young children in learning to express themselves and improves communication between parents and children. Help boost your little ones speech and language, social skills, routine and much more.

AND Chill Out
Fortnightly, starting Tuesday 11th March 3:30pm-4:30pm
A session for children aged 4-14 with additional and/or needs and disabilities, and their family. Come along and meet other young people and families in a safe space.

Welcome Party
Wednesday 21st May 1pm-2pm
For expecting parents and babies up to 6 months. Come along and find out what the Family Hub has to offer. Join in with some fun activities for you, bump and baby too!
(Contact us to book your place)

Preparation for Parenthood
Tuesday 4th March 1pm-2:30pm at Hexham Family Hub
Are you pregnant? Preparation for parenthood is a free 4 week programme helping you to prepare for the arrival of your baby.

Navigating Parenthood (Contact us to book your place)
Wednesday 5th March 11am-12pm (virtual)
Embracing change, looking to the future for families with children aged 6+. A 5 week course, including stages of behaviour, effective communication, building relationships, clear boundaries and expectations and much more.

Family Panel (Contact your Family Hub)
Do you want to help make a difference to families like yours? Join the Northumberland Family Panel to get involved in future plans and share your thoughts and views, to help shape the support for families in your community.

Autism Family Support Drop-in
Thursday 20th March 10am-12pm at Hexham Family Hub
Come along for a cuppa and a chat. No diagnosis needed!
For parents of pupils aged 0-19 years.

Northumberland Parent Carer Forum
Friday 9:20am-11am at Prudhoe Family Hub
A weekly daytime support group for parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Term time only. (Scan the QR code to find out more)

Midwife & Health Visitor Appointments
You can arrange to see your Midwife or Health Visitor at the Family Hub. Please contact them directly to book.

Health Visitor Appointments - 0300 373 2488 Midwife Appointments - 0344 811 8118
Get in touch with Prudhoe Family Hub
Phone - 01661 839350 Email - prudhoefamilyhub@northumberland.gov.uk

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 USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowrie is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



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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



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
Thursday 13th March 2025	Bags2School collected.
Monday 17th March 2025	Individual Photographs
Tuesday 18th March 2025	Parents Evening
Thursday 20th March 2025	Parents Evening
Friday 21st March 2025	Red Nose Day
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

Dates for your Diary - Spring Term



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 20225	School Re-opens
Monday 5th May 2025	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR MAY BANK HOLIDAY
w/c Monday 12th May 2025	Key Stage 2 SATS Week