

23rd June 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

There has been a real buzz around School this week as Year 6 spent the week learning all about bees as part of the Pele Trust Transition Week. All the Year 6 children in Pele Trust are learning about the importance of bees as pollinators and will be continuing this work when they start High School in September. This leads to an open evening where their work will be showcased.

This week Nursery and Year 4 have been out and about on School trips to La Luna Farm and the Victoria Tunnel. As always the children were impeccably behaved and were great representatives of our School.

You will be aware that the NEU have announced further days for Industrial Action in their ongoing dispute with the Government. We anticipate that the School will remain open as normal, however, we will confirm this closer to the date. It has been confirmed that the transition day for Year 6 children on Wednesday 5th July has been cancelled due to action being taken at the High School. The children will attend this School as normal on that day.

The School had a very positive response to the Music and Drama Evening this week. The drama club put on an amazing performance of Macbeth and the Choir sang beautifully including a medley of North East songs. There was even a chance for everyone to sing Blaydon Races! Thanks to all the staff and volunteers who made this event possible and created so many great memories for the children. Please check out the comments later in the flyer.

Well done to Year 6 with the best attendance this week of 98.7%.

I will not be in School next week as I will be accompanying Mr. McDonald and Year 6 on the visit to St. Omer in France. Mrs. Cubbage, Mrs. Southern and Mrs. O'Reilly will be available in School as Key Stage Leads should you need to contact them.

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

Mr. A. Wheatley,
Headteacher

Attendance Matters



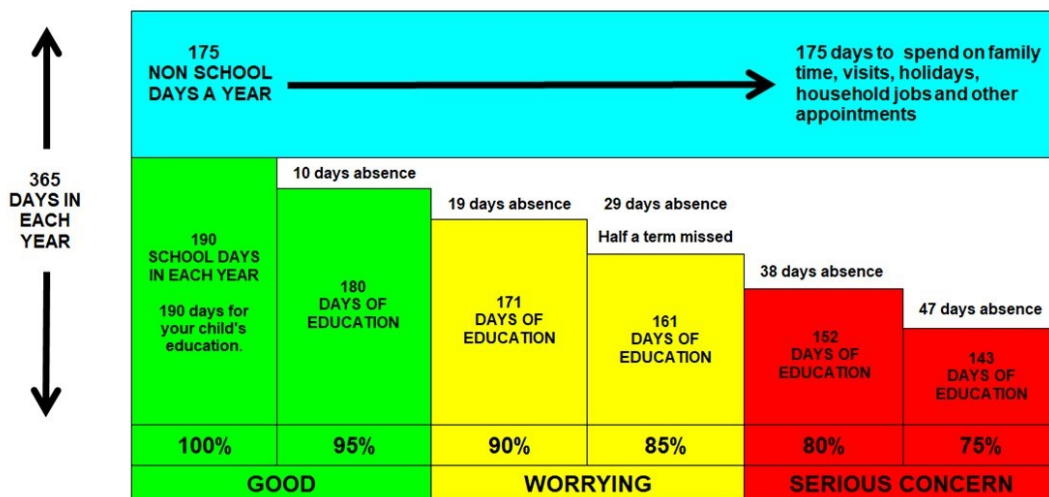
We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance	Class	Attendance
Reception (Owls)	94%	Year 3 (Gibside)	96.4%
Year 1 (Wallington)	98.5%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	96%
Year 2 (Cragside)	92.1%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	97%
		Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	98.7%

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'



As part of our 'Splish, Splash, Splosh' topic, we have been thinking about all of the different ways we use water. As a challenge, we all had to find different ways we use water. We discovered that we use water for lots of things; brushing our teeth, washing our hands, cleaning ourselves, drinking and lots more! We have had a lovely week washing the babies, brushing teeth and exploring water. We have loved playing outdoors in the sunshine too and building our own shelters!

PIC • COLLAGE

We have been learning about eating healthily. We had fun designing, making and then eating these delicious, healthy salad faces.



PIC • COLLAGE

Gymnastics in Year 1

This week in Year 1's gymnastics session we focused on different types of rolls. The children recapped how to do an egg roll and pencil roll before we learned how to do a forward roll. We were taught that it is important to tuck our heads under while we roll as we don't want the top of our head to touch the floor.



Whatever you do work at it with all your heart

Colossians 3:23

Exploring Habitats with Year 2

In Year 2 this week we have been developing our knowledge about habitats by comparing two habitats and thinking about why they are different. We then thought about microhabitats and considered why more plants and animals can survive in some places better than others.

Comparing Habitats





The Victorian Tunnels

This week we visited the Victorian Tunnels in Newcastle, as part of our recent learning about transport in the North East and our World War 2 unit from earlier this year. We had a great time and learned lots of facts – we all agreed that we wouldn't want to be children in Victorian times!



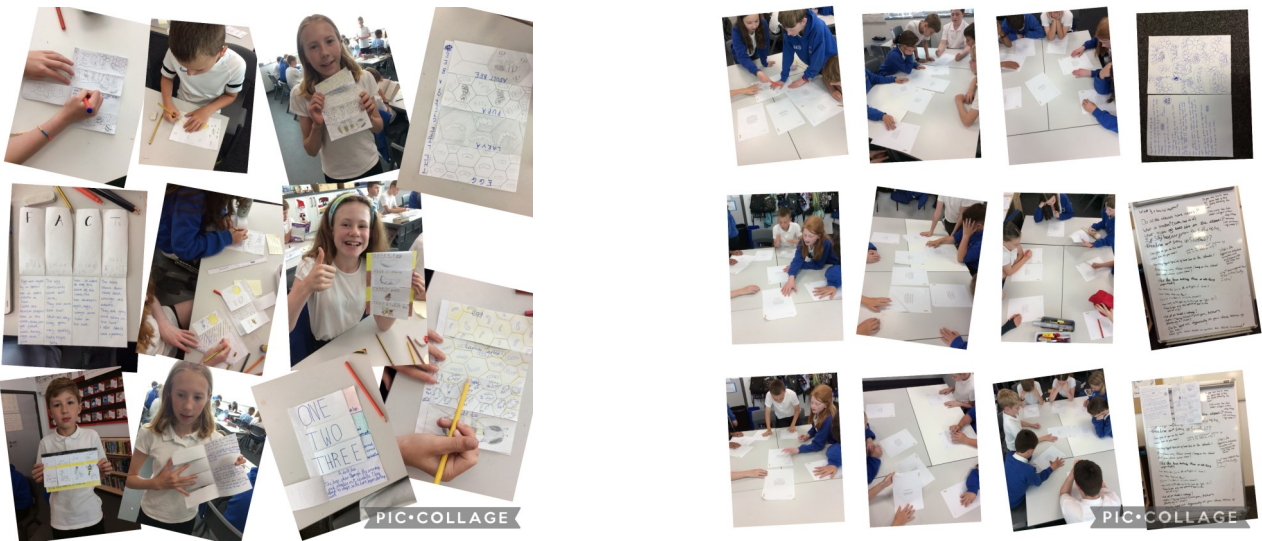
Algorithms and Simulations in Year 5

This week in Year 5 we have been looking at Algorithms, Simulations and how they impact physical systems. As part of our coding unit we have looking at creating a repeating algorithm that can be used on a traffic light system. We started creating our simulation of a busy road and we created a code that would let the traffic lights run independently.



A Un-bee-liveable Week in Year 6

An un-bee-lievably busy week in Year 6, learning all about Bees as part of our transition to High school. The week began with a visit from Mr Rettig, a local bee-keeper from Darras Hall. We then learned about the life cycle of bees, a year in the hive, the different roles bees have within their hive and even practised sketching our own insects. We were also lucky to have a zoom call from the Scilly Isles, where a lady named Jilly - a bee-keeper on the island - talked about all of the important research that is taking place. Importantly, she mentioned that too many hives would actually have an adverse effect on the island's ecosystem, so it is her job to keep the other bee-keepers in check! The week finished with some bee-themed poetry, before finally developing our own Bee quizzes using a Purple Mash software on the Chromebooks.



Whatever you do work at it with all your heart

Colossians 3:23



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 AI VIRTUAL FRIENDS

Artificial intelligence – particularly in terms of how it generates natural language – has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new AI-based software or adding an AI element to existing apps (such as Snapchat, for example). One form of AI to become especially popular has been the 'AI friend' or chatbot, as children eagerly experiment with these new-found computer-generated companions. There are now numerous apps available with this 'virtual friend' functionality, with the likelihood of it being added to other successful platforms soon.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AI chatbots may not always be able to recognise when content is age inappropriate or harmful and should be filtered out. So there's a possibility that children could be exposed to offensive language or explicit material while conversing with their virtual friend. The companies producing such AI solutions are also unlikely to take responsibility for any content that their algorithms generate.

REDUCED SOCIAL CONTACT

An excessive reliance on chatbots for social interaction could potentially cause a child to begin reducing the amount of face-to-face communication they have, leading to social isolation. If young people become dependent on chatbots to provide companionship, it could very likely hinder the development of their real-life social skills.

LACK OF SENSITIVITY

Chatbot software isn't always sophisticated enough to pick up on subtle emotional cues or recognise signs of distress in children, as most humans would. It might therefore fail to respond appropriately. AI misinterpreting what it's being told or replying insensitively to a young user who's already struggling could potentially impact a child's emotional wellbeing or exacerbate any existing emotional issues.

UNINTENTIONAL BIAS

AI companions are only as reliable as the information they've been programmed with. The algorithms they use, therefore, may unintentionally promote bias, stereotypes or discriminatory behaviour (as many originate from the USA or the UK, for instance, they can display a distinctly western-centric worldview). This could lead to children developing skewed attitudes and behaviours.

COGNITIVE LIMITATIONS

Although many are now undeniably advanced, AI-powered chatbots still have limitations in terms of understanding complex concepts, context and nuance. Depending heavily on chatbots to help with learning or solving problems may stunt the development of a child's own powers of critical thinking, creativity and ability to engage in open-ended discussions with other people.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Chatbots typically collect data about users, including personal information and conversations. This is ostensibly to improve their performance as they gradually learn about our behaviour – but many experts are warning that there may be significant risks associated with how this information is stored and used (the possibility of potential breaches or misuse by third parties, for instance).

Advice for Parents & Carers

CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

If your child is already expressing an interest in AI apps, a relaxed, natural chat should help you to discover which ones they're aware of and how they're using them (or are planning to). Discuss these options with your child and perhaps do your own research to ensure you think they're suitable. Once you're totally happy, you could sit with your young one and begin exploring AI chatbots together.

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

If your child is keen to engage with AI chatbots, encourage them to do so in a safe environment: ideally in a shared space at home, so you can easily keep an eye and ear on their progress. Set up appropriate content filtering measures in advance – and gently remind them that you'll be close by and ready to help with any questions or concerns that may arise.

FIND A BALANCE

Work alongside your child to establish the right balance in terms of how they might use AI-powered chatbots – and when it's appropriate. It's important to make sure that children are still getting plenty of opportunities to learn to solve problems for themselves, as well as building their interpersonal skills through face-to-face conversations with friends, family members and teachers.

TAKE CONTROL

As with any form of app or game, when it comes to AI chatbots we'd strongly recommend that you consider employing parental controls (either on the device being used or within the software itself) to manage which apps your child can download and use. This is particularly important for younger children, who may be more at risk of being upset or frightened by inappropriate content.

RECOGNISE THE RISKS

It's unlikely that most children will have even considered the potential risks attached to having a virtual companion. So it's probably wise to explain some of the possible hazards and challenges of AI chatbots to your child. In particular, emphasise that AI isn't a real person (however much it might sound like one) and may occasionally tell them something that isn't entirely impartial or accurate.

Meet Our Expert

A Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Gary Henderson is the Director of IT at a large boarding school in the UK, having previously taught in schools and colleges in Britain and the Middle East. With a particular interest in digital citizenship and cyber security, he believes it's essential that we become more aware of the risks around technology, as well as the benefits.



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INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL LESSONS

SIGN YOUR CHILD UP TODAY! ⚡

Did you know Music Partnership North deliver vocal and instrumental tuition on a wide variety of instruments across the whole of the county?

Lessons take place in the school day, it's easy to sign up online and pay online and you have direct contact with the tutor who will be teaching your child.

Need to borrow an instrument? That's easy too with our free instrument loan service.

AT MUSIC PARTNERSHIP NORTH WE ARE ALL ABOUT:
LEARNING | MUSIC | UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

**FOLLOW THE LINK, REGISTER
YOUR INTEREST AND WE WILL
CONTACT YOU**

THERE ARE MULTIPLE PRICE OPTIONS FROM INDIVIDUAL TO LARGE GROUP

WHO ARE WE?

We are Northumberland County Council's Music Service and work with all schools across Northumberland to support and deliver musical tuition and opportunities.

"... they have given my son the very best start in life towards learning Music. He has achieved so very much because of MPN..."

"I love playing the cornet and have gained loads of confidence since performing at the Sage."

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01670 624045

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 Northumberland
County Council

Please check out the comments from the Music and Drama Evening!

Absolutely fantastic, start to finish.
Wonderful drama group – a real
inspiration for all!

The play was really impressive and
the singing was beautiful. A lovely
evening – thank you!

Very amazing!
Also raffle ticket sellers were stars of
the show
REALLY WELL DONE!
THANK YOU!

Well organised, lovely food, the best
entertainment. Thank you
A big thank you to all of the staff who
have taken the time to help make
tonight fantastic. Amazing and thank
you again

Top night! Thank you so much for all
your effort and time to pull it all
together. No changes for next year!
Superb!
Amazing! Thank you so much –
what a credit the kids are to the
School
Fantastic night!

Pudding was tart and nice like the
cream – yum!
Excellent performances from both
choir and drama. Sad it's our first
and last! Well done

Absolutely amazing! What a wonderful
performance. Congratulations to
everyone involved.

Pudding was tart and nice like the cream – yum!
Tonight was awesome – thank you!

Pudding was tart and nice like the cream – yum!
A brilliant night. Thank you for organising. All the children
were fantastic. Food was lovely. Thank you!

Great evening, great performance and choir. Great food plus
great waiters! Thanks
Had a lovely night, food was good

Lovely singing
Well done to all drama group
Well done to all. Had a great night. The children are a credit to
the School. Thank you.
Amazing! Thank you!

Pudding was tart and nice like the cream – yum!
Good punch – Sophie!
Great food, great performance from everyone. Really enjoyed it
from start to end
Excellent – very well done!
The food was lovely, thank you

Unbelievably good! What an incredible effort from all the
staff, students and volunteers. I am so grateful my children
come to a School that gives them such amazing and
regular opportunities. Thank you!!

Absolutely fabulous evening. Thank you to all of the
teachers and helpers who organised.

We thoroughly enjoyed our evening at Heddton. The
performances were incredible children are so talented. As a
High School Drama Teacher I was impressed! The staff were
fab and the food was amazing! Well done everyone!

Dates for your Diary



Monday 26th June 2023 - Friday 30th June 2023	Year 6 Visit to France
Tuesday 27th June 2023	Year 3 to Dilston Physic Garden
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
Wednesday 5th July 2023 & Thursday 6th July 2023	Year 6 Transition Days to High School
Friday 7th July 2023	French Spelling Bee for Pele Trust Primaries (selected children to attend)
Friday 7th July 2023	10am - RockSteady Concert for parents of children performing.

Dates for your Diary



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
Tuesday 11 th July 2023	FLOW Project Exhibition at Ponteland High School - 8.30am-6pm
Wednesday 12 th July 2023	FLOW Project Exhibition at Ponteland High School - 8.30am-6pm
Thursday 13 th July 2023	FLOW Project Exhibition at Ponteland High School 8.30am-6pm including Choir Performance at 6pm followed by refreshments at Ponteland Primary 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