

4th April 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been lovely to welcome two special spring visitors into school this week. Early Years got to meet two very bouncy and excitable lambs. The children had a great time learning all about them and also managed to get some sneaky cuddles too! They couldn't believe that they were less than a day old when they came into school.

Year 1 have been out and about this week. They had a great time learning all about Palm Sunday with Rev. Rachel at St. Andrew's Church. As always they were great ambassadors for our school.

Some of our Year 5 and Year 6 children have had an interesting day working with the other Pele Trust primary schools at Newcastle University exploring creative arts. This is part of the ongoing Trust wide Kaleidoscope project.

Well done this week to both Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Tweedie who have been awarded the Pele Trust employees of the month in recognition for the work they do in school.

With the school holidays around the corner, some children will be looking forward to spending longer online, with their friends, playing online games. There always has to be a balance, but gaming can be a really positive activity for lots of reasons. But as we all know there are lots of risks and issues. Internet Matters has a brilliant guide for parents which goes into lots of detail in relation to balancing gaming with other activities, setting up consoles correctly, connecting with others and much more. The guide can be found by [clicking here](#).

Next Friday morning is our Key Stage 2 Easter service at St. Andrew's Church. It starts at 9.30am and we would love to see you there.

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 Reception with the best attendance this week: 98.5%.

Well done to Year 6 for the best attendance for this year: 97.3%.

I would like to remind you that school closes for the Easter holidays at 3.15pm next Friday.

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.

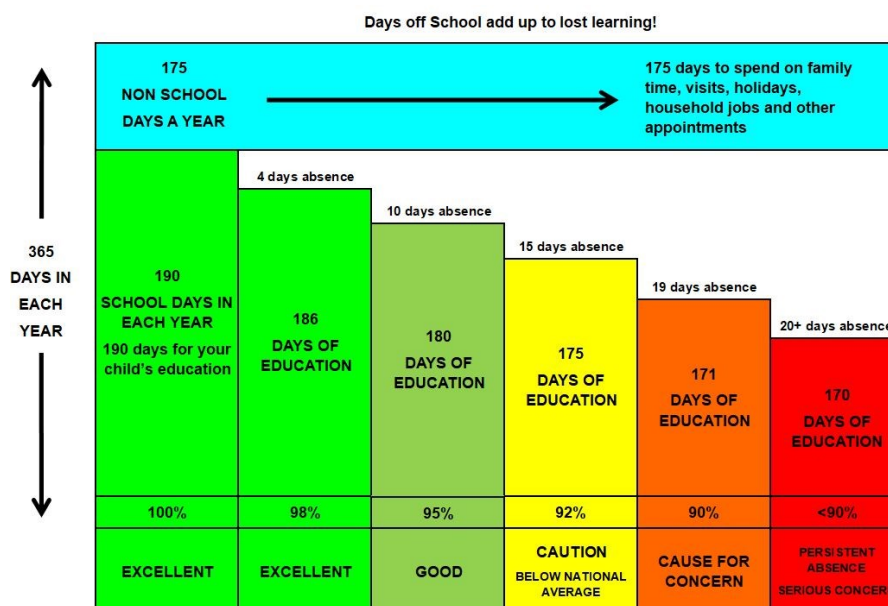


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

| Class               | Attendance this week | Attendance this year | Class                 | Attendance this week | Attendance this year |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Nursery (Hedgehogs) | 97.6%                | 96.1%                | Year 3 (Gibside)      | 98.4%                | 96.2%                |
| Reception (Owls)    | 98.5%                | 95.5%                | Year 4 (Lindisfarne)  | 95.5%                | 96.3%                |
| Year 1 (Wallington) | 96.8%                | 97.2%                | Year 5 (Bamburgh)     | 97.7%                | 97.2%                |
| Year 2 (Cragside)   | 97.2%                | 97%                  | Year 6 (Dunstanburgh) | 91.7%                | 97.3%                |

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



What a busy week in Nursery! The Hedgehogs have been enjoying playing outside in the sunshine again. The children have been fascinated watching our caterpillars grow and form their chrysalis; we can't wait to watch them turn into butterflies! We also had very special visitors in school... two little lambs!



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Learning

Life





## Learning about Spring in Reception

It's been all about Spring this week in Reception. We have been planting dried peas in the hope that we will grow pea shoots...watch this space. We have also been on a nature walk looking for signs of spring. Within provision we have made playdough flowers, robots and made number bonds to five. But the most exciting thing was when we had two new born lambs come to visit us, they were less than 24 hours old, all the children that wanted to had a cuddle.



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## Visiting St. Andrew's Church with Year 1

On Monday Year 1 went on a visit to church to see Reverend Rachel, who talked about the Easter story and the events that happened. To start with we all made our own palm leaves and then had a procession around church waving our palm leaves. Then some children got their feet washed by their friends. Before finally we all shared some bread and wine (vinto) and even had a chocolate egg on the way back to school. It was an eggcellent visit!



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## Diary Entries in Year 2

Year 2 have worked really hard with their diary entries, writing as though they were around during the Great Fire of London. We have used a lovely writer's voice and have even managed to get a few adverbs in, too - well done, Year 2!

Dear Diary

It has been a red hot summer. A fire could spread very quickly. In fact I should see a fire today.

I got a old bag filled it with paper and set off to see Mr Lilly. (an astrologer) I got there at last and said, "There is a big <sup>cloud</sup> drought. What will happen?" Mr Lilly said, "A disaster will strike London!" I said, "Thank you and went to the tower of London. Soon it was bed time and a baker put his ovens out and went to bed.

Soon a MASSIVE fire broke out. The foolish baker had left his ovens hot. Soon the stars in set a lite. Then, wosh! Sparks fell down on factories and the road. Then as people that it was

I heard the news that the King is much to low and there's a strong sea wind. Oh, how I wish I could speak to an astrologer. I decided. I hope Mr Lilly can tell me what will happen. I know will be a disaster for us.

I heard the news from my maid. I wanted to see the King of London to see get my help. Everything will burn with the church. I must tell the King.

"King Charles King Charles for them is a fine. I said. A fire will burn the whole city." "I must get my gun" he said. "I must get a bucket and fill it with water and put the fire out." "Yes, but you help too."

Oh I mustn't forget to buy my wife a child. I got it all the way from Italy. It will be the best of the world of the world. It will give her and give her a child. Oh how should I buy it to go to see her with my baby garden!

September 5th 1666

Dear Diary I has been a very hot and dry summer. It was so hot I got burnt. I will keep writing this diary until the fire stops.

I went to see Mr Lilly. He said "there will be a disaster I there for see it." Then I went and long walk to the top of the tower of London. "adadada adadada" I cried. "I am so anxious to see the King Charles II on his way. I said, "stay calm boy." Then I went back to my garden. I had to buy my bunny, cheese and wine. I checked the fire safely.

I was so sad to. And I wish for the best for the fire stop.

Dear Diary.

It was a really hot day and the wind is blowing the dust to.

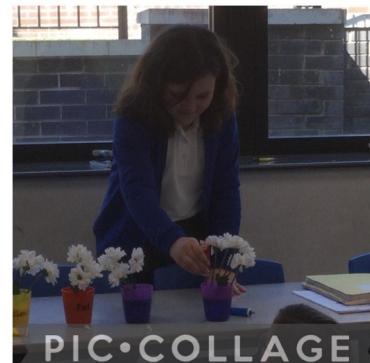
1. I went to see Mr Lilly the astrologer Mr Lilly said there will be a disaster I got see it.
2. I went to the top of London. The wind the fire was spreading. I must tell the King.
3. King Charles II King Charles I was there a sign. Fight to get my sword. Get pul down houses. In Name of God.





## Plant Experiments in Year 3

In Science, we have been looking at how water is transported in plants. After learning about the process we set up an investigation where we have placed white flowers in water which contain different food colourings. We have all made predictions about what we think will happen to the flowers and we are looking forward to seeing any changes on Monday!



Learning

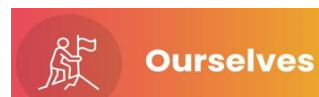




This week in PE we have been learning the skills of attacking, control, teamwork, dribbling, finding a space to attack and good movement whilst playing Hockey. Great work everyone.



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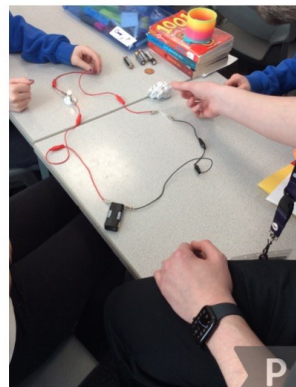
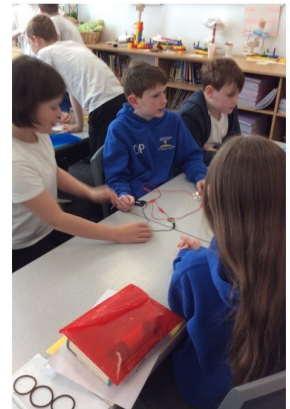
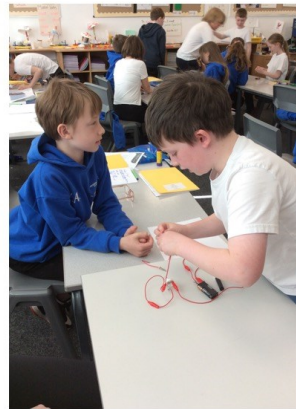
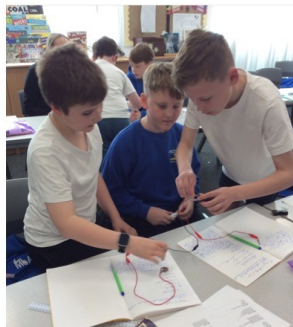
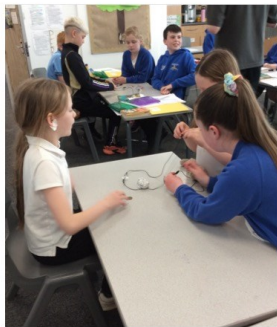
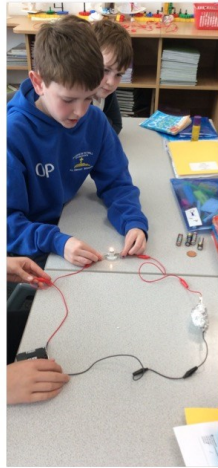
Ourselves



Learning



This week in year 5, we had a great afternoon learning and discovering which material is the best for a switch circuit! Year 5 had a great time working in teams to test these materials and discussing which material was the better conductor!



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## Outdoor Maths with Year 5 and Year 6

Children from Year 5 and Year 6 used their co-ordinate skills to compete against each other in a game of battleships today. It was lovely to be out in the sunshine to do this. We used all four quadrants of the grid and made sure that we were accurate when finding coordinates. Well done Year 5 and 6!







This week, our Rocksteady bands held a concert to showcase their performances to parents and carers! It was great to see the band members showcase their wonderful hard work! Well Done!



PICTOCOLLAGE



# 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 [hmrchurches@gmail.com](mailto:hmrchurches@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](http://nationalcollege.com).

follow

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION  
13+

Instagram remains one of the world's most popular social media platforms, especially among teens – with around 70% of 13 to 17-year-olds using it. Owned by Meta, Instagram allows users to share photos and videos, create interactive 'stories', broadcast live, send private messages and follow others. With regular updates and new features, it's essential for parents and educators to stay informed about how children are using the app – and what the risks are.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Instagram's design encourages prolonged use through endless scrolling of trending content and generating a fear of missing out (FOMO). Children can quickly lose track of time browsing posts from friends, influencers, and strangers, which may disrupt their day-to-day activities.

#### AI CHATBOT CONCERNS

Meta's AI, which is available on Instagram, allows users to chat with an in-app chatbot. While often helpful, it can blur boundaries for young users, who may ask for or read content that is inappropriate or see it as a real friend or confidant. Privacy issues also arise, as conversations may not be as secure or private as children assume.

#### RISKS OF GOING LIVE

The livestream feature allows real-time broadcasting to followers – or anyone, if the account is public. This increases the chance of unwanted contact from strangers and pressure to act in ways that gain attention, including engaging in inappropriate behaviour. Viewers may also post offensive or harmful comments during live sessions.

#### THREADS INTEGRATION

Threads is Instagram's sister app for public, text-based conversations. Posts from Threads appear in users' Instagram feeds and can lead children to view, share, and comment on public conversations with strangers. The content may not always be age-appropriate and can be misleading or false.

#### SCHEDULED MESSAGING

Instagram's newer ability to schedule direct messages means that children could receive messages late at night or early in the morning. This can disrupt their sleep or keep them preoccupied before the school day even begins.

#### EXCLUSION AND LOW SELF-WORTH

Feeling left out online can have a real emotional impact. Being left out of photos, receiving fewer likes, being unfollowed, or being ignored in chats and comments can leave children feeling excluded, which often hurts as much as in real life. There is a risk this can lead to reduced self-esteem and a sense of not belonging.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

#### USE INSTAGRAM'S SUPERVISION TOOLS

Instagram's built-in Family Centre lets parents monitor how much time their child spends on the app. Specialised 'teen accounts' are private by default and offer controls on who can message them. Make sure that children use their real age when registering their account to ensure they have these protections.

#### OPEN UP THE CONVERSATION

Talk regularly to the children in your care about what they enjoy on Instagram – and what makes them uncomfortable. Encourage honest chats about filters, body image, and online approval. Reassure them that they don't need to edit their appearance or chase 'likes' to feel valued.

#### SET BOUNDARIES FOR THREADS AND AI

Parental controls on Instagram also apply to Threads. These allow parents to monitor time spent in the app, check follower lists and adjust exposure to sensitive content. Discuss AI features, too, therefore helping children understand that chatbots aren't real people and should be used with care.

#### BE MEDIA-SAVVY WITH INFLUENCERS

Parents should follow a few of the influencers their child watches, so they can better understand the content they're seeing. Use this as a springboard to talk about the difference between genuine recommendations and paid promotions – and how online personalities can shape opinions and behaviour.

#### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

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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.<br>Parents / Carers welcome to attend. |
| Friday 11th April 2025            | Key Stage 2 Easter Service at St. Andrew's Church - 9.30am                                    |
| <b>w/c Monday 14th April 2025</b> | <b>EASTER HOLIDAYS</b>                                                                        |
| Monday 28th April 2025            | School Re-opens                                                                               |
| <b>Monday 5th May 2025</b>        | <b>SCHOOL CLOSED FOR MAY BANK HOLIDAY</b>                                                     |
| Thursday 7th May 2025             | Year 1 visit to the Lifeboat Station                                                          |
| w/c Monday 12th May 2025          | Key Stage 2 SATS Week                                                                         |
| Friday 16th May 2025              | Nissan visiting school to speak with Year 6                                                   |
| Wednesday 21st May 2025           | Cricket Engagement Day (Further details to follow)                                            |
| <b>w/c Monday 26th May 2025</b>   | <b>HALF TERM HOLIDAYS</b>                                                                     |
| w/c Monday 2nd June 2025          | Made in the North East Week                                                                   |