

12th January 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are pleased to welcome all the children back to school this week following the Christmas break. They are all refreshed and raring to go with their learning this term.

It is also our pleasure to welcome our new Nursery children who started school for the first time this week as well as our other new starters across the school. They have all settled in so well. I would also like to thank the other children who have made them all feel so welcomed into our school family.

It has been great to see the children in some classes this week exploring future careers from dentistry in Year 4 to Reception finding out about the people who help them in school and what their jobs entail. I even had a full interview about my role from the children and they all got a chance to sit in my chair in the office!

Nursery also had a special visitor when Kit the dog came in to meet them. There was lots of excitement and plenty of tail wagging too!

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you all about the importance of reading at home. The children do lots of reading in school but it is important that they reinforce this at home. They can read their reading book, other books or even comics. It is also really important that children hear stories read to them. That 1:1 time sharing a book before bed is such a lovely part of the day both for parents and the children. This 10 minutes a day can make a massive impact on their future life chances. I have included a link later in the flyer to a video made by Save the Children about the difference this can make. For such an important subject it is hard hitting and therefore not suitable to share with the children. Thank you for your ongoing support with your child's reading.

We continue to develop our OPAL play work at break and lunchtimes and would love to know what you think. We would be grateful if you could spend a few minutes completing a survey for us by [clicking here](#).

Looking ahead, we are pleased to welcome Mr. Kirk Lester, Army Welfare Service, back into school to lead some further Forest School sessions with the children. The next sessions for Key Stage 1 will be on Monday 22nd January 2024. I would be grateful if the children could come to school with appropriate outdoor clothing on as they will be getting dirty!

Well done to Year 4 with the best attendance this week: 99.2%

Well done to Year 4 for the best attendance for the year to date: 96.8%.

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

Mr. A. Wheatley,
Headteacher

Attendance Matters



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

Northumberland
County Council

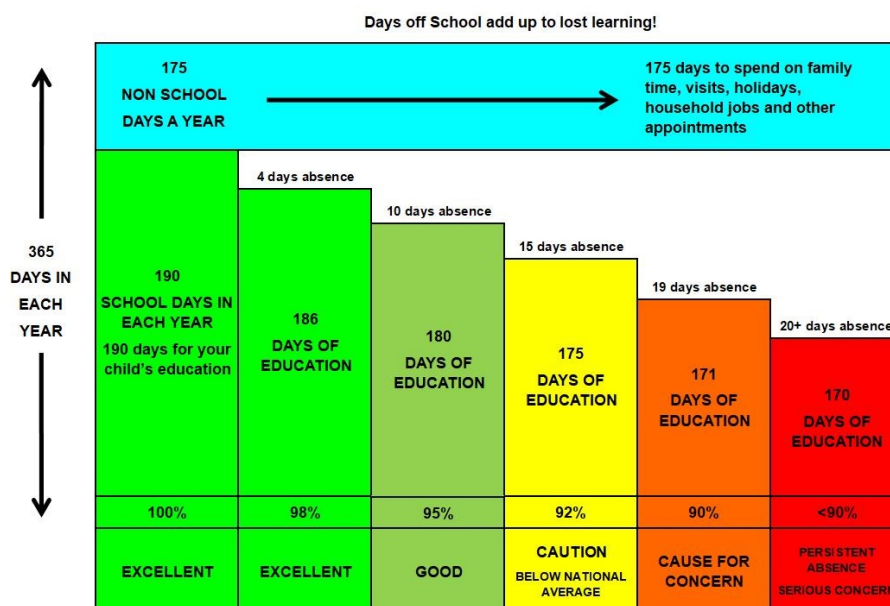


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Reception (Owls)	98%	95.9%	Year 3 (Gibside)	98.7%	95.3%
Year 1 (Wallington)	96.7%	95.8%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	99.2%	96.8%
Year 2 (Craggside)	92.4%	95.6%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	93%	94%
			Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	93.1%	94.7%

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



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

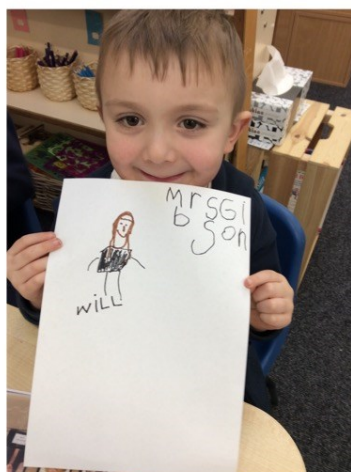
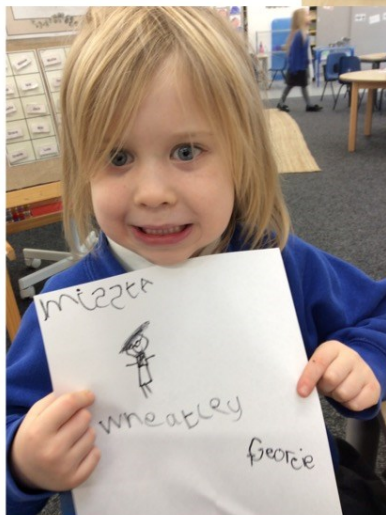
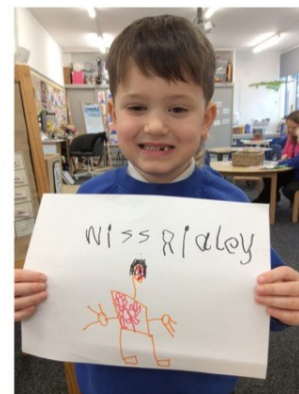
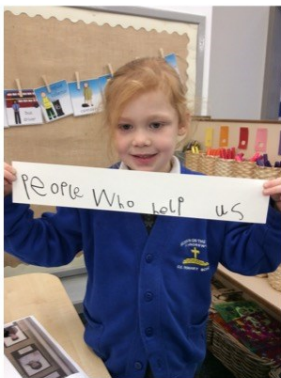
Colossians 3:23

What a brilliant week we have had in the Hedgehogs class. It has been lovely welcoming our children back after their Christmas break and also meeting our new children this week too. We are all so impressed at how well you have all settled in your first week! We also had a very special visitor this week... Heidi brought her dog, Kit, in to meet us. You were all very calm and gentle with him. You have all been superstars, well done Hedgehogs!



PIC•COLLAGE

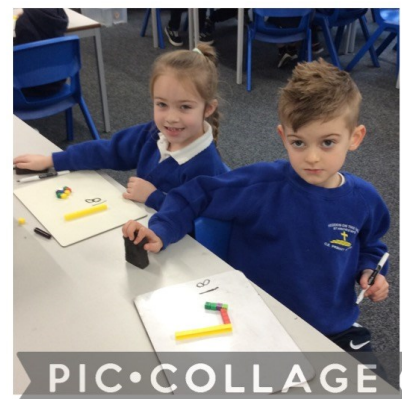
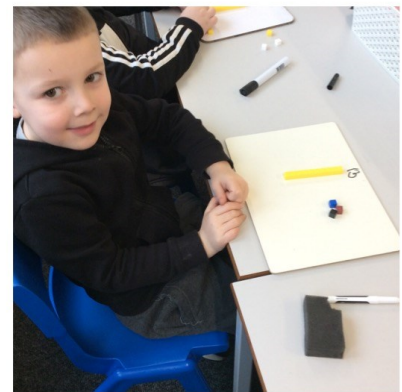
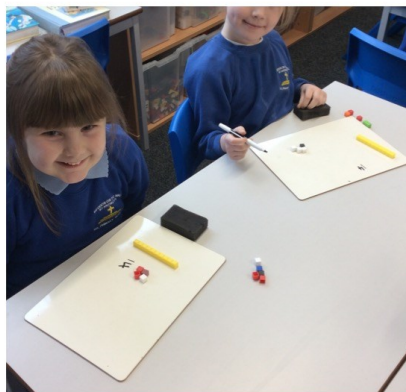
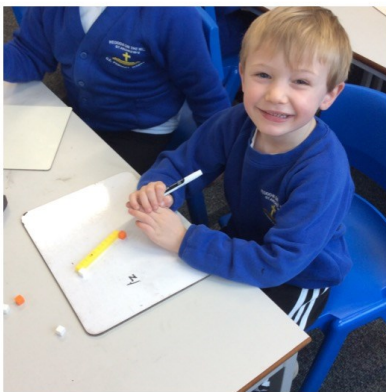
This week we have been thinking about 'People Who Help Us' in school and what they do to help. We have been out and about in groups visiting, and talking to, different adults.
We would like to say a great big THANK YOU to all our adults, we are so lucky we have you to help us everyday!



PIC•COLLAGE

A Busy Week in Year 1!

We have been working hard in our first week back in Year One! We have been working practically in maths, making teen numbers and understanding how to partition them. We have also been finding clues in our classroom about our new Literature Works text 'Paddington', which we are so excited about reading



Our New Text in Year 2

Year 2 have really enjoyed exploring some clues about our new text and making predictions about what it could be about. We did some freeze frame work and talked about how the characters could be feeling. We can't wait to read the book!



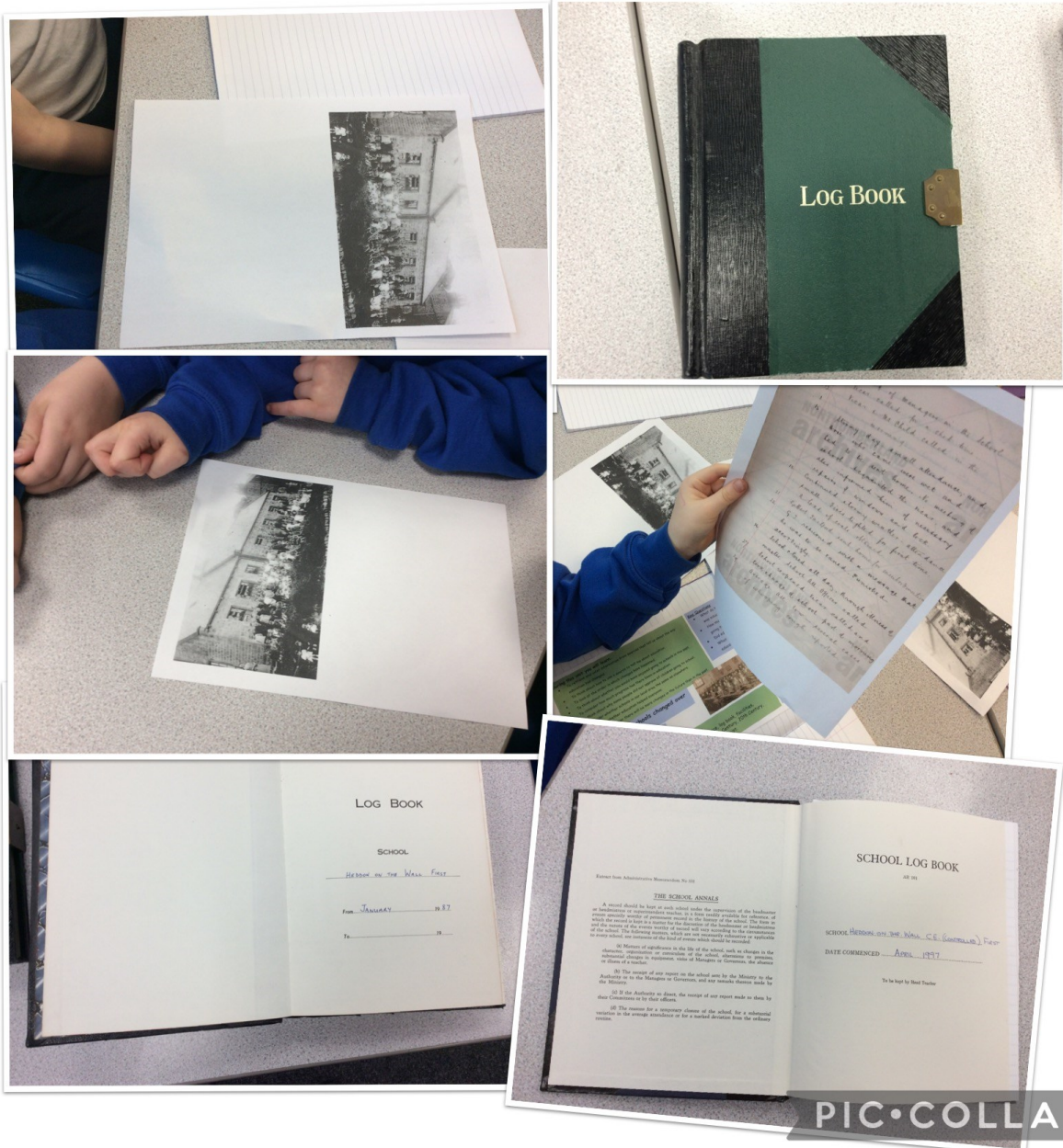
Whatever you do work at it with all your heart


Colossians 3:23

What was our school like in the past with Year 3

Year 3 have been studying historical sources linked to the history of our school - looking closely for any clues about how schools in the past were different to our experience at school now.

We're lucky to have access to some school log books, architects plans, photographs and even a Victorian punishment log!





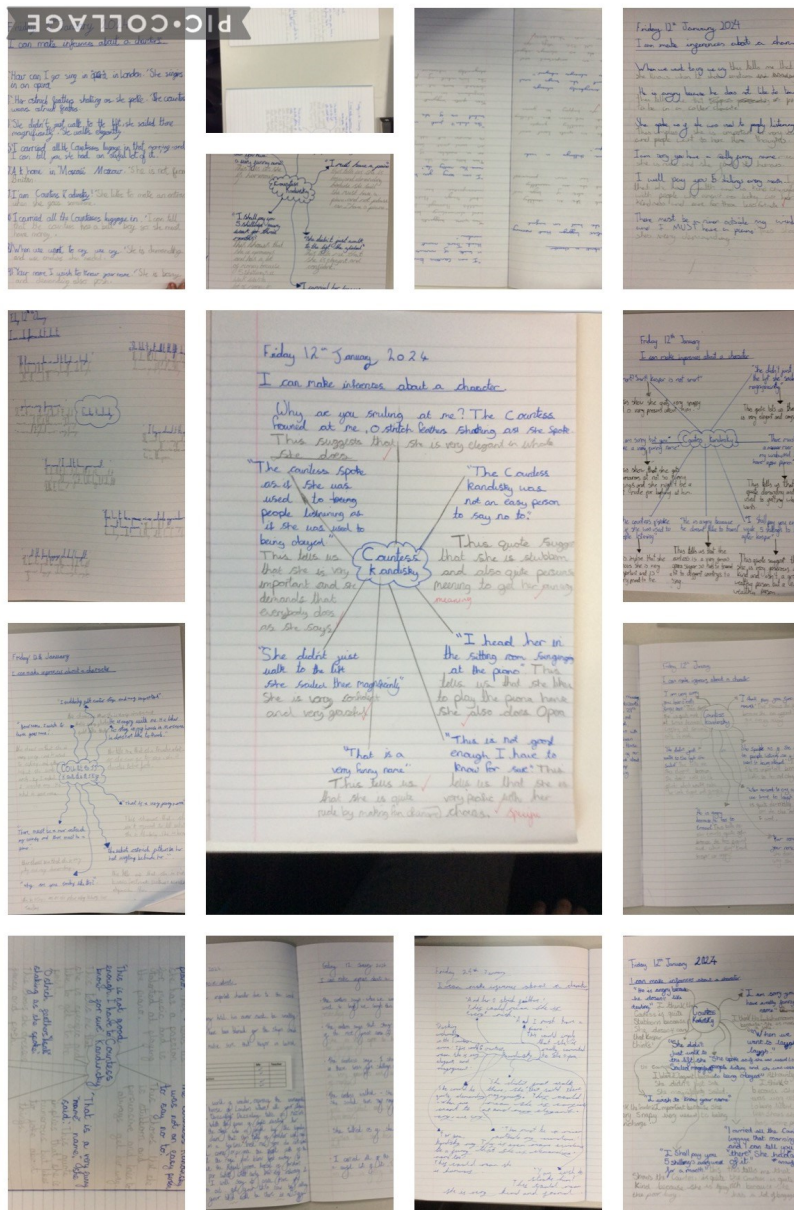
To complete our
science unit
about the
digestive system
Year 4 were
visited by a
dentist. We
sorted foods into
good and bad for
our teeth and
discussed how to
look after them.

Gymnastics with Year 5

This week, Year 5 have started their new PE unit - Gymnastics. The children have thoroughly enjoyed their first lesson of the term. They have been learning about travelling, sequence, cannon and synchronisation. They have devised a short gymnastics performance to show to their peers in the class. We enjoyed using the mats and discovering different ways to move and travel in a creative way using levels.



This week in Year 6 we have started our new text, "Kaspar, Prince of Cats". In the first chapter, we were introduced to Kaspar the cat and his accomplice; Countess Kandinsky. Using the text to find evidence, we made inferences about the Countess' character. We decided that while she was somebody of high importance who can sometimes be demanding, she had a softer side to her character and was actually rather generous.



Reading Matters!

Being able to read is the one thing that will have the biggest impact on how well your child will do in life.

It is really important that your child reads regularly with you. This can be their reading book, another book from home or even comics.

It is also really important that children regularly hear stories at home too. This can be a special time before bed where you and your child can spend some quality time together.

We understand that everyone leads busy lives but this 10 minutes a day can make such a difference to your child's life chances.



Save the Children have produced a 'Read on Get on' video about the importance of reading. This is a hard hitting video and as such is not suitable to share with the children. Please click the image to view the video.





JUNIOR TRIATHLON OPEN DAY

**14TH JANUARY 2024
15:30-17:00
PONELAND LEISURE CENTRE**

Join us for a run, bike, or tri swim session – choose one, a combination of two, or go for all three! The sessions are free, but please bring your own equipment, including a bike, suitable running shoes, and swimming clothes.
Open for ages 8-14

REGISTER HERE:

 Triathlon@pontelandrunners.org.uk



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 for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Children & Young People Need to Know about **FREE VS HATE SPEECH**

Everyone in the UK has the right of "freedom of expression". That's the right to voice your opinions and share information and ideas with others. It's *not* the right to say whatever you want without regard for others' feelings and values. We all have a responsibility to use this right properly: being respectful and inclusive to those around us, rather than making offensive and threatening remarks. That's called 'hate speech' and knowing the difference is incredibly important.

Free speech is a person's legal right to share information, opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship or legal consequences. This freedom of expression is recognised in international human rights legislation, and here's what it does for us in our day-to-day lives ...

The Human Rights Act 1988 states that everyone has the right to express themselves freely – even if their views are unpopular and might offend others.

Freedom of expression encourages listening to others and allowing opposing views to be heard. It's important to respect someone's opinion, even if we disagree with it. Free speech lets us engage in meaningful discussions with people who feel differently.

Any concept could potentially offend someone. Galileo's theories were incredibly offensive to many at the time, while not everyone agrees with Darwin, even today. A frequent exchange of ideas is vitally important for a healthy society.

Free speech allows us to engage people we disagree with in a debate. The ability to challenge others' views is healthy – while having ours challenged helps us learn how to deal with criticism and think deeply about what we say and believe.

Freedom of expression includes the right *not* to do something, like not standing up for – or singing – the national anthem. Even though some people would find that offensive, it isn't illegal. By law, nobody can force you to say anything you don't want to.

Free speech is a powerful tool for change, justice and reform. Many modern UK rights – such as women being allowed to vote, decent working conditions or same-sex marriage – couldn't have been achieved without it.

Hate speech refers to any communication – like talking, texting or posting online – that negatively targets a group or an individual because they are perceived to be different in some way. Demonsing and dehumanising statements, threats, identity-based insults, offensive name-calling and slurs would all count as hate speech. Here are some common forms it takes...

Targeting people or groups because of a protected characteristic – like race, gender identity, sexuality, nationality, religion or a disability – and verbally abusing them with slurs and name-calling. The Equality Act 2010 has more information on this.

Content that dehumanises people based on the same characteristics: referring to them as if they were animals, objects or other non-human entities, for example. Separating the target from other human beings is usually an attempt to justify the speaker's bigotry.

Calling for violence or hatred against certain people or groups and justifying and glorifying those actions. Suggesting that a certain group should be removed from society could be seen as a call to arms, for example – potentially putting people from that group in danger.

Claiming that specific types of people are physically, mentally or morally inferior (or even that they are criminals) to encourage others to view them in the same way. This kind of thinking is always incorrect – but can be incredibly harmful to the group in question.

Spreading damaging misinformation about a person or group that the speaker views as "different" – essentially, trying to turn others against them by lying. Someone might claim that a recent tragedy is the fault of this entire group, when this is simply not possible.

Promoting the segregation of certain groups, or discrimination against them, because of who they are. This has been illegal in the UK for a long time – but some people still try to promote the exclusion of others, which can cause a huge amount of distress.

Meet Our Expert

The Global Equality Collective is an online community for homes, schools and businesses, a collective of hundreds of subject matter experts in diversity, equality and inclusion, and the organisation behind the GEC app, the world's first app for diversity, equality and inclusion.

GLOBAL
EQUALITY
COLLECTIVE

The
National
College

NOS
National
Online
Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/schedule/1B/text/1B/anyone%20has%20other%20origin%20the%20freedom%20of%20expression>

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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: 10.01.2023

Dates for your Diary - Spring Term



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 2-6) in Studio from 2pm-3pm
Monday 22nd January 2024	Adam Bushnell (Author) visit for Key Stage 2
Monday 22nd January 2024	Kirk Lester (Army Welfare Service) in to lead Forest School sessions with Key Stage 1
Tuesday 23rd January 2024	Year 3 walk around the Village
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