

26th January 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

Despite the strong winds and stormy weather there have been lots of things happening at school this week.

There have been visitors in each class. Key Stage 2 had a great day being inspired by Adam Bushnell who led workshops on their class topics finishing with an interactive storytelling assembly. Key Stage 1 braved the weather with Kirk Lester for Forest School and made some fantastic pine cone hedgehogs. Early Years learnt lots about future careers and how people help us through our amazing parent visitors. The children learnt about being a psychologist, a physiotherapist and running a dog walking business. Many thanks to all the parents who volunteered to give up their time to speak to the children.

The weather also did not stop the children being out and about. Year 3 had a really interesting History walk to find the three old schools in Heddon. I wonder if you know where they are?

Year 4 represented our school at the Diocesan Christingle Service at the Cathedral in Newcastle. We joined with schools from across the diocese to sing and worship together. Special thanks to Alice who read amazingly well in front of the whole Cathedral and Erin who made our Christingle.

Year 6 with Mr. McDonald and Mr. Smith have started using the MUGA in the welfare field at lunchtimes on Mondays. While it was wet and windy they thoroughly enjoyed it.

Year 5 enjoyed taking part in the virtual Northumberland Multi-Skills finals today. We were competing against the top 11 other schools. Sadly we did not finish in the top 3 but to reach the finals was a great achievement. Well done Year 5!

Please check out our 'Reading Matters' page on the flyer to see which class it is this week. Don't forget to read with your child and sign their reading diary this weekend. Being able to read is the greatest gift we can give to our children.

Well done to Reception with the best attendance this week: 99.3%

Well done to Year 4 for the best attendance for the year to date: 96.3%.

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.

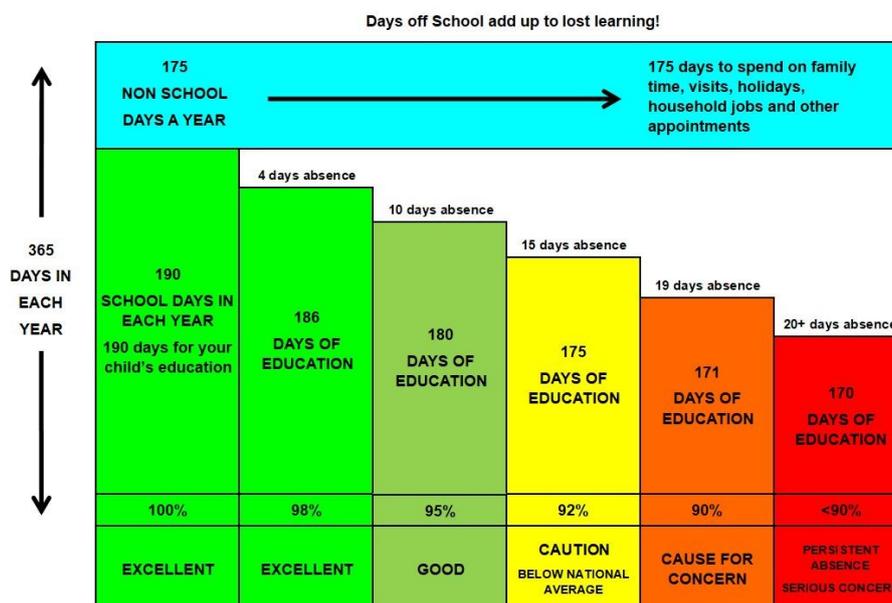


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Reception (Owls)	99.3%	96.1%	Year 3 (Gibside)	93.3%	94.1%
Year 1 (Wallington)	94.2%	95.3%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	98.4%	96.3%
Year 2 (Cragside)	94.9%	95.8%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	92.3%	94.1%
			Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	88.4%	94.6%

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



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



This week, the Hedgehogs have been exploring underwater animals. We have been super busy practising our cutting skills by making our own under the sea pictures, developing our subitising skills, exploring colour and colour mixing and developing our early writing skills too. What another brilliant week!



PIC•COLLAGE

The Owls are continuing to learn about 'People Who Help Us'. We have been so lucky to have more special visitors this week to tell us about what they do to help others.

Mrs Daunt came to tell us about her work for the NHS as a physiotherapist and how she helps people become mobile again.



Mrs Batey is a Dog Walker. She told us how she looks after people's dogs and cats when they are at work. She shared lots of her tricks for entertaining, training and keeping the pets safe.



Mrs Craig visited yesterday and talked to us about being a Psychologist. She told us that she works with children to help them explore, explain and manage their big feelings. She gave us lots of top tips to help us with ours.



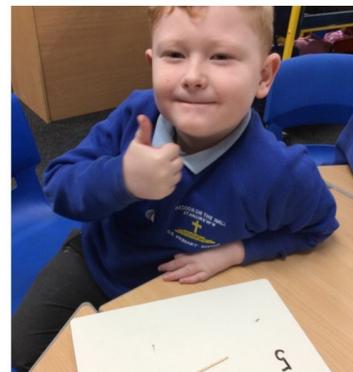
A HUGE thank you from us to all our visitors this week



PIC•COLLAGE

A Busy Week in Year 1!

Year 1 have been busy this week in Science, Maths and Computing. We had to sort shapes into different categories in Computing. In Science we were investigating the properties of different materials. We found different items that were waterproof and not waterproof, we had so much fun putting them in the water to test them! Maths has been so busy too, the children have been using the words 'greater than' 'less than' and 'equal to'.



Exploring Wood with Year 2

Each week in Science, we are going to be exploring a different material. This week we investigated wood. After writing a long list of properties of wood, we looked at lots of different things that are made from wood and thought about why it is a useful material. We are getting a lot better at using scientific vocabulary when we are explaining answers and giving reasons.



Whatever you do work at it with all your heart

Colossians 3:23

Visiting all the Old Schools in Heddon with Year 3

On Tuesday, as part of Year 3's History topic 'Would you have liked going to school in the past?'; we walked around Heddon, visiting all of the old school buildings - some were quite a surprise! Thank you very much to Mrs Wilson for accompanying us.



PIC • COLLAGE

Spooky Stories with Adam Bushnell and Year 3

Year 3 had a spooky time with author Adam Bushnell on Monday. He helped us to create our own Victorian school-inspired ghostly character as well as telling us tales from the North East.



Christingle Service for Candlemas with Year 4

This week Year 4 attended a Christingle Service at Newcastle Cathedral. There were lots of laughs as the whole congregation were made into a giant Christingle, including being wrapped in red wool! The singing was fantastic, Erin did a fabulous job lighting our Christingle and a special shout out to Alice for her amazing reading which was clear, calm and confident.



Designing a Robot in Year 5

This week, we have been very fortunate to have had an author visit to our class. The amazing Adam Bushnell held a workshop with Year 5 where they designed a 'Robot for a Reason!' Children used their extensive vocabulary to describe the details of their robot and its functions. We had a super morning.



The Great Wave of Kanagawa with Year 6

In Art lessons this week, the children have been using their zentangle skills to decorate their own version of the Great Wave of Kanagawa. There have been some fantastic pieces of work. We will finish our waves next week, before painting our watercolour backgrounds. We are excited to share our final pieces of art.



PIC • COLLAGE

MUGA Mondays with Year 6

This week we launched our Muga Mondays at lunchtime. We took some of our Year 6 sports leaders onto the Muga to play a few games, before asking them to think about which sports they would like to run during the half term. The children decided on Football, Netball and an Invasion style game of "Steal the Bib". We are looking forward to our first game of Football in next week's Muga Mondays!



Reading Matters!

**'There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world.
Love of books is the best of all.'
Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis**



Please remember to read with us this weekend!



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 apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MYLOL

AGE RESTRICTION
13-19

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MyLOL is a free social networking and dating site aimed at teens. Profiles can publicly display users' images and information, including sexual orientation and personal interests. The service bills itself as "the number one teen dating website in the world", claiming to have more than a million users globally. Despite its popularity, the MyLOL app is no longer available from Google Play or the App Store, although the site is still active. In some countries, police forces and schools have previously warned parents about "sinister predators" and "inappropriate activities" on the site.

FLIMSY AGE GATES

Although MyLOL states it is exclusively aimed at users aged between 13 and 19, there is no credible age verification system to prevent a younger child – or an older adult – from signing up to the platform. Coupled with the fact that it's impossible to establish a user's true identity on MyLOL, this raises a serious concern that the site could be used for grooming.

IN-APP SPENDING

MyLOL is free to join and use, but it also offers paid-for memberships. Users who have paid money get their profile promoted at the top of the site and in search results. They can also earn additional credits for increased engagement with the platform – such as sharing, replying to messages and voting. At the time of writing, the monthly membership fee was \$9.95 (just under £8).

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

MyLOL maintains that it monitors all uploaded images for nudity or sexual content. It also claims to be able to detect suspicious keywords. However, there have been numerous reports of explicit content being found on the platform, with users often posting provocative, semi-nude pictures of themselves and engaging in flirty or sexually explicit conversation.

DATA COLLECTION

According to its privacy policy, MyLOL collects user data including email addresses, contact details and interests. While the company says it is committed to protecting users' privacy, the small print states that information may be shared externally. MyLOL claims to follow procedures to keep data secure, but does not specify what these procedures are, or whether such information is encrypted.

POTENTIAL CYBER-BULLYING

MyLOL lets users 'vote' on other people based solely on their appearance, much in the same vein as the now-defunct site Hot or Not. This feature could easily lead to distress and bullying, especially if a young person's profile pics receive an unfavourable response. Various reviews of MyLOL have noted that bullying frequently becomes an issue in the platform's chat groups and private messages.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

MyLOL makes it easy to connect with strangers. In fact, the site's rewards feature encourages users to send private messages to people they don't know. There have been several media stories of adults posing as teens on MyLOL to connect with minors, which could lead to extremely dangerous situations, such as a young person meeting up with someone who has been posing under a false identity.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS ONLINE DATING

It's vital to talk to your child about the possible dangers of platforms like MyLOL – particularly the threat of online predators. Remind them of the risks of sharing intimate images and information with strangers, and emphasise that most people don't realise they're being 'catfished' until it's too late – it really isn't wise for a young person to meet up with someone they've only spoken to online.

EXPLAIN PRIVACY RISKS

Before your child begins using a service such as MyLOL, it's important that they understand the potential pitfalls of giving out their personal data on this type of platform. Explain to them, for example, that they shouldn't divulge any personally identifying information to people who they don't know, as scammers can be quite convincing when attempting to steal someone's identity.

RESTRICT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child has access to a bank card or other payment method, they may be enticed into signing up for MyLOL's premium features. Having their profile boosted and receiving more attention could be especially tempting if their friends also use the site. You could consider altering their device's settings to disable internet purchases, or at the very least keeping an eye on their online spending.

SET UP LOCATION ALERTS

If you're worried that your child may be planning to meet up with someone they've met on MyLOL, you could consider utilising GPS or WIFI location tracking technology to follow their whereabouts in real time. You can even set up a virtual boundary or 'fence' and opt to receive an alert to your phone if your child enters or exits a specified area.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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Dates for your Diary - Spring Term



Wednesday 31st January 2024	Restart a Heart workshop for Year 5 and Year 6 in School
Friday 16th February 2024	HALF TERM
Monday 26th February 2024	TRAINING DAY
Tuesday 27th February 2024	SPRING TERM 2 BEGINS
Friday 8th March 2024	Early Years and Key Stage 1 Mothers Day Service at Church at 9.30am
Friday 8th March 2024	Key Stage 2 Mothers Day Service at Church at 10.15am
Friday 15th March	Red Nose Day
Tuesday 26th March 2024	Year 6 France Trip Meeting for Parents 5pm-6pm at Darras Hall Primary School
Thursday 28th March 2024	Key Stage 2 Easter Service at Church at 9.30am
Thursday 28th March 2024	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Monday 15th April 2024	SUMMER TERM 1 BEGING
29th April 2024	School Photographer in for individual photographs