

6th October 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

I can't believe that we are already more than half way through this half term and into October! As the weather is turning more unsettled I would like to remind everyone that 'there is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing' and that children will need appropriate coats and footwear for the autumn and winter weather. We like the children to be outdoors as much as possible enjoying the fresh air and playing with their friends.

I am pleased to share our first visit pictures with you this week as Year 4 went to visit the Roman Fort at Arbeia. They had an amazing time and learnt lots about Roman life. Over the coming weeks both Year 1 and Year 2 have visits to the Farm and Wallington Hall.

We also have our first Pele Trust intra-school sports tournament coming up. This one is for Year 6 footballers. Mr. McDonald has been running football club and will be picking a team to represent the School. There is also the Northumberland Athletics Association Cross Country Championships next week at South Shields where our School will be represented. I am sure that our children will do us proud! Don't worry if your child is not selected this time for these events as there will be more opportunities to represent the School across the year.

Once again this year we are supporting The People's Kitchen and West End Foodbank at Harvest. There is a list of suitable items which can be donated if you are able to do so. All gifts will be gratefully accepted and we would ask that they are in School by Friday 20th October so that they can be collected and distributed.

The Knott Hall is holding another 'Big Science' event during half term. This is a free event and was very popular last year. Tickets for this event are free but are very limited. Please see the page later in the flyer for details.

Please check out the additional dates which have been added to the calendar, including dates for the Christmas performances. I would remind parents that these dates are subject to change. Further dates will be added as time goes on.

Well done to Year 2 with the best attendance this week with 99.2%. It is great to see that all classes in School this week had an attendance of 95% or better.

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

Mr. A. Wheatley,
Headteacher

Attendance Matters



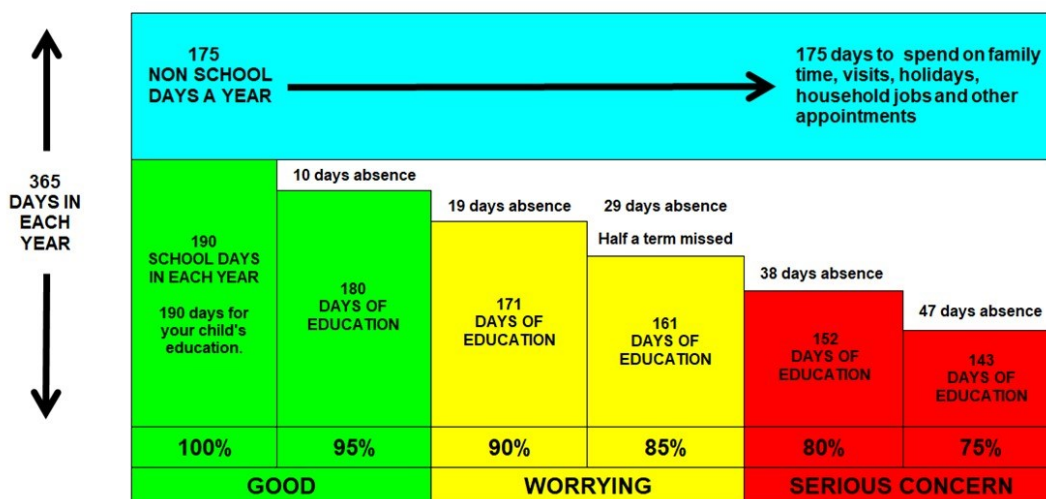
We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance	Class	Attendance
Reception (Owls)	95%	Year 3 (Gibside)	96%
Year 1 (Wallington)	95%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	97.7%
Year 2 (Craggside)	99.2%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	95.2%
		Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	97.4%

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

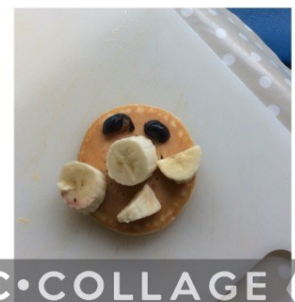
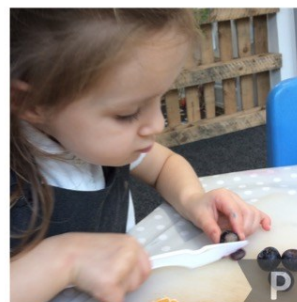
Days off School add up to lost learning!



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

Colossians 3:23

In Nursery this week, we have been thinking about what 'healthy' means. We have been discussing how important it is to wash our hands, brush our teeth properly and have plenty of sleep. We have also been exploring healthy and unhealthy food. We made healthy pancake faces and some of us even prepared our own fruit by cutting it up. What a great week!



PIC•COLLAGE

This week we have continued to learn about keeping healthy and safe.

We been tasting and sorting healthy foods and treats and we have learned about the importance of sleep. We have discovered that whilst we are asleep our bodies are healing and growing, and our brains are busy tidying up all of our thoughts. Those we don't need go in the 'bin' and those we do are stored in memory boxes! How amazing!



We have begun to learn about ways to stay safe online.



PIC•COLLAGE

Drawing using different Pressure in Year 1

In Year 1 the children have been drawing lines using different pressures in Art. The children drew around leaves using heavy pressure when drawing the outline line and then drew another line on the inside of that line using slightly less pressure. They continued to draw lines inside each leaf shape using lighter pressure each time until the leaf was full. Brilliant work Year 1!



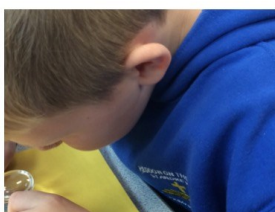
RE with Year 2

In RE this week, Year 2 loved reading the poem 'In the Beginning' by Steve Turner. We performed it in groups and thought very hard about what each line in the poem said. We discussed the importance of rest and finished our lesson with some relaxing starfish breathing.



Exploring Rocks in Year 3

Year 3 have been looking at metamorphic and igneous rocks. By applying heat and pressure, we managed to make our own layered metamorphic rock (using Fruitella sweets!). We have also compared the size of crystals within igneous rocks, using hand lenses, to explore whether those rocks cooled quickly or slowly when being formed.



PIC•COLLAGE

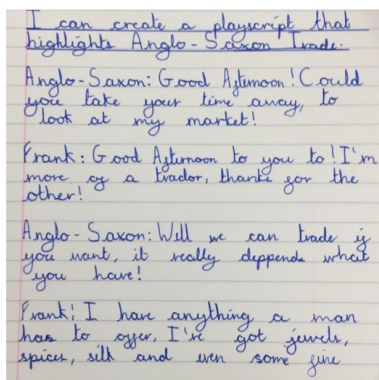
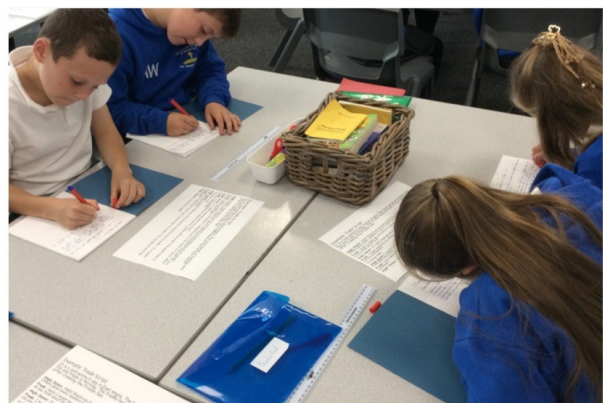
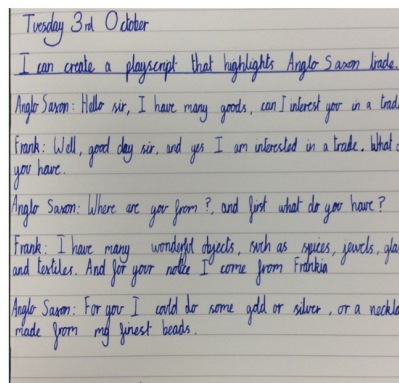
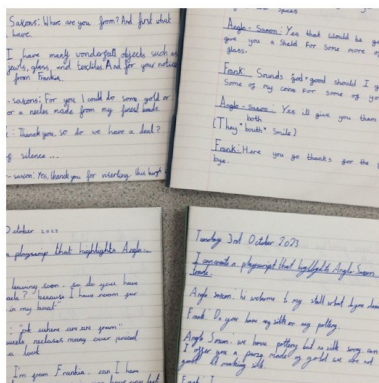
Visiting Arbeia with Year 4

This week Year 4 visited the Roman Fort, Arbeia in South Shields and we all had a fantastic day. The children began their day by learning how we know about the past as they took on the roles of archaeologists in the Time Quest. During their dig the children discovered everything from pottery shards to ancient building materials, and even fragments of bone that helped them understand what the Romans ate and how they lived their lives at Arbeia. We also had time to learn lots of facts in the museum and we explored the ruins whilst answering questions about the fort and the lives of the Roman who lived there. Later in the week we wrote a recount of our trip which the children are bringing home to share with you. We hope you enjoy reading about our day at Arbeia.



Anglo Saxon Trade with Year 5

This week we have been learning all about Anglo Saxon trade. We have been creating play scripts and acting out our short scenes in front of the class. We enjoyed discussing the materials and items that would have been traded during this times and how we know. The children have been really engaged with the Anglo-Saxon unit this half term




Creating Printing Blocks in Year 6

Year 6 has reached an exciting stage of this half term's art unit; carving! After deciding on their final tile design, and practising their technique using polystyrene blocks, the children used carving tools to translate their design onto polymer. The tools are very sharp, so working carefully was key in this lesson. Once the carved designs are completed next week, the children will use printing ink to transfer their images onto paper, in a repeated pattern, and form a William Morris style wallpaper. We look forward to sharing the finished product with you!



Harvest Collection

Once again we are supporting both The People's Kitchen and West End Foodbank this Harvest time. Please see the list below of items which are needed. Anything that you can possibly donate is much appreciated and can make a real difference to people in need in our local area. If all donations could be in School by Friday 20th October 2023 we can get it collected and distributed. Many thanks.



THE PEOPLE'S KITCHEN EST. 1985 NEWCASTLE

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE PEOPLE'S KITCHEN

Our work is only made possible thanks to your kindness and generosity. The People's Kitchen is run entirely by volunteers, so every penny donated goes directly to helping our vulnerable Friends who might be homeless, at risk, unemployed, lonely, or living in poverty.

FOOD FRIENDSHIP FUTURES

Items we Need	Examples
Tinned Vegetables	Tomatoes Plum and Chopped, Peas, Carrots, Sweetcorn, Potatoes
Tinned Fruit	Peaches, Pineapples, Fruit Cocktail, Pears, Mandarin, Oranges
Soup	Tinned or Instant Vegetables, Tomato, Chicken, Broth, Lentil, Potato & Leek
Cooking/Baking Ingredients	Sugar, Flour, Jam, Coconut, Cocoa, Dried Fruit, Cooking Oil, Lentils, Broth Mix, Spices
Snacks	Pot Noodles, Pot Pasta, Crisps, Biscuits, Chocolates, Sweets
Drinks	UHT Milk, Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Cartons of Juice, Fruit Squash
Desserts	Rice Pudding, Jelly, Angel Delight, Custard, Evaporated Milk, Golden Syrup
Tinned Meat	Ham, Corned Beef, Chilli, Curry, Mixed Beef, Bolognese, Stewing Steak
Cooking Sauces	Indian, Thai, Chinese, Italian, Mexican, Coconut Milk
Condiments	Tomato Ketchup, Brown Sauce, Mayonnaise, Salt, Pepper
Pasta and Rice	Lasagne, Egg, Noodles, Rice
Stock and Gravy	Vegetarian, Beef, Chicken & Onion
Toiletries	Soap, Deodorant, Shampoo, Conditioner, Shower Gel, Razors, Toothpaste, Toothbrush
Cleaning/Other	Washing Up Liquid, Washing Powder, Spare Carrier Bags
Pet Food	Dog and Cat Wet and Dry Food

THE PEOPLE'S KITCHEN LIMITED The Alison Centre, 56 Bath Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 5SQ
T: 0191 222 0699 E: info@peopleskitchen.co.uk www.peopleskitchen.co.uk

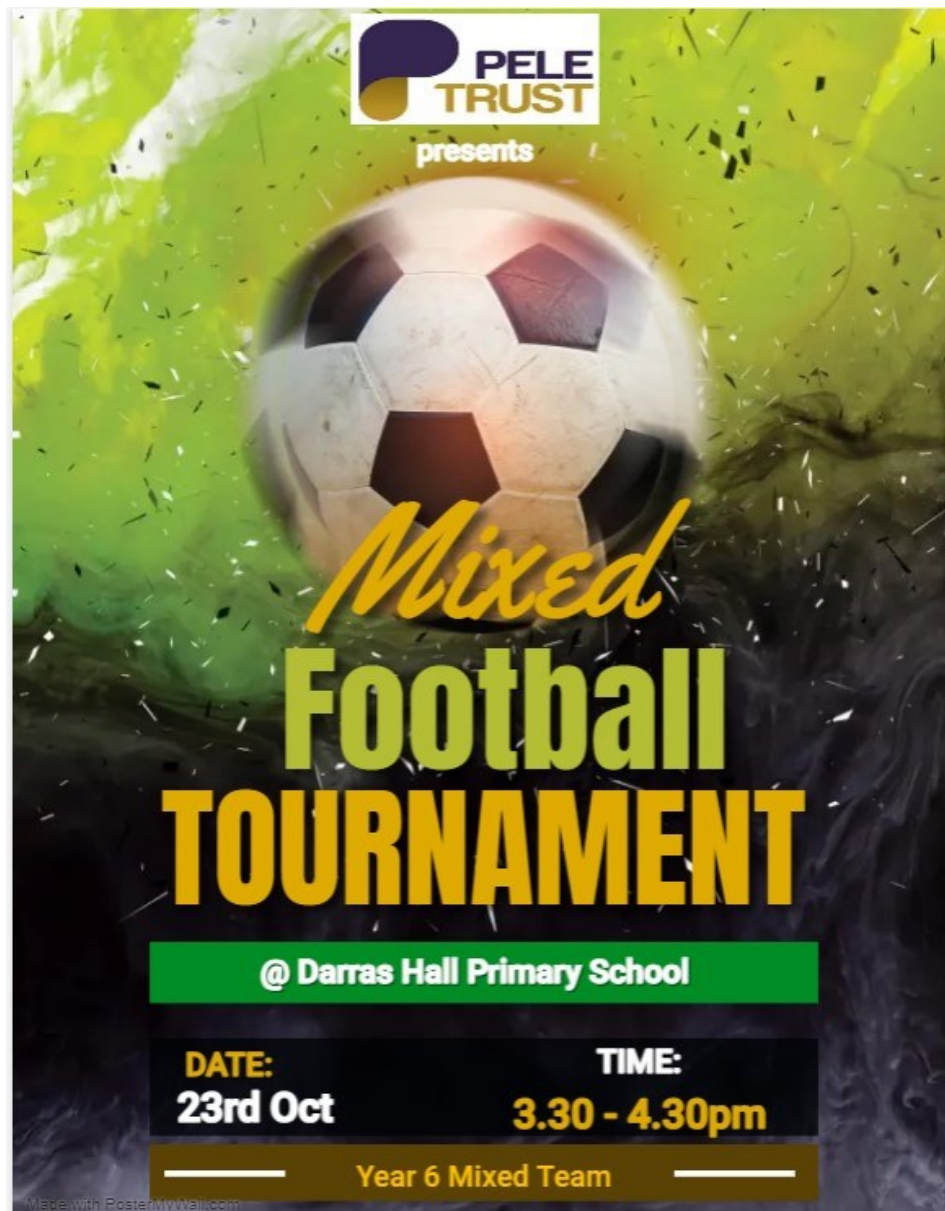
Pele Trust Year 6 Football Tournament

We are excited to launch our first Pele Trust Games event of the year with a Mixed Football Festival on Monday 23rd October at 3:30-4:30pm.

Darras Hall Primary School will host all of our Primary Schools to participate in this FUN event!

Mr. McDonald and Mr. Smith have been working hard with Year 6 Football Club training for this event. Mr. McDonald will be picking the team for this event soon.

I am sure that the children chosen will do their best and make the School proud!



St. Andrew's School Choir

Our School choir continues to be very popular. The choir is run by Mrs. Milner and Mrs. Graham with additional help from Tom.

Choir runs each Monday and Thursday morning before School from 8.30am-8.55am.

The choir has many opportunities to perform throughout the year including at a special Music Evening in December and with the Drama Club in the Summer Term. They also compete each year at the Ryton Festival and last year we won a trophy which you can see in the picture below.

If you would like your child to join the choir please contact the School Office for more details.

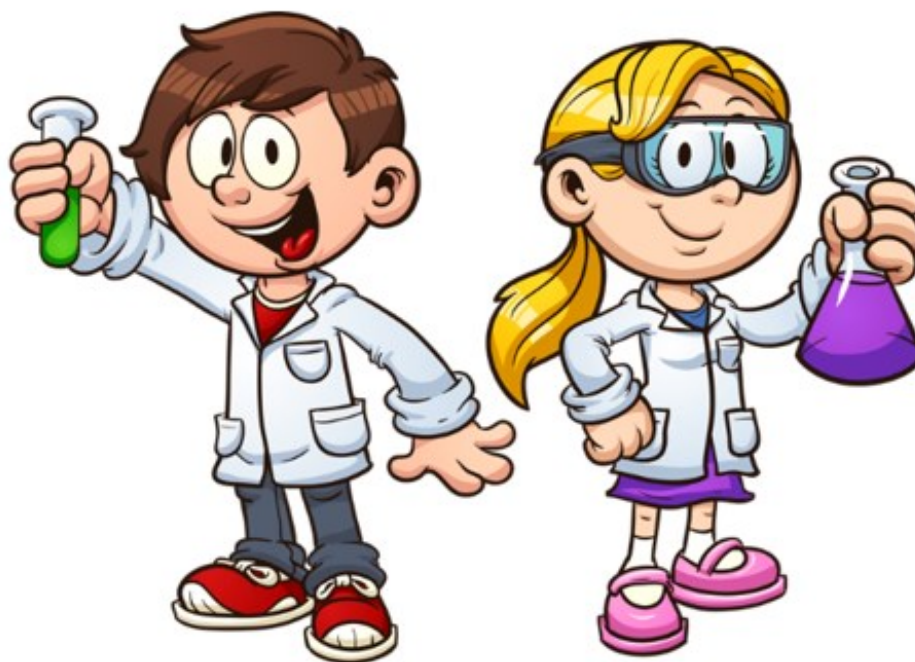




Heddon Village Knott Memorial Hall

Registered Charity No 101201

Big Science @ the Knott



Date: Monday 30th October 2023

Time: 10.00 – 11.00

Half Term fun for budding scientists, come and do some exciting stuff at the Knott Hall you can even bring your parents.

Tickets are available from dblackett@aol.com

This is a free event but tickets are limited to 30

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 games 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

AMONG US

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 60 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as The Traitors, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord: a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grizzly elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

CHAT ABOUT CHATTING

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GameOn and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including iD and TechRadar.



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#WakeUpWednesday

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Dates for your Diary - Autumn Term 1



Tuesday 10th October 2023	Year 2 visit to Hall Hill Farm
Tuesday 10th October 2023	Year 6 Cross Country Competition at South Shields
Wednesday 18th October 2023	Year 6 visit to Nissan
Friday 20th October 2023	Sports Leader Training
Monday 23rd October 2023	Pele Trust Year 6 Football Tournament
Tuesday 24th October 2023	Flu Vaccinations
Wednesday 25th October 2023	Year 1 visit to Wallington Hall
Friday 27th October 2023	Harvest Festival (Early Years and Key Stage 1) at Church at 9.30am
Friday 27th October 2023	Harvest Festival (Key Stage 2) at Church at 10.15am
w/c Monday 30th October 2023	HALF TERM

Please note that these dates are all subject to change.

Further dates will be added as they are confirmed.

If you require further information about an event please do not hesitate to contact the School Office.

Dates for your Diary - Autumn Term 2



Wednesday 1st November 2023	Online portal opens for Reception applications
Monday 6th November 2023	TRAINING DAY
Tuesday 7th November 2023	Parents Evening
Thursday 9th November 2023	Parents Evening
Friday 1st December 2023	School Christmas Fair (1.30pm - 3.30pm)
Tuesday 5th December 2023	Choir Christmas Concert in School Hall at 5pm
Friday 8th December 2023	Year 6 visit to Beamish
Wednesday 13th December 2023	Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 15th December 2023	Rocksteady Concert in School Hall at 10am
Tuesday 19th December 2023	Early Years Nativity in School Hall at 10am
Tuesday 19th December 2023	Key Stage 1 Performance at Church at 1.30pm
Wednesday 20th December 2023	Key Stage 1 Performance at Church at 5pm
Friday 22nd December 2023	Key Stage 2 Carol Service at Church at 9.30am
Friday 22nd December	AUTUMN TERM ENDS

Please note that these dates are all subject to change.

Further dates will be added as they are confirmed.

If you require further information about an event please do not hesitate to contact the School Office.