

21st March 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

Yesterday saw the official start to spring and this seems to have coincided with an improvement in the weather too. This week the children in a number of classes have been out and about with a particular focus on plants. Not only have they been looking at them in class but also seeing the changes in them in the outdoor environment.

Next week we look forward to welcoming Kirk Lester, Families Officer from Albemarle Barracks back into school. On Monday he will be leading some Forest School activities with Years 5 and 6. The children will need to wear suitable outdoor clothing for this as I am sure they will be getting dirty!

We welcomed the Ad Murum Singers into school this week. They spend a wonderful afternoon with our school choir preparing for the 'Last Night of the Proms' concert at the Knott Hall next Thursday. It was lovely to see the children and adults perform together. Tickets are still available from the school office.

Today our Rocksteady bands put on a concert for the rest of the school. Both performers and audience thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It is great to see the band members growing in both musical skills and confidence. Well done!

We are aware of the growing numbers of children in school who follow online streaming channels at home. This may be fashion channels or online gaming channels etc and may be on YouTube, Twitch or Discord. There is a handy parents guide about streaming and how to keep the children safe later in the flyer.

It was great to see you all this week at Parents Evening and to receive your views and comments via the parental survey. If you have not yet done so, you can return your survey until Friday 28th March 2025. We will endeavour to share the survey findings with you as soon as we can following this date.

Well done to Nursery with the joint best attendance this week: 99.1%.

Well done to Year 5 and Year 6 for the best attendance for this year: 97.7%.

Finally I'd like to offer a big well done to Newcastle United for winning the League Cup last weekend. Anything which raises the profile of the North East nationally is a great thing.

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.

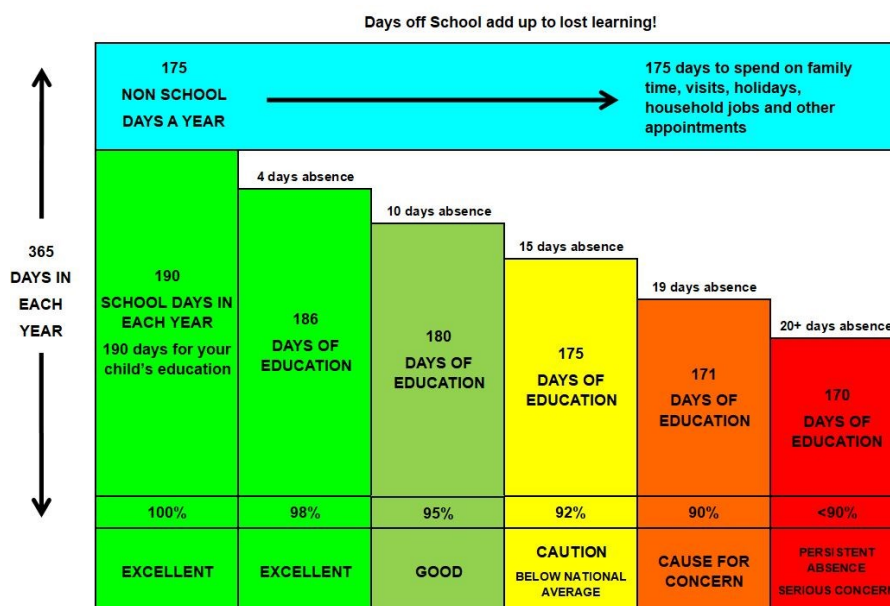


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Nursery (Hedgehogs)	99.1%	96%	Year 3 (Gibside)	94.3%	96.4%
Reception (Owls)	95.9%	95.6%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	94.2%	96.8%
Year 1 (Wallington)	97.7%	97.1%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	97.7%	97.7%
Year 2 (Cragside)	96.8%	97%	Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	98.6%	97.7%

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



The Hedgehogs have absolutely loved learning all about how plants grow and what they need in order to grow. They have been developing their cutting skills by cutting out parts of the flower and sticking them together. We have also been learning all about capacity and using vocabulary such as 'full', 'empty' and 'half full'.



PIC COLLAGE

A Busy Week in Reception

In Owl class our week started off talking about St Patrick's Day, thinking about where, why and how it is celebrated. We have been using our fine motor skills to make collage shamrocks. We had great fun in PE using our fine motor skills, counting skills and working as a team. The children enjoyed using their phonics skills to read words and decide if they were real or alien words. We have been working collaboratively to build a den for a wolf. With our grown ups we have been doing some amazing top secret writing and art work to be revealed soon! Later in the week we went on a walk to Grandma's house with an ice lolly for her. We put one ice lolly in Little Red Riding Hood's basket and one in a 'special' bag and we predicted which one would be the best bag to use and why. When we got to Grandma's house we looked at both ice lollies, I wonder if the children can remember what happened? Then who would believe it but there were enough ice lollies for everyone to enjoy a treat in the Spring sunshine.



PIC•COLLAGE



Seasonal Changes with Year 1

This week in Year 1 we have been observing the seasonal changes that have happened outside. Everybody made great observations on how the plants and weather have changed since we last looked at the seasonal changes that had happened in the Autumn term. Well done Year 1!

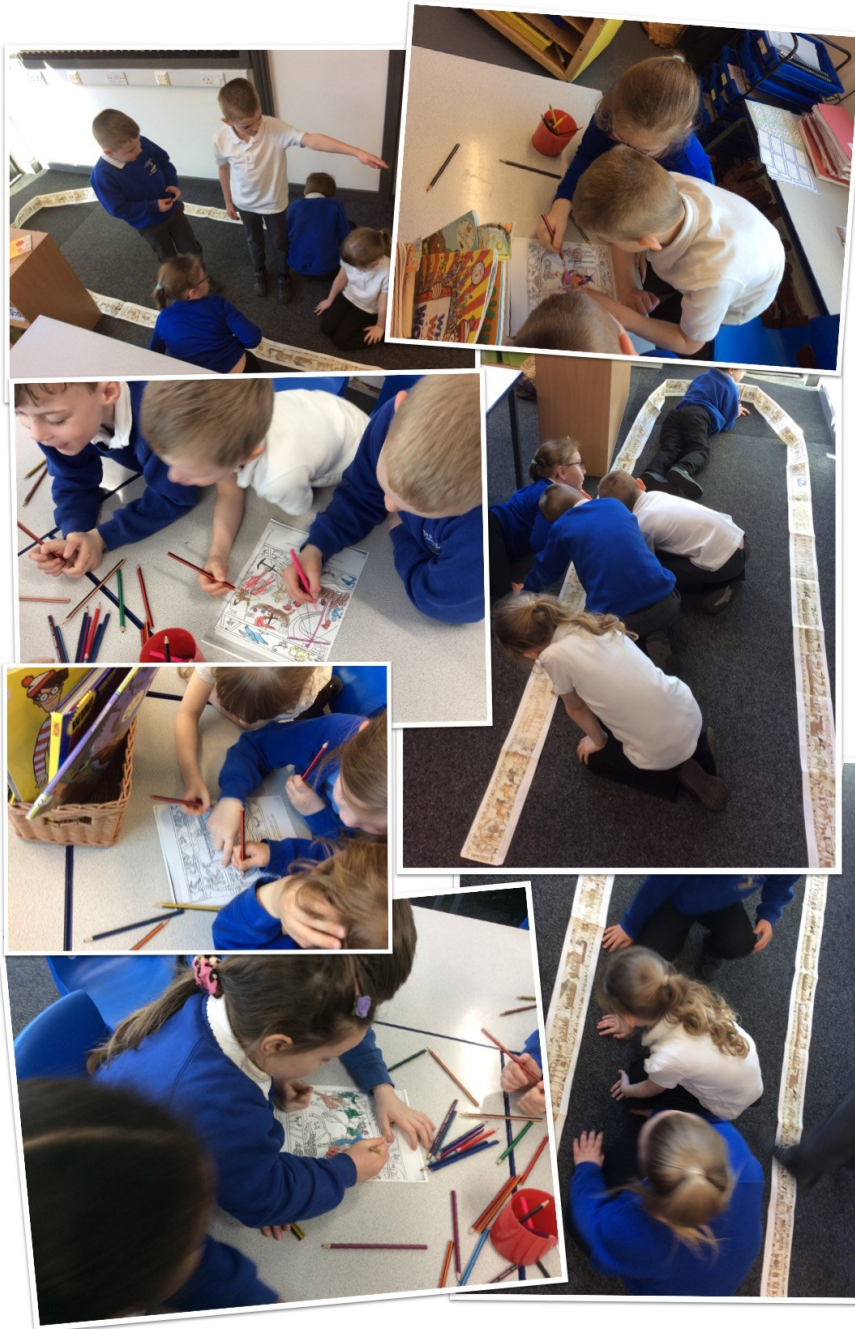


PIC•COLLAGE



William the Conqueror and the Bayeux Tapestry with Year 2

Year 2 have loved learning about the significance of William the Conqueror and the story of how he became the king of England - we studied the Bayeux Tapestry in great detail and have found out about all of the key figures.



PIC•COLLAGE



Learning

Growing Plants with Year 3

In Science, Year 3 are enjoying their plant topic. We have been looking at what plants need to grow and that they don't all need the same amount of these to enable them to grow. This week we have started an investigation focusing on encouraging plants to grow well. We went to the allotment and planted pansies in pots then brought them back to the classroom. We discussed making it a fair test so we made sure we put the pots in the same location where they would get equal amounts of sun and we measured how much water we gave them so that they all got the same amount. Our variable factor was the amount of fertiliser we gave each plant. One plant got no fertiliser and the other plants got 0.25, 0.5, 1, 1.5 and 2 doses of fertiliser. We will be looking after our plants next week, making sure they get the same amount of water, and seeing how much they have grown next Friday.





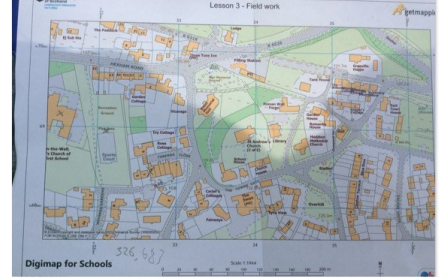
In Year 4 we have been looking at the artist J.M.W. Turner. We have been adding white to our watercolours to make a tint and black to make a shade. Well done year 4 great colour mixing. 😊



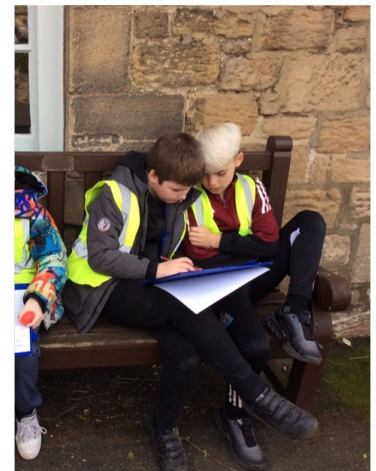
PIC•COLLAGE



Learning



This week, year 5
have explored
Heddon-on-the-Wall
and have used six
figure grids
references to locate
and identify different
landmarks in the
village!

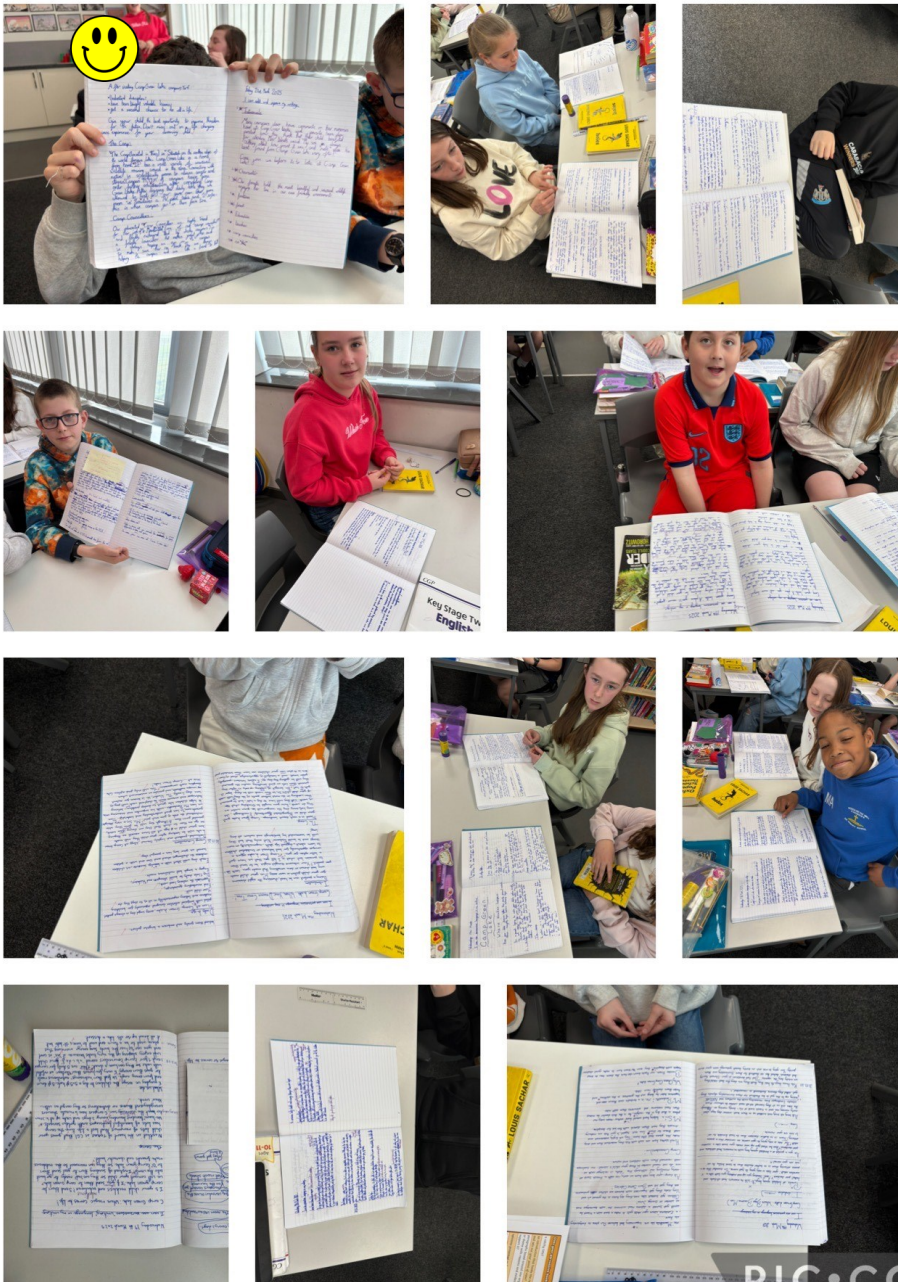


PIC•COLLAGE



Persuasive Writing in Year 6

Great writing from Year 6 this week, producing a leaflet to persuade parents of naughty boys to send their child to Camp Green Lake instead of a traditional Juvenile Centre. The children read extracts from our class text 'Holes' to record information about Camp Green Lake to inform their writing. Well done!



PIC·COLLAGE

Rocksteady Concert

Our Rocksteady bands had an amazing morning performing in front of the rest of the school. They had a great time and really showed off their skills. I am always in awe of anyone who is prepared to perform either playing an instrument or singing in front of a big audience. A big thanks to Mike from Rocksteady for working with us each week. Well done everyone!

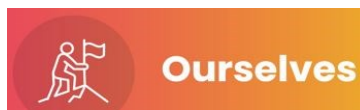


← The Anti-Swifts performed 'I knew you were trouble' by Taylor Swift.

Blasting Bonfires performed 'Firework' by Katy Perry. →



← The Storm Girls performed 'Thunder' by Imagine Dragons.



Community Singing with the Ad Murum Singers

We were pleased to welcome the Ad Murum Singers into school yesterday. They spent an amazing afternoon rehearsing with the school choir for the 'Last Night of the Proms' event at the Knott Hall on Thursday evening next week. As well as beautiful singing there was also lots of smiling and laughter. Tickets are still available from the school office.



Donation from Newcastle Upon Tyne Church of England Institution Trust.

We were pleased to welcome George from the Newcastle Upon Tyne Church of England Institution Trust into school this week. He presented us with a donation which is used to purchase the Bibles for the children in Year 3. We were very grateful for their generous donation.



Early Years Family Learning Session

Both children and adults had a great time with some craft activities based around the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'.

Many thanks to Lynne from the Northern Learning Trust for organising and running the sessions.



PIC • COLLAGE

Others





Do you have a child aged 0-19 years? Come along for a cuppa and chat and to meet other parents. No diagnosis needed!

JOIN US ON:

Thursday 1st May 2025 10am-12 at Alnwick Family Hub

On St Michaels School Site, Howling Lane, NE66 1DJ

Thursday 22nd May 2025 1-3pm at Berwick Family Hub

Ladywell Place, Tweedmouth, Berwick-upon-Tweed, TD15 2AE

Tuesday 29th April 2025 10am-12 at Hexham Family Hub

On Hexham First School Site, Beaufront Avenue, NE46 1JD

Tuesday 13th May 10am-12 at Morpeth Golf Club

Morpeth Golf Club, Loansdean, NE61 2BT

Wednesday 14th May 2025 1-3pm at Ashington Family Hub

Alexandra Road, NE63 9EF

Tuesday 6th May 2025 10am-12 at The Community Hub at Cramlington

Forum Way, Manor Walks Shopping Centre, NE23 6YB (Next to Concordia)

If you have any questions, please contact your local Family Hub or email us at:

adelle.hicks@northumberland.gov.uk

St. Andrew's Church Summer Bus Trip to Bamburgh Tuesday 29th July

Book places for a day out at the beach and the beautiful village of Bamburgh.
£5 for adult and one child, additional children £2 each.

We are delighted that we have some funds which will cover the rest of the costs.

We do however need to know numbers before we can reserve the coach.

Please email hmschurches@gmail.com to book places or
WhatsApp Revd Rachel to ask questions
or find out more
07916681128



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 STREAMERS

Livestreaming has become a big part of the entertainment people consume, and what began as a series of gamers sharing their screens has grown into a huge industry packed with personalities – and potential risks for your children. With over 2.5 million people watching Twitch, the most popular streaming service, at any one time, it's important to remain aware of the risks associated with streamers.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some gaming streamers will stick to family-friendly titles, but others will play more violent games that tend to be more popular. Non-gaming streamers could, in theory, discuss just about anything, and some streamers will often stream in revealing outfits.



NEGATIVE INFLUENCES

While things have improved, streamers are often paid by companies to promote products, and this isn't always stated explicitly. While it's unlikely these goods will be harmful to your child, some streamers and influencers have engaged (knowingly or not) in scams in the past.



FINANCIAL HARM

Streamers will often have donation buttons on their screens for users to submit money. What can start as small amounts can quickly spiral as streamers engage with paying viewers more often, potentially leading to financial issues.



UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Influencers often showcase how glamorous their lives are, making some users feel as though they are lesser. However, it's important to stress that, in many ways, this is an act, or at the very least, not common. Logan Paul, who has been successful as a streamer and influencer, has a Pokemon card worth \$5 million, but this is atypical of anyone working in the medium.



MISINFORMATION

Streamers are, in many ways, just like us – and they can get things wrong or reel off an opinion without having thought about it. Some can simply say awful things to get a rise out of viewers or to sway them to their side of a hot topic.



ADDICTION AND SCREEN TIME

If your child is watching a lot of a particular streamer, it can be just as damaging to their social life as playing too many video games.



Advice for Parents & Educators

EXPLAIN HOW STREAMING WORKS

For a younger viewer, being a streamer or influencer seems aspirational, but it involves a lot of work and no small degree of good fortune. Streamers are often managed and unable to speak freely due to sponsors, and influencers are just that – influencing young minds, for better or for worse.



CHECK OUT STREAMING PLATFORMS

While Twitch was the de facto streaming service for years, YouTube has gained popularity, too. Then there are Kick and Rumble, which have grown in popularity with moves for big-name streamers – despite many being dogged by controversy.



DO NOT LOG PAYMENT INFORMATION

Streamers can reward donations with additional content, on-camera "shout outs" and more. If you're unsure about who or what your child is watching, consider avoiding linking payment information. This is especially notable with Twitch, which is owned by Amazon and therefore has some crossover.



SET SCREEN TIME LIMITS

You can set screentime limits for mobile apps on iOS and Google, but with other platforms like a PC it may be more difficult to keep tabs. Consider checking in regularly to ensure your children aren't watching content they shouldn't be.



Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of the Daily Star, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/streamers>

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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



Monday 24th March 2025	Forest School Day for Year 5 and Year 6. Please wear appropriate outdoor clothes.
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
Thursday 10th April 2025	Year 2 Kings and Queens Day
Thursday 10th April 2025	Early Years Easter Craft Afternoon from 1.30pm-3.00pm. Parents / Carers welcome to attend.
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
Monday 5th May 2025	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR MAY BANK HOLIDAY
w/c Monday 12th May 2025	Key Stage 2 SATS Week
Wednesday 21st May 2025	Cricket Engagement Day (Further details to follow)