

22nd December 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

I can't believe another term is over and Christmas is here again. We have had an amazing week with the children. They have had great fun finishing cards and calendars followed by dancing and singing at their class discos.

The performances this week were truly amazing. The children really excelled themselves in their singing and acting. We hope that you enjoyed sharing them with us. We are so proud of all the children. I must offer my apologies that due to illness I could not be at the Key Stage 1 performance on Wednesday evening. Mrs. Southern and Mrs. Leja told me how great it was.

Despite all the excitement, Year 6 have still managed to fit in a visit to the Careers Hub at the Metro Centre where they had lots of fun exploring different career options.

I would also like to thank all the staff who have worked tirelessly with the children this term. I am hoping that they all find time to relax over the Christmas period with their own families and recharge their batteries.

The School is very grateful for all the support and kind comments we have received from you as parents, grandparents, carers and other members of our School community. As always, it is very much appreciated.

If Santa is bringing your child an electronic device this Christmas please see the information page about setting parental controls. This will help keep your child safe online.

Please see the flyer page about 'The Big Ambition' survey. This provides a much needed opportunity for parents and children in England to tell policy makers what matters to them ahead of the next General Election. There is a QR code should you wish to take part.

Well done to Year 1 with the best attendance this week: 98.4%

Well done to Year 2 for the best attendance for the year to date: 97.2%.

I would like to remind you that School reopens at normal time on **Monday 8th January 2024** and we look forward to seeing you then.

I hope that you enjoy reading this flyer and you have a peaceful and relaxing Christmas filled with joy and love.

Mr. A. Wheatley,  
Headteacher

## Attendance Matters



**ATTEND** *today...*  
**ACHIEVE** *tomorrow...*  
**ATTENDANCE** *matters.*

Northumberland  
County Council

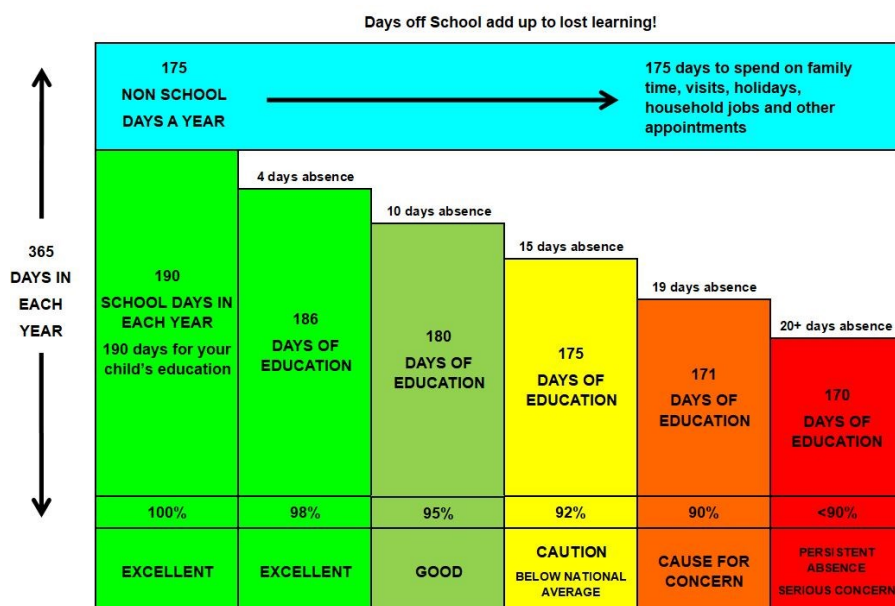


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Reception (Owls)	94.1%	95%	Year 3 (Gibside)	93.8%	93.6%
Year 1 (Wallington)	98.4%	95.3%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	96.8%	95.5%
Year 2 (Craggside)	92%	97.2%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	92%	94.5%
			Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	96.5%	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



We had such fun at our Early Years Christmas Party on Wednesday. We played lots of traditional party games and you were all great sports! Well done everyone.





## Party Time in Key Stage 1!

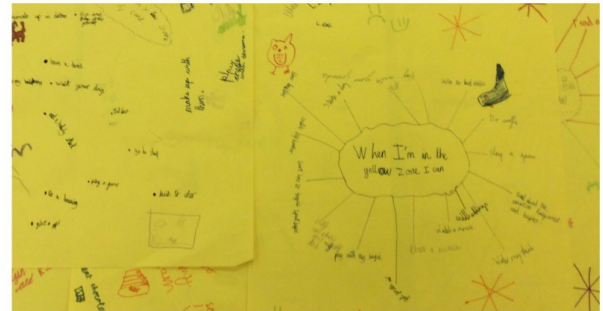
To celebrate a fantastic term in Key Stage 1 we have all enjoyed a party today with games, crafts and lots of fun!



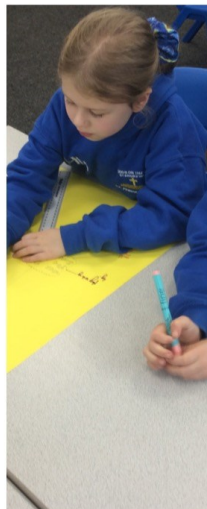
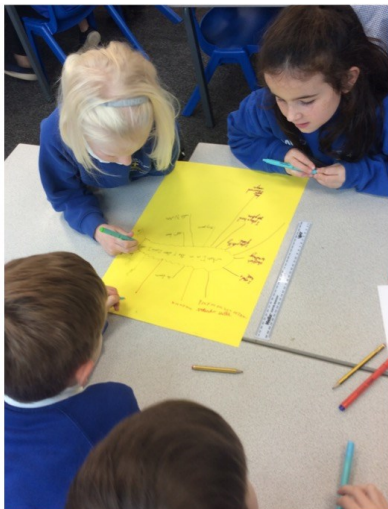
Whatever you do work at it with all your heart

Colossians 3:23





Year 3 have been exploring Zones of Regulation and brainstormed some strategies we can use when we are in the Yellow Zone to create our own toolboxes. We identified that many of us might be in the Yellow Zone at some point this week because we are so excited for Christmas and there have been lots of exciting events happening!



PIC•COLLAGE



## Boxing in Year 4

PE on Monday was an exciting new experience for lots of Year 4. Boxing! Mr. Smith brought boxing gloves and sparring pads. We learned how to stand and how to jab. We played some games and had loads of fun.



PIC•COLLAGE



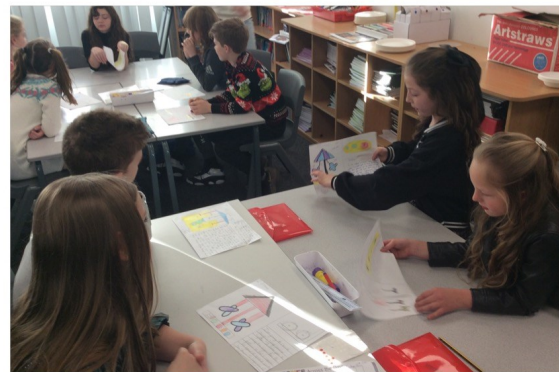
## Party time with Lower Key Stage 2

Year 3 and Year 4 really enjoyed their party this week.



## A Busy Week in Year 5

This week in Year 5 has been very exciting and busy. We have had our Christmas party, where the children sang and danced their hearts out and even managed to squeeze in a few party games too. We have also been very productive this week, we have designed and started to make our Design Technology fairground rides. Children have been using the skills they have learned over the half term to create a working gear/pulley mechanism, that can make their Ferris Wheel or Carousel to move effectively. It is safe to say that we have thoroughly enjoyed this creative process.





## A Jam-Packed Final Week in Year 6

A jam-packed final week of the Autumn term in Year 6! The week began with a forest school activity on Monday morning, before a boxercise class with Mr. Smith on Monday afternoon. Then, we finished our Evolution and Inheritance Science unit with an investigative lesson linked to Darwin's finches, where we tried to establish the most appropriate "beak type" for a given "food type". Have a great Christmas Year 6, and enjoy your well-earned rest.



PIC•COLLAGE

## Year 6 visit the NUFC Careers Hub at the Metro Centre

At our NUFC career event, we learned about the importance of branding in a company; analysing effective logos and slogans. We discussed the many roles "behind the scenes" in a company and how important they can be for its success. We thought about the career paths we may like to take in our future and considered the key skills needed to be successful in these. We ended the day by designing our own shopping centre, thinking about logos, slogans and all the roles necessary to make a successful centre run smoothly.





## A Special Award for Heidi

Mr. Gerry Miller, Chair of the Board of Directors of Pele Trust, visited School this week to present Heidi with a special award. Heidi was awarded the Pele Trust Star of the Month for all of the amazing work that she does in School.





This week we saw our youngest children perform their Nativity; Whoops a Daisy Angel. What a fantastic job they did of singing, dancing and remembering their lines, delivering them with such confidence and clarity! They were just brilliant!



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Colossians 3:23



## Baa Baa Bethlehem with Key Stage 1

The children performed really well in 'Baa Baa Bethlehem' and enjoyed sharing their hard work with everyone.







***KS2 enjoyed their performance!***



**PIC•COLLAGE**

Whatever you do work at it with all your heart

Colossians 3:23



Last Friday Rocksteady hosted a fantastic music concert showcasing the work the bands have been doing this term. We were incredibly proud of how well the bands worked together to perform, and with such confidence! Well done everyone!



PIC•COLLAGE

## PE Update

### Boxercise

Mr. Smith was proud of our Key Stage 2 children who had a blast this week with Boxercise in PE and nailed the 'Eye of the Tiger' dance routine at our extra curricular dance club.



### Multi-Skills

Key Stage 2 took part in the Morpeth and Ponteland Sports Partnership Multi-Skills competition. Each year group competed against that year group in other schools.

I am pleased to let you know that Year 5 came first and Year 6 came third. This means that Year 5 will progress to competing in the Northumberland County Finals in the New Year. Well done!





**The Children's Commissioner for England has recently launched 'The Big Ambition' to hear directly from children, young people and parents across the country.**

**We want to hear from all children, in every part of the country and in every setting.**

**This is your chance to tell key policymakers what is important to you ahead of the general election. Take part now and ensure your needs are reflected in the decisions that will affect you in years to come.**

Scan the QR code to  
take part



 **CHILDREN'S  
COMMISSIONER**

[www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition)



# 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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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 [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

## IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

## ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

## PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At [my.account.sony.com](http://my.account.sony.com), create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

## IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

## XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

## NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

## WINDOWS 11 PCs

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

## CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

## MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

## SMART TVs

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

## Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years' experience of working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which? PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a tech pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of internet safety.



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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 20.12.2023

## Dates for your Diary - Spring Term



Friday 22nd December 2023	AUTUMN TERM ENDS
Monday 8th January 2024	SPRING TERM BEGINS
Monday 15th January 2024	Reception Place Application Portal Closes
Monday 15th January 2024	Reception visit to St. Andrew's Church
Tuesday 16th January 2024	Incredible Years Parent Workshop (for parents of children aged 6+) in Studio from 2pm-3pm
Wednesday 24th January 2024	Year 4 at Christingle Service at St. Nicholas' Cathedral in Newcastle - 1pm-3pm
Wednesday 31st January 2024	Restart a Heart workshop for Year 5 and Year 6 in School
Friday 16th February 2024	HALF TERM