

28th March 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been lovely to see so many of you this week at our Mothers Day Services at St. Andrew's Church. I know how excited the children have been to share their singing and poetry with you. I am sure that you will agree that they excelled themselves this morning. It is good to take some time out to think about the people who care for us and the love we can share with others.

Year 5 and Year 6 had a great, if somewhat dirty, start to the week with a day of Forest School activities. This included den building in the Common as well as some cooking over the fire pit. To do this they had to be able to safely light their own fires! Many thanks to Kirk Lester from Albemarle Barracks for organising and leading these sessions.

We were also lucky to have Mr. Bell, Pele Trust Chef, in school this week. Year 3 had an informative and tasty afternoon making and tasting butter, mayonnaise and flatbreads. The children enjoyed trying different flavour combinations.

The Year 4 footballers took part in a football tournament this week. They played well and won some matches. Well done everyone!

Thursday evening saw an uplifting and moving 'Last night of the Proms' concert at the Knott Hall. Our choir performed admirably and enjoyed singing to such a large audience. To hear the children singing with the Ad Murum Singers was truly magical. The event raised £1200 towards St. Andrew's Church roof fund. I think that this shows what a great community we have. It is also the only village I know which has its own song!

There have been some reported instances of threadworms in school. While they are not serious they are not very pleasant to have. For advice on symptoms and treatment option please check out NHS guidance by [clicking here](#).

Don't forget to check out Rev. Rachel's bus trip to Bamburgh! Information later in the Flyer. Please contact her for more details if required.

Well done to Year 1 with the best attendance this week: 98.7%.

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

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.

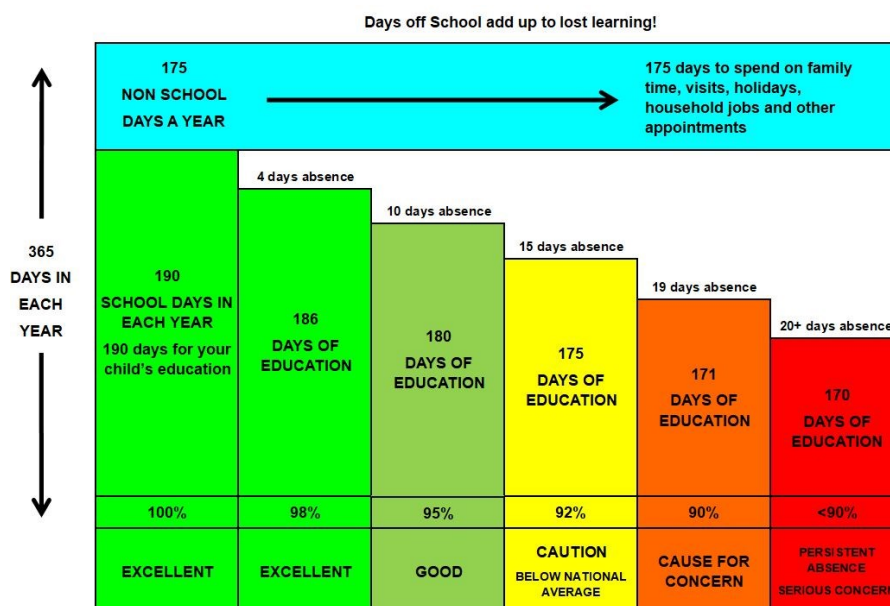


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Nursery (Hedgehogs)	97.2%	96%	Year 3 (Gibside)	93.5%	96.1%
Reception (Owls)	95.6%	96.5%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	89.7%	96.3%
Year 1 (Wallington)	98.7%	97.2%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	90.8%	97.2%
Year 2 (Cragside)	97.2%	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 loved dressing
up outside in the
sunshine this week!

We have also
enjoyed learning
about the life cycle
of a butterfly and
watching our
caterpillars grow.



PIC·COLLAGE



A Busy Week in Reception

This week in Owl class we have been learning the story of 'The Billy Goats Gruff' and using resources in the tuff tray to retell the story. As small groups we have been talking about different problems linked to the characters in the story and how we might solve them.. As an example, what could we do if the small billy goat hurt their leg? Issac made a brilliant suggestion that we could train the troll to be a vet! In our Maths we have been ordering characters from the story from smallest to biggest. We have also been thinking about how it's good to be different by listening to the story of Elmer. Then we learnt about the artist Kandinsky and coloured Elmer in by drawing or painting concentric circles. Our art work will be on display later in the year as part of the Kaleidoscope project. As well as all this we have had some brilliant model making this week, a telescope, a rocket and a fish tank to name but a few.



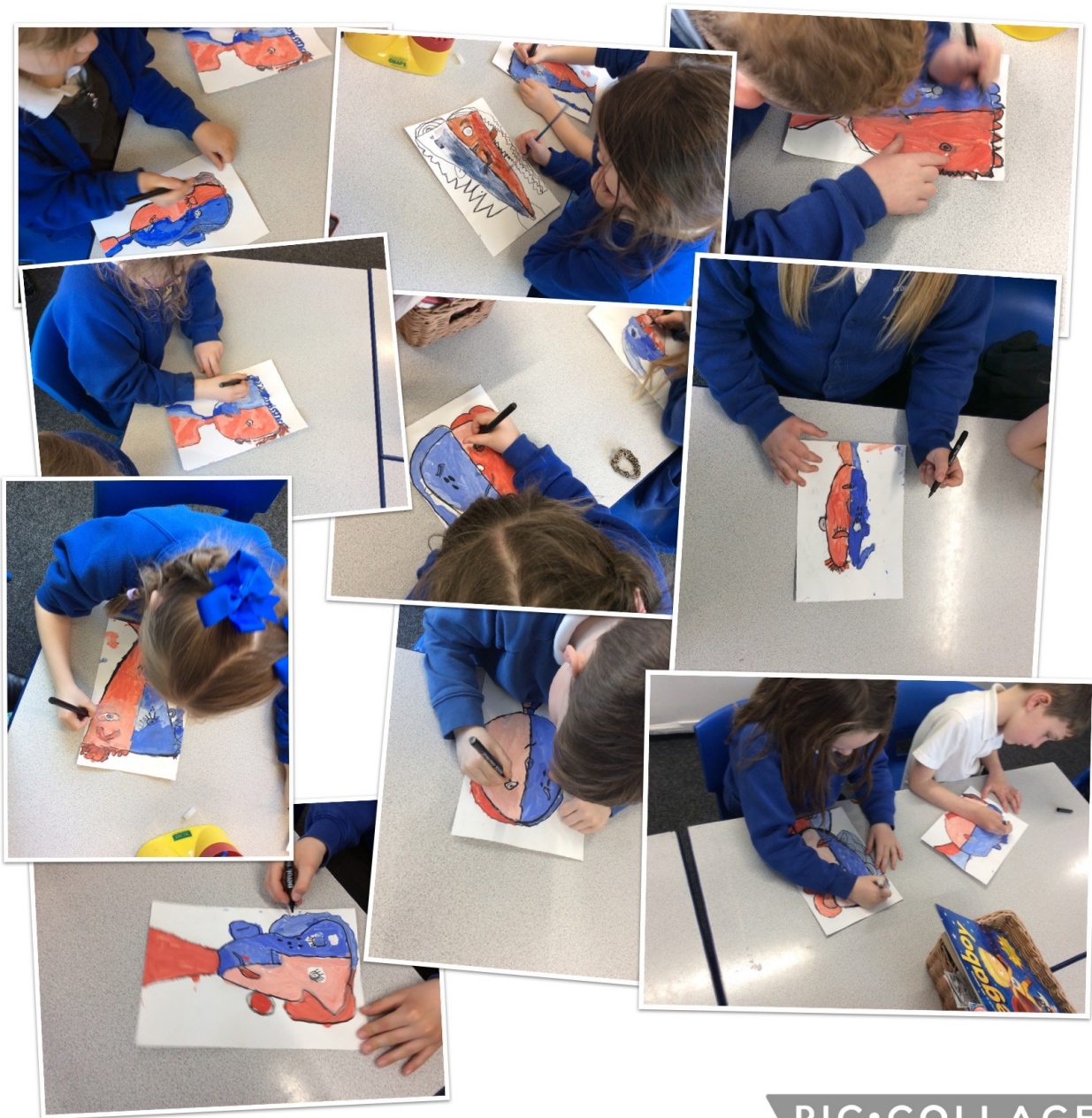
Taste Testing and Weather Measuring with Year 1

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!



Portraits with Year 2

Year 2 have been working hard at their portrait artwork this week. We've been inspired by Picasso's Weeping Women portraits and have worked really hard to follow his style - well done, Year 2!



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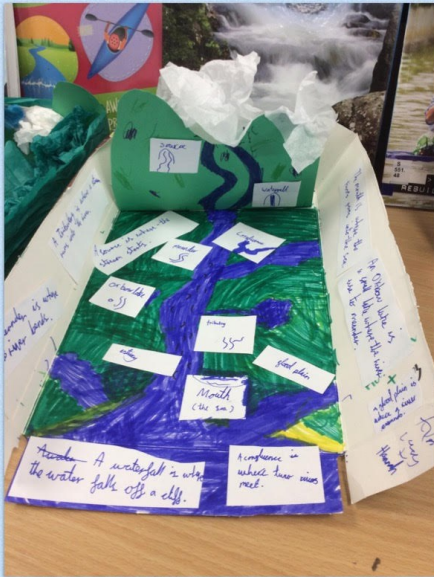


Learning

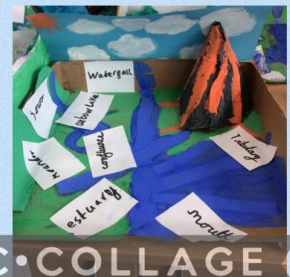
Growing Plants with Year 3

As part of Year 3's Design Technology unit on food, we were delighted to welcome Mr. Bell, our talented chef and Catering Manager, into our classroom! We talked about the food groups and helped to make flatbread, mayonnaise, hummus and even our own butter! We are very inspired to design our own sandwich fillings next week. Why not try a few unique fillings and new flavours at home?





In Geography we have been naming the features of a river. We worked in pairs to make a 3D model to show features such as a meander, river source, mouth, tributaries and a confluence. Great team work everyone. 😊



PIC • COLLAGE



This week in year 5,
we took part in forest
school, learning how
to make dens and
create fire safely! We
had a great time!



PIC•COLLAGE

Others



Life

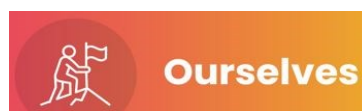


Forest School fun with Year 6

It was fantastic to be able to enjoy some of the sunny weather this week, spending time outdoors completing our forest school activities. The children worked well in teams to build dens, before ending their session with hot chocolates.



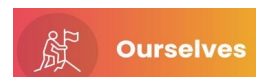
Early Years and Key Stage 1 Mothers Day Service



'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14

Key Stage 2 Mothers Day Service



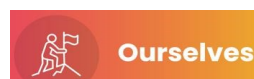
PIC•COLLAGE

'Let all that you do be done with love'

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Last Night of the Proms with the Ad Murum Singers

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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 BLUESKY SOCIAL APP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With an App Store rating of 17+ & Google Play rating Mature

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

While Bluesky has been around since 2019, it's suddenly taken off in a big way thanks to a significant exodus from X (formerly Twitter). Indeed, it looks and behaves a lot like Twitter before Elon Musk bought the platform. Bluesky has been touted in recent months as a safer, more open-minded alternative to X – but like any social media site, it still has its share of risks.

NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS

While most social networks allow accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through the implementation of group chats.

INTERACTIONS WITH STRANGERS

Every account being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and move on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being conned by scammers, messaged by predatory adults or exposed to others with ill intentions. These hazards can be compounded by the fact that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide their real name.

TROLLING AND BULLYING

While Bluesky currently feels a lot friendlier than X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying younger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION

Established news organisations have fact-checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and can often serve as breeding grounds for misinformation and disinformation. Bluesky will possibly be no different once it reaches a certain size, and children may not have the critical thinking skills to tell fact from fiction – or to discern an informative, honest user from a malicious one.

ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE

Bluesky isn't designed with children in mind, and there aren't many parental controls on the platform. In an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's CEO originally said that the app would only allow users aged 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesperson later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally meant for an adult audience and suggests that making the platform more child-friendly might not currently be a priority.

RAPID GROWTH

At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison with other social networks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in part to its smaller community. The app has recently been adding as many as a million users per day, and if that continues, there'll be more unpleasant users to handle, and moderators could struggle to maintain the pleasant environment Bluesky is currently known for.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER

Bluesky doesn't have much in the way of parental controls, but there are content filters which can hide sexual and graphic imagery. These are enabled by default for underage accounts but can be manually turned on in the 'Moderation' section of the app's settings. The 'advanced' Bluesky Moderation Service lets you restrict content even further, hiding – for example – self-harm content, extremist rhetoric, and even rude posts.



LOOK OUT FOR FAKES

Impersonation is a problem on all social networks. While the consequences are usually benign, imposters sometimes attempt to scam or groom children by pretending to be a popular influencer or online personality. Bluesky is unique in that it can be connected to official domains, with users' handles linking to other sites; while this isn't widely used right now, it could be a reliable way to verify celebrities and public figures in future.



ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING

Another tool that Bluesky uses to ensure a decent experience is muting and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls or bullies on the platform, encourage them to use this function, while also reporting the offenders to help make the platform a nicer place for everyone.



KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

As with all social media platforms, moderation and content filters can only do so much; it's highly likely that a child will eventually face something unsavey. For that reason, it's important to make sure that young people are aware of the risks and know how to handle the technology if anything they see on the app makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.



Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



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

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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



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)