

26th May 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

After another non-stop week I can't believe we are at the end of another half term with only a few more weeks to go until the Summer holidays!

Well done to both Year 6 and Year 2 who have completed their SATS tests this half term. I am pleased to see that it has been announced that this will be the last year that Year 2 children will be expected to complete SAT tests.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our jubilee celebrations. The children very much enjoyed performing for you. A special thanks to our ex-pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 who came to join us again. It was great to catch up with you and hear about all the amazing things you are doing. You are a credit to your High Schools! I would also like to thank our special band who performed live with us yesterday. The time you give to support the School is very much appreciated.

Some of our Year 5 children are currently in Greece as part of a Pele Trust Primary Languages project. It was wonderful to see them meeting and working with the children from our Partner School, Ecole Jeanne D'Arc in Piraeus. We are also very much looking forward to our Year 6 France trip and meeting our friends from La Salle Ecole in Amiens next half term.

I think you will agree that these experiences are very special and really make learning memorable, creating lifelong memories.

Well done to Year 1 with the best attendance this week of 100%.

I hope that you enjoy reading this flyer and that whatever you have planned for this half term break you have an enjoyable and restful time.

Mr. A. Wheatley,
Headteacher

Attendance Matters



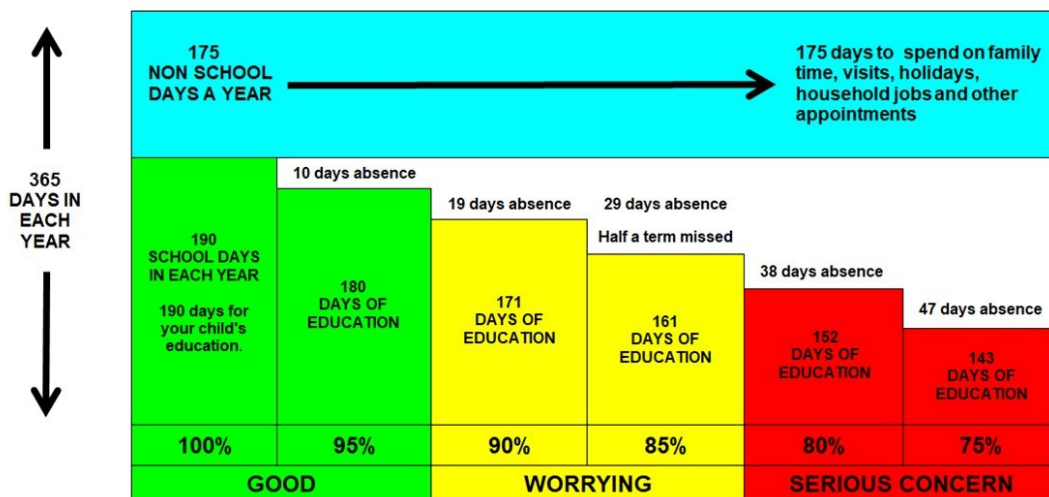
We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance	Class	Attendance
Reception (Owls)	95.8%	Year 3 (Gibside)	93.6%
Year 1 (Wallington)	100%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	96.8%
Year 2 (Cragside)	89%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	94.8%
		Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	94.5%

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

Days off School add up to lost learning!



'Whatever you do work at it with all your heart'

This week in Nursery, we have been learning all about Mini-beasts! We have been naming lots of different mini-beasts and grouping them into ones that have wings, legs and no legs. We have been doing some fantastic painting of mini beasts too! We have absolutely loved watching our caterpillars grow and this week, they were ready to be released!



PIC•COLLAGE



Super Celebrations!

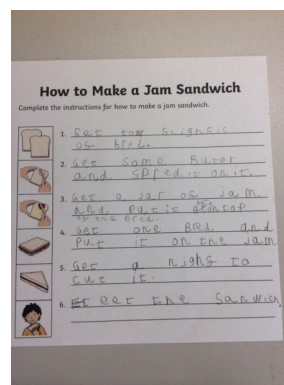
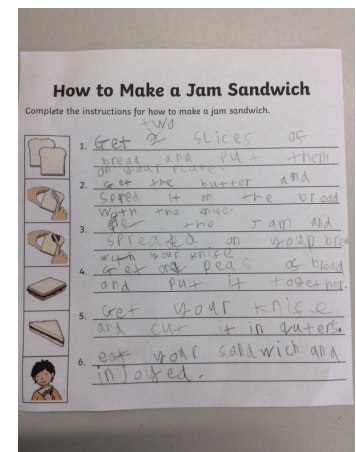
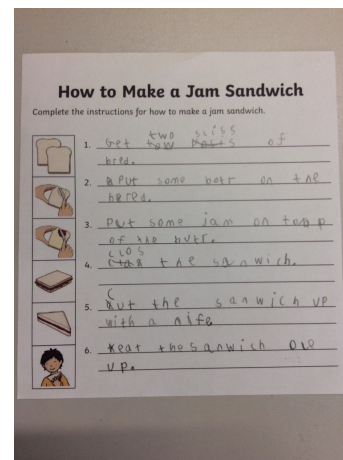
What a fantastic time we have had celebrating this week;

Mrs McGurk returned, we had our School's Super 60th Jubilee AND we released our butterflies into the wild after watching their amazing life cycle over the past few weeks!



Jam Sandwiches with Year 1!

This week Year 1 children made their own jam sandwiches. We talked about how we need to give someone clear instructions otherwise things can start to go wrong; Miss Kerridge's sandwich didn't go to plan when we hadn't given her clear instructions! After making and eating our sandwiches we wrote our own instructions to tell someone how they could make their own jam sandwich. Super work Year 1!



Exploring Micro-Habitats with Year 2

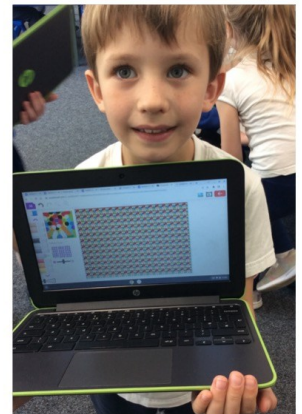
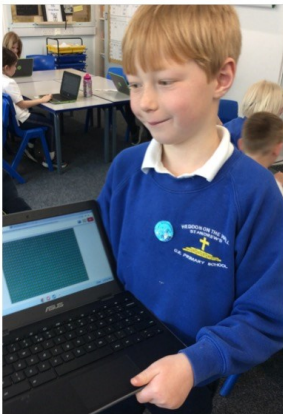
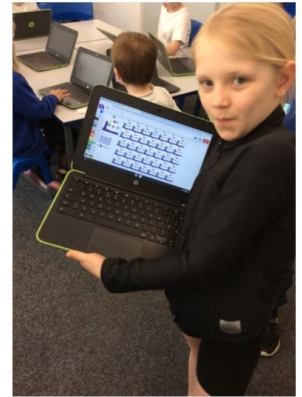
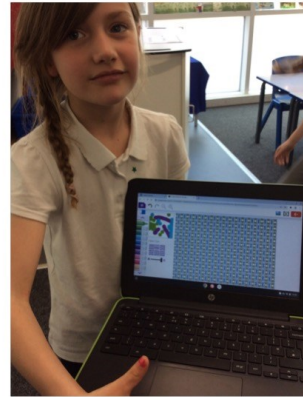
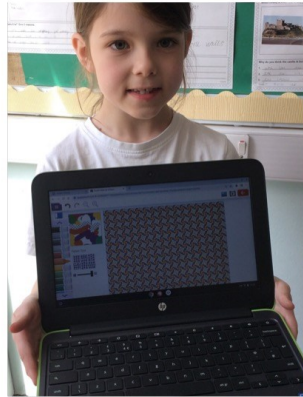
Year 2 enjoyed carrying out a Science investigation to find out what mini beasts are found in particular micro habitats. We planned our own investigations and wrote a report to share the results.



PIC•COLLAGE

Creating Digital Art in Year 2

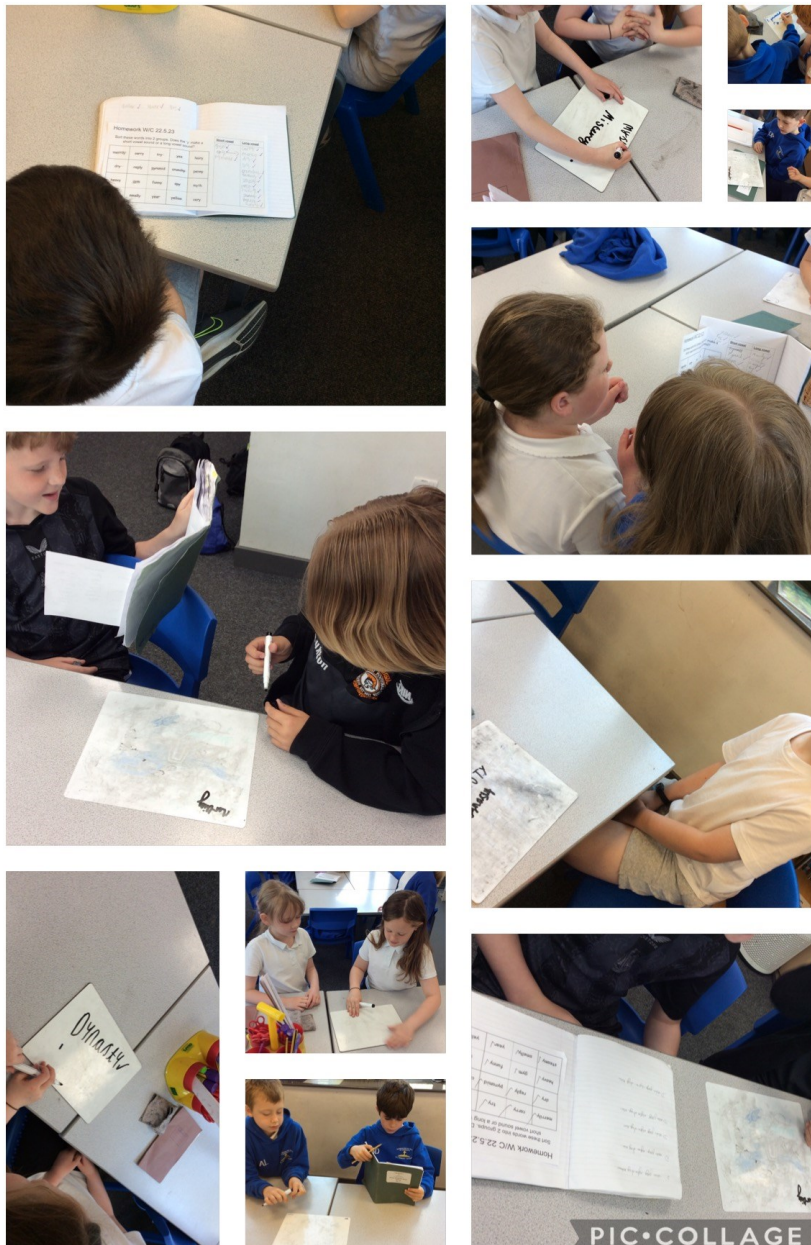
Creating repeating patterns based on art work by William Morris. Famous pioneer of the arts and crafts movement. We observed the colours, patterns and objects in his work to recreate our own digital art.



PIC COLLAGE

Super Spelling in Year 3

In Year 3, every Friday, we mark our spelling homework and then consolidate our learning for the week. This week, our task was to play a spelling game with our friends. We have been focussing on how the letter 'y' makes a different sound when it is in different positions in a word; we took it in turns to spell words with short 'yuh' sounds at the start, short 'ih' sounds in the middle and long 'ee' and 'igh' sounds at the end. This task also helped us develop our proofreading skills!



Ancient Greece with Year 4

In Year 4 this week we have been finishing off our Ancient Greek diaries. We have been reading sections of a non fiction text (Visitors Guide to Ancient Greece) and using the facts we have learned to write daily diary entries. Adventures have included visiting Athens, discovering temples, finding out about the different kinds of entertainment available and reading about the first ever Olympic games!



PIC•COLLAGE

Cutting and Dicing in Year 5

This week, Year 5 have been working with our Pele Trust Chef, Mr. Bell. They have been learning about seasonality and culture in UK cuisine. The children have been learning how to safely cut and dice fruit for their crumbles which they are designing and making as part of their Design Technology project.



Periscopes in Year 6

A busy week in Year 6 started with the children making their own Periscopes on Monday, as part of their "light" unit in Science. Using their knowledge of reflection and how light travels, they were able to explain how their periscopes worked; allowing them to see around corners and over objects. We also took some time out of class on Tuesday to enjoy an Ice Cream in the sun!

Have a great, restful half term Year 6—You have earned it!

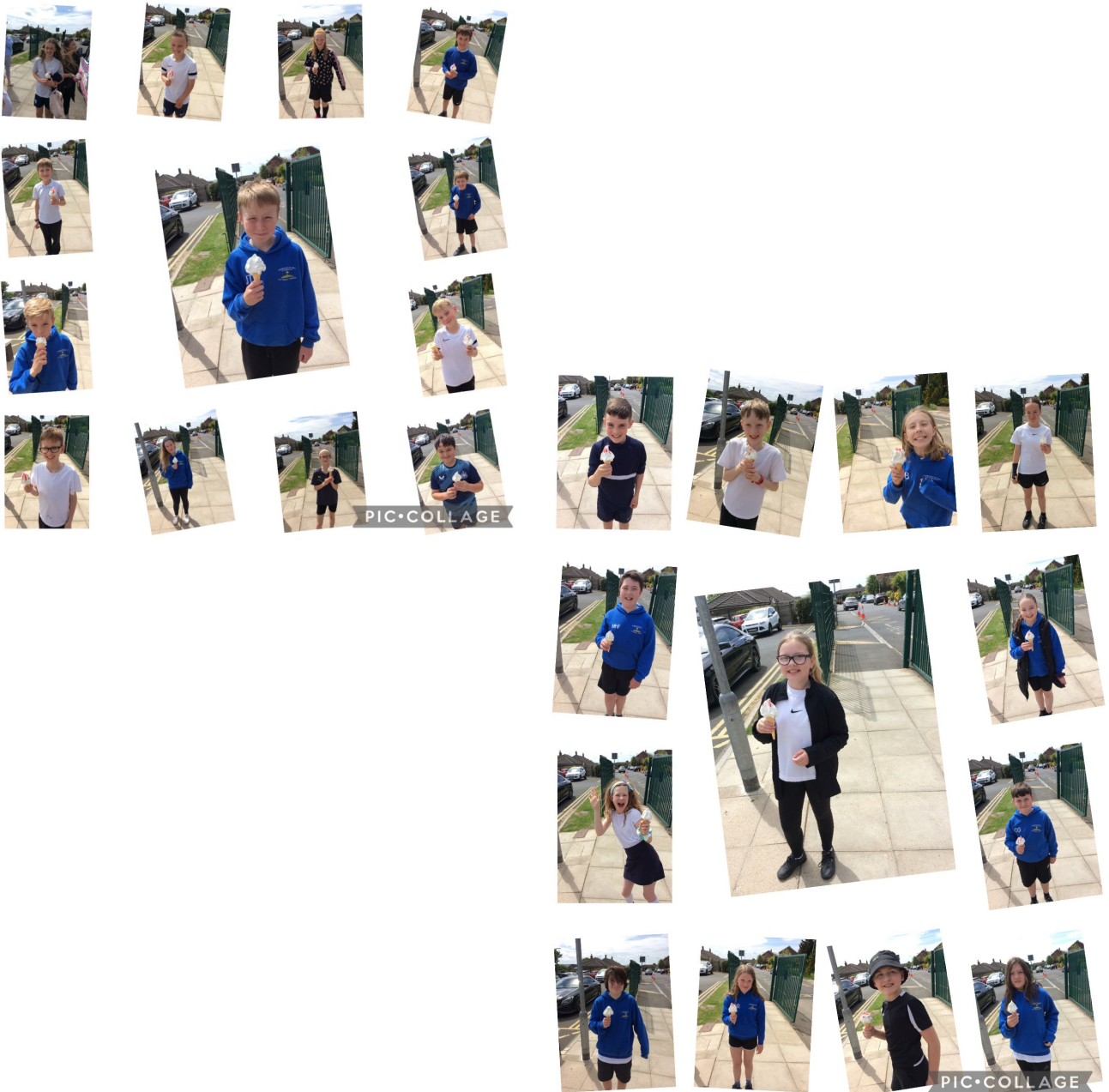


PIC•COLLAGE

A Special Visitor for Year 6

Year 6 took some time out of class on Tuesday to enjoy an ice cream in the sun to celebrate the end of their SATS.

Thank you to Vision for Education who organized the Ice Cream van. We all very much enjoyed our ice creams!



Special Thanks!

We would like to offer special thanks to the amazing band who helped at our performance this week. We are so grateful for the time and effort you put in to provide the children with unforgettable memories.



I would also like to thank our ex-students from Years 7 and 8 who returned this week to support and participate in our performance. They are a credit to their High Schools as they were polite, well mannered, extremely well behaved and performed with such enthusiasm. It was wonderful that they could be with us all day as it allowed the Year 6 children to ask them all sorts of questions about life at High School.



Doughnuts at Church!

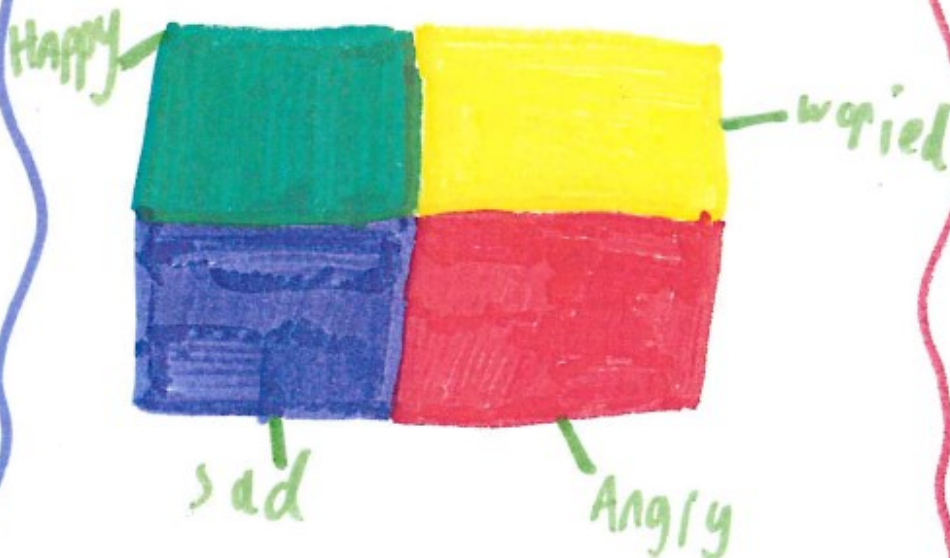
Following on from the Festival of Fire, we are going to have a bit of a different service on Sunday at Heddon. We will begin in the churchyard and say some prayers for our community, we will then have some songs we will all know from school before a very short Holy Communion. We will then be having Krispy Kreme doughnuts, coffee and juice after the service. Let us know if you think you might come along or just show up on the day.



Don't forget to come along to our Zones of Regulation Parent Workshop on Wednesday 7th June at 2pm.

on Wednesday 7th June 2023,
Our School will have a special
guest speaker, to talk about the
ZONES of regulation, and
you are invited.

See you in the school studio,
at 2-3 pm.



Emotional Well-being behaviour series

Festival of Fire.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Festival of Fire celebrations last Friday evening. It was wonderful to see so many people in attendance. We really enjoyed listening to the Choir and hearing Rev. Rachel tell us all about Pentecost and Christian Aid before going up to Church for more songs, prayers and some special birthday cake!

I am please to let you know that the event raised £908.60 for Christian Aid.



PIC•COLLAGE



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about INFLUENCERS

In today's digital age, social media influencers play an increasingly significant role in shaping the opinions, interests and behaviours of our children. While many of these individuals can have a positive effect, influencer culture can also present certain risks – such as encouraging consumerism, affecting self-esteem and blurring trustworthiness. To help ensure a safe online environment for young people, it's vital to maintain open communication, set sensible boundaries, promote a healthy self-image and teach digital media literacy. Our guide delves deeper into all of these.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

HEIGHTENED CONSUMERISM

A major way that influencers make money is through brand partnerships and sponsored content. As a result, children who follow them may be exposed to a steady stream of advertising; this can lead to materialistic attitudes, unrealistic expectations and an increased desire to have the latest products. Many influencers have built huge brand empires around their large, impressionable following.

THE SOFT SELL

Some influencers aren't always transparent about the motivations behind their posts, blurring the lines between genuine recommendations and paid-for promotions – and young people sometimes find it difficult to distinguish authentic content from advertising. Many major social platforms have taken steps to make sponsored content and ads easier to identify, but it remains an area of concern.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Inspired by their favourite influencers, children may start sharing more of their own lives online – which could reveal personal information or details about their daily routine. This openness can put them at risk of cyberbullying or even predatory behaviour. This is exacerbated by live streaming, which gives young people no time to consider the potential consequences of saying too much.

UNDERMINING SELF-ESTEEM

Many influencers share images and videos of themselves and their activities, which are often painstakingly curated and edited to present an idealised version of their life. Children who follow these influencers may develop distorted expectations about body image and the concept of beauty, which can potentially lead to negative self-esteem and even mental health issues.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP TALKING

Chat to your child about the content they consume on social media and the influencers that they like. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear online, and listen to any concerns they might have. Maintaining this line of open, honest communication can help your child to make informed decisions about which individuals they follow and what content they engage with.

SUPPORT A HEALTHY SELF-IMAGE

Reinforce your child's awareness that real life isn't usually as picture perfect as it may appear on social media – and how some content (particularly that of influencers) is often curated, staged or edited to look more glamorous. If possible, highlight examples of other influencers who share authentic, relatable material which acknowledges their imperfections and struggles as well.

SET SOME BOUNDARIES

Agree age-appropriate boundaries for your child's social media use, including time limits and privacy settings (the two major operating systems on mobile devices, Android and iOS, have these controls baked in). Try to keep an eye on your child's online activity and discuss it regularly with them – including reminding them of the potential risks that can arise from following influencers.

PROMOTE MEDIA LITERACY

Talk to your child about the concepts of sponsored content, advertising and potential influencer bias. Teach them to critically evaluate the information they're presented with online and to consider the possible reasons behind content creation. This can help young people develop the skills to make healthier decisions about the influencers they choose to follow and the content they consume.

Meet Our Expert

A former director of digital learning and currently a deputy headmaster and DSL, Brendan O'Keefe's experience and expertise gives him a clear insight into how modern digital systems impact the experience of children, staff and parents – and which strategies help to ensure that the online world remains a useful educational tool rather than a minefield of risks.



Dates for your Diary



Friday 26 th May 2023	Summer Term 1 Ends
Monday 5 th June 2023	Summer Term 2 Starts
w/b Monday 5 th June 2023	Made in the North East Theme Week with trips for each class - further details to follow
Wednesday 7th June 2023	Zones of Regulation Parent Workshop with Lee Hill from Emotional Wellbeing and Behaviour Service in Studio (2pm-3pm)
w/b Monday 12 th June 2023	Year 1 Phonic Screen Check Week
w/b Monday 12 th June 2023	Bikeability for Year 5 (Children will need to bring their bikes to School for this)
w/b Monday 19 th June 2023	Year 6 Bee Transition Project
Wednesday 21st June 2023	Music and Drama Showcase at 5pm in School Hall
Monday 26th June 2023 - Friday 30th June 2023	Year 6 Visit to France

Dates for your Diary



Friday 30 th June 2023	Armed Forces Day
Monday 3 rd July 2023 – Wednesday 5 th July 2023	Bikeability for Reception using Balance Bikes which are provided
Friday 7 th July 2023	French Spelling Bee for Pele Trust Primaries (selected children to attend)
Friday 7 th July 2023	10am - RockSteady Concert for parents of children performing.
Friday 7 th July 2023	Archery Session for Year 5
Monday 10 th July 2023 (am only)	Newcastle Eagles STEM Event for Year 5 and Year 6
Tuesday 11 th July 2023	Year 6 at St. James' Park for Toon Team Day
Wednesday 12 th July 2023	Crepe Day for Year 5 and Year 6 to celebrate Bastille Day
Thursday 13 th July 2023	FLOW Project Choir Performance at Ponteland High School
Friday 14 th July 2023	Sports Day - <i>Further details about timings for each Key Stage will be sent out closer to the time.</i>
Friday 14 th July 2023	School Reports go out
Monday 17 th July 2023	Moving Up Morning
Monday 17 th July 2023	Parents Evening Drop In – 3.30pm-5pm
Wednesday 19 th July 2023	Heddon's Got Talent 1pm in School Hall (Children only)
Thursday 20 th July 2023	Year 6 Leavers Assembly for Parents – 2pm in School Hall
Friday 21 st July 2023	Summer Term Ends