

15th December 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

Along with the normal curriculum work and Christmas rehearsals it seems like the glitter and calendar tabs have arrived in force this week. It has been wonderful to see how creative the children are in making both cards and calendars. It is also pleasing to see them using the skills that they have learnt in their Art and Design Technology lessons to help them including some classes using levers, sliders and linkages.

Unfortunately I was unable to be in School on Wednesday for the Lower Key Stage 2 Ukulele Concert. I enjoyed looking at the pictures which you can see in the flyer and I heard that the playing was amazing and that the children really enjoyed performing to such an appreciative audience.

If you have been on our website this week you will have noticed that we have added a special [‘REPORT HARMFUL CONTENT’](#) button. This will allow you to report any harmful content which you or your children may come across online. Once you click the button you then choose the platform you saw the content on and can proceed to report it and have it removed.

I am also aware that Santa may be bringing lots of electronic and tech items this Christmas. I have included a special ‘Have a tech free Christmas’ page in the flyer. There are lots of suggested activities which you might like to do with your children over the holidays which don’t involve being in front of a screen. Time away from the screen can be beneficial for your child’s wellbeing.

Thanks to everyone for their support with Christmas Jumper day. I am pleased to let you know that we raised £105.15 for Save the Children. The children had a great day in their Christmas jumpers or non-uniform and enjoyed their Christmas lunch.

Please see information from ‘My Family Coach’ later on in the flyer. They have lots of free resources including videos and podcasts covering all sorts of topics to help and provide advice for parents. They are all free of charge and can be accessed by registering on the website.

Well done to Year 6 with the best attendance this week: 96.8%

Well done to Year 2 for the best attendance for the year to date: 97.7%.

I look forward to seeing you next week at one of our performances.

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

Mr. A. Wheatley,  
Headteacher

## Attendance Matters

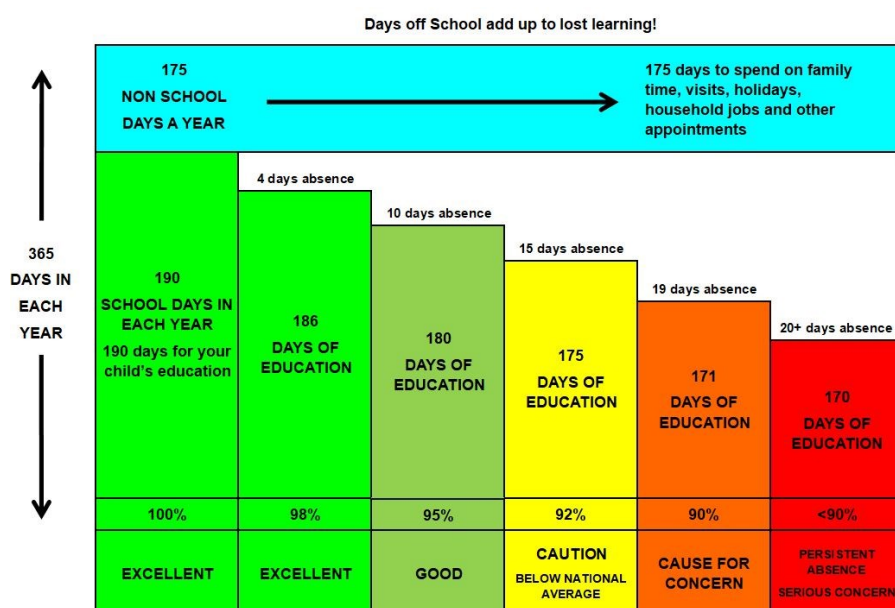


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Reception (Owls)	96.7%	95.7%	Year 3 (Gibside)	90.7%	93.6%
Year 1 (Wallington)	91.3%	94.9%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	91.2%	95.5%
Year 2 (Craggside)	94.9%	97.7%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	89%	94.6%
			Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	96.8%	95.5%

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



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

Colossians 3:23

Wow, what a brilliant, busy week we have had in Nursery! We loved wearing our Christmas jumpers and enjoyed making festive hats to wear whilst we had our Christmas lunch. You're all such a creative bunch and impressed us with your fantastic cutting skills. Well done, Hedgehogs!



PIC•COLLAGE



We had a lovely Christmas jumper day on Wednesday this week. We had fun making a festive hat to wear for our delicious Christmas lunch too!





## Reasoning in Maths in Year 1

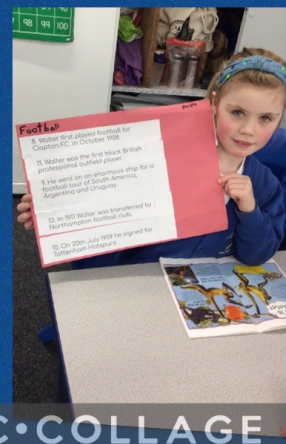
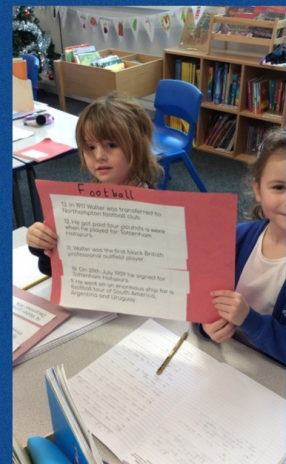
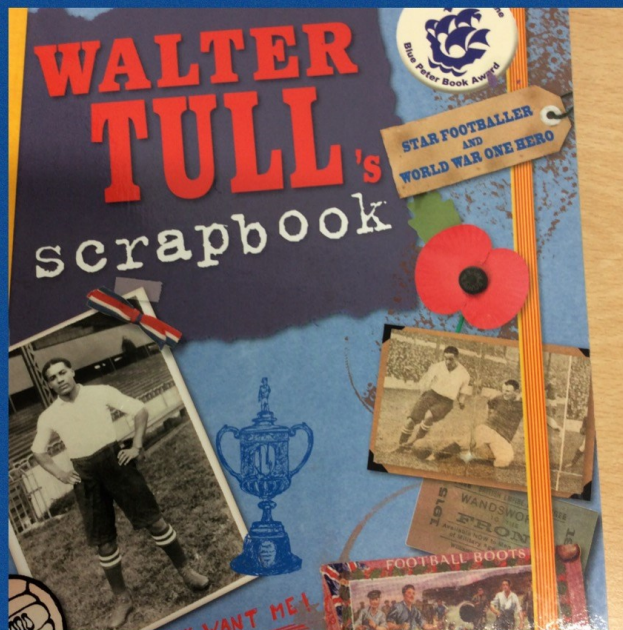
In Year 1 this week we have been working on our reasoning and problem solving skills. We have done some great work improving our ability to reason in Maths by speaking in full sentences. We have also been busy preparing for our Nativity performance with lots of rehearsals at church.



PIC•COLLAGE



We have been busy in English reading our class text Walter Tull's Scrapbook. We organised our facts into three categories which were Early life, Football and War. We worked as a team on our table. Next, we presented the facts using subheadings in our books. Finally, we edited our work with purple pen.





## Reindeer Ready in Year 3



Today we watched 'Reindeer Ready' and hot-seated some of the key characters. After all, what was Santa doing in McDonalds?!



**PIC•COLLAGE**



## Ukulele Concert in Year 4

What a wonderful Wednesday in Year 4! Christmas jumper day, Christmas dinner and ukulele concert. After lots of practice, we performed our favourite songs and we hope you enjoyed listening to them. And don't we look fabulous in our Christmas jumpers



PIC•COLLAGE



## Stained Glass Window Calendars with Year 5

This week, Year 5 have really enjoyed creating their calendars. We have been inspired by our stained glass windows unit in Art this year. We have been able to create an abstract collage of a tree using lots of skills such as measuring, tracing and colour theory. We are very excited to have these calendars presented in our homes this year. Here's to 2024!



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Colossians 3:23

## Programming Microbits in Year 6

Year 6 had an exciting delivery this week; Microbits! We have been using these mini computers to code inputs and variables, as we complete our six step pathway to becoming Microbit masters. Once we have an understanding of how these new computers work, the children in Year 6 will be helping out in other year groups to support the roll out across school. We have loved the lessons so far!





## A Visit to Beamish with Year 6

Last week we enjoyed our trip to the Beamish museum to extend our learning about the Victorian era. We took part in a Victorian lesson (with a very strict teacher!) and explored the open air museum. It was great to have Mr Allman, who is the Pastoral and Transition Support Worker from Ponteland High School, attend our trip again. Thank you to the parent helpers who also attended. Next stop - the Metro Centre for our Newcastle United Foundation career's day on Wednesday.





# LKS2 Ukulele Concert 2023



Whatever you do work at it with all your heart

Colossians 3:23



## Christmas Jumper Day

Thanks to your generosity we have so far raised £105.15 for Save the Children. Not only that but the children had a great time wearing their Christmas jumpers or non-uniform for the day while they enjoyed their Christmas dinner!



## Free support and resources for schools and families this holiday

Have you heard of [My Family Coach](#)? It's an incredible free platform for schools and families for help and support with all areas of behaviour, school and family life.

The platform includes **over 50 hours of free support content** from the experienced team here at Team Teach. There's **articles, podcasts, videos, ebooks and quarterly online parent classes** that you and the families you support can attend and watch on-demand as well.

The resources and support cover a huge variety of topics and we're always adding more:

- Relationships
- Communication
- Mental wellbeing
- Friendships
- Bullying
- Calming down
- School life
- Healthy living
- At risk behaviour
- Screen time



And for this time of year, families might find articles on [understanding behaviour](#), [managing changes to routines](#), [how to enjoy a family Christmas](#), [using family support for childcare in the holidays](#), [supporting your child through the holidays](#) or [why self care isn't selfish](#) helpful.

**It's all available 24/7 and completely free!**

To access the platform as a parent simply visit the [My Family Coach website](#) and create an account.



## Pele Trust Junior Park Run

Mr. Smith, the Pele Trust Primary PE Lead, has organised a Festive Junior Park Run at the Town Moor in Newcastle. This will be a Christmas themed event in collaboration with Junior Park Run and is open to all children, family and friends from the Pele Trust Primary Schools.

It is super inclusive as you can walk, run or go for a personal best over the 2km route. This event is free and is a great opportunity to have some healthy fun in a beautiful setting.

The event is scheduled to take place on Sunday 17th December at 9am on the Town Moor.

For more information and to sign up to take part please [click here](#) to register. Once you have done this you can then download their QR code that you need to take to the event.







# Carols by Candlelight

St. Andrew's Church

Heddon-on-the-Wall

16th December 4pm

This is our traditional community  
carol service

Everyone is welcome



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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 [nationalonlinecollege.com](https://nationalonlinecollege.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# 12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

## CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

## NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

## CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

## WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

## TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

## WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

## WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

## BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

## ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparking stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

## SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

## GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

## GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

## Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The  
National  
College



National  
Online  
Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

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@national\_online\_safety

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## Dates for your Diary - Autumn Term



Sunday 17th December 2023	Pele Trust Park Run at Town Moor at 9am
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 2023	AUTUMN TERM ENDS
Monday 8th January 2024	SPRING TERM BEGINS