

1st March 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

The children have all been excited this week to begin their new topics and you can see their enthusiasm in the pages for each class. I had to visit Nursery on Tuesday morning as there had been an unexpected visitor who had left a bit of a mess including some bowls of porridge! You'll have to read the flyer to find out who it was!

We have a busy week next week with World Book Day on Thursday and our Mothers Day Services at St. Andrew's Church on Friday morning. Dates and times for these events are in the Calendar section in the Flyer.

We are also looking forward to welcoming Mrs. Blain, Deputy CEO Pele Trust and Primary Lead into school on Tuesday. She is coming to see what we do and to spend time with the children and staff.

If you are having a Spring clear out we have started our OPAL Play Bingo. You can donate any unwanted items from the Bingo card and help win an extra playtime for your child's class.

There have been a number of reported incidences of headlice in school. Please could I ask that you check your child's hair regularly. There is information later in the flyer about how to treat headlice without the need for harsh chemical treatments.

Please don't forget to read with your child and sign their reading diary over the weekend.

Thank you to the eagle eyed reader of the flyer who spotted that I got the class with the best attendance for the year incorrect in the last edition. It should have been Year 2 with 96.1%.

Well done to Year 6 with the best attendance this week of 99.2%

Well done to Year 2 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

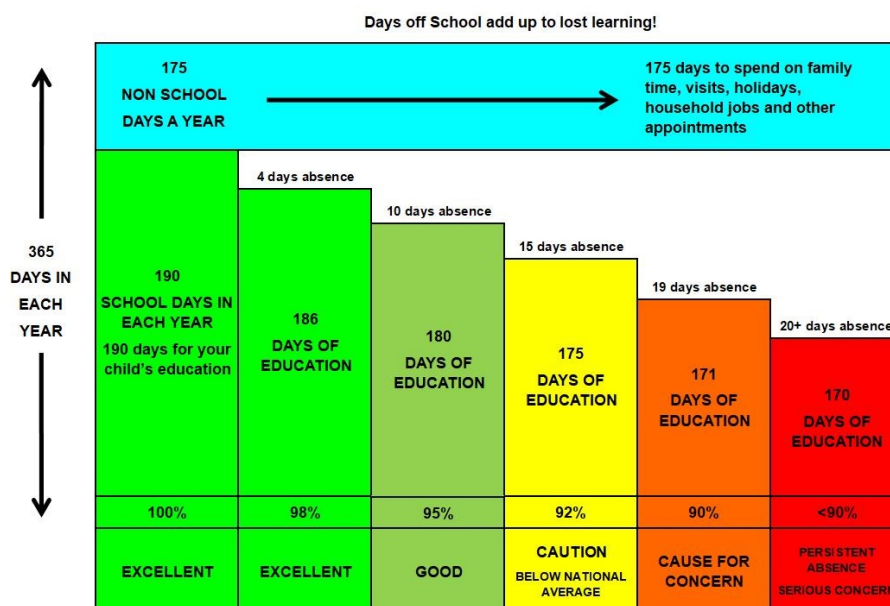


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Reception (Owls)	95.8%	95.5%	Year 3 (Gibside)	97.5%	94.9%
Year 1 (Wallington)	95.8%	95.4%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	98.5%	96.6%
Year 2 (Craggside)	98.9%	96.8%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	95.7%	94.8%
			Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	99.2%	96.4%

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

## Goldilocks and the Three Bears!

The Hedgehogs have had such a lovely first week back after half term! We started our new topic, 'Tell Me a Story' this week. On Tuesday morning, some suspicious clues were left in our home corner! There were 3 different sized bowls, 3 different sized chairs, some porridge oats and some golden hair. We used our knowledge of Traditional Tales to predict who had been in our classroom and it was... Goldilocks! We then had a go at making porridge and it was... just right!



PIC•COLLAGE



Reception are learning about traditional tales and this week we have enjoyed the story of Little Red Riding Hood.



These three children made a trap to catch the Big Bad Wolf!



We have had fun using puppets to retell, and invent our own, stories.



We have used our den building equipment to make 'hides' to keep a look out for the Big Bad Wolf.



And, there has been some fantastic art work and independent writing too!



PIC•COLLAGE



## Sculpture in Year 1!

We loved starting our new Art topic this week, this half term we are learning about sculptures and this week we used clay. We had so much fun using the tools and some natural loose parts to add decoration to our sculptures.



PIC•COLLAGE

## Kings and Queens with Year 2

Year 2 thoroughly enjoyed kicking off their Kings and Queens topic by learning about William I who is best known as William the Conqueror. We re-enacted the Battle of Hastings and plotted events in chronological order on a timeline. We can't wait to find out which monarch we are learning about next week!



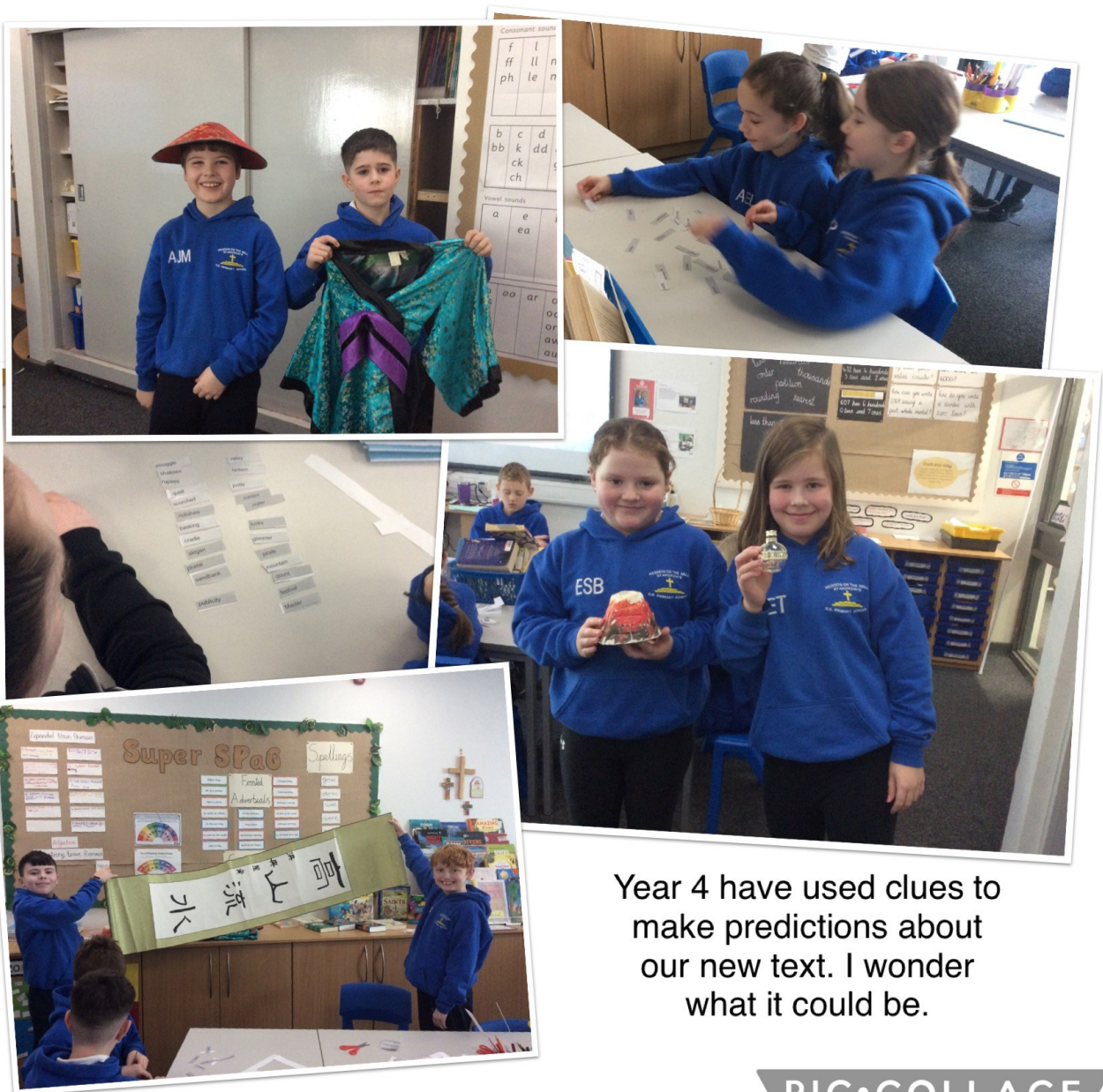


## Learning French with Year 3

Year 3 have been learning the months of the year in French and have been practising how to ask and say how old they are. We were delighted to receive birthday cards from our friends in Luxembourg!



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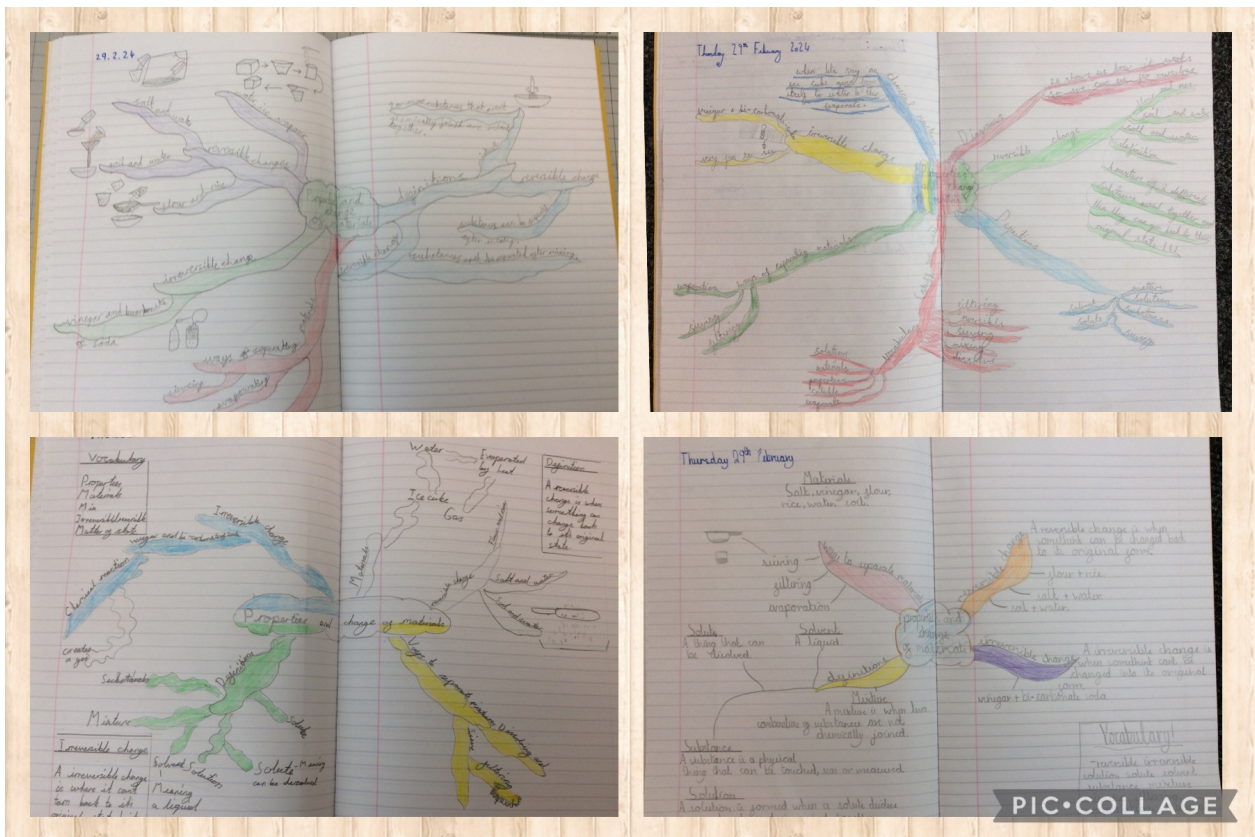
Year 4 have used clues to  
 make predictions about  
 our new text. I wonder  
 what it could be.

PIC•COLLAGE



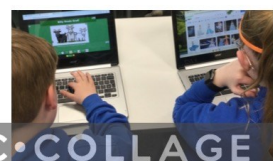
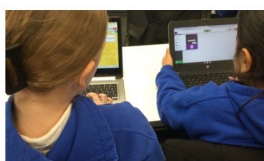
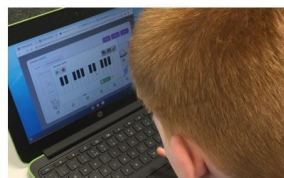
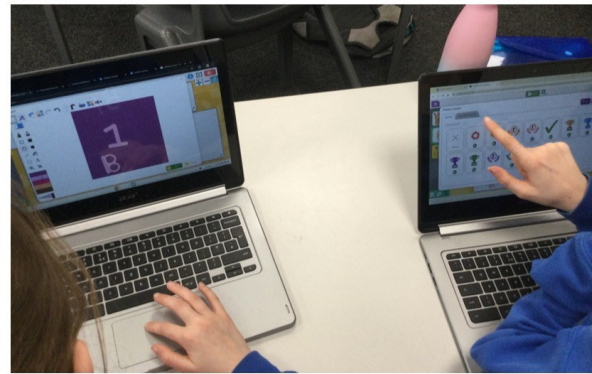
## Science Mind Maps in Year 5

This week Year 5 have really enjoyed creating Mind-Maps that evidence their learning from last half term in Science. Our unit 'Properties and Change of Materials' has been full of interesting experiments that the children have really enjoyed. Once we created our Mind-Maps we could clearly see the impact that it has on what we can remember. We really enjoyed colour co-ordinating our ideas and information, this is so it can help us remember more!



## Programming our own Quizzes in Year 6

To begin our new computing unit Year 6 explored "quizzes". We discussed what is needed to create an effective quiz and generated our own short quizzes for children in Key Stage 1. We based our quizzes around famous fairy tales or nursery rhymes and had to consider the audience carefully as we made our design choices.



PIC•COLLAGE





## Our Super Spring Challenge!









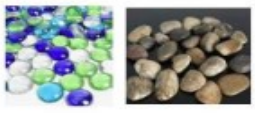



This half term, classes have chosen an area of our outdoor play to develop and enhance. The children have helped to create a 'Bingo Board'. The aim of the challenge is to race to **collect** each item on the 'Bingo Board' (as a group). **We do not expect families to buy these items** but would like you to ask around to see if anyone is having a clear out and are willing pass these items on. Once each Key Stage has completed their board they will be rewarded with some extra OPAL Play time to set up their area and play in it. The areas we have chosen to improve this term are:

EYFS: Small World Play, KS1: Mud kitchen, LKS2: Dinosaur World, UKS2: Water Play

### Get ready to play... OPAL BINGO



Early Years, we have chosen to develop the small world area. Your challenge is to **collect** the following items from friends and family (you do not need to buy them!) before the end of term. As a group, you must try to find all the items on the Bingo Board ... and any other items you think may be fun to use in this area! Good luck!

<b>Dinosaurs</b> 	<b>Small people</b> 	<b>Greenery (plants/artificial plants)</b> 	<b>Fairy Doors/garden items</b> 
<b>Cotton reels</b> 	<b>Cable reels</b> 	<b>Boats/Pirate ships/sharks</b> 	<b>Log slices</b> 
<b>Gem stones/gravel/large pebbles</b> 	<b>Dolls/doll clothes</b> 	<b>Off cuts of artificial grass</b> 	<b>Castles/knights</b> 

### Get ready to play... OPAL BINGO



Years 1 and 2, you have chosen to develop the mud kitchen area. Your challenge is to collect the following items from friends and family (you do not need to buy them!) before the end of term. As a group, you must try to find all the items on the Bingo Board ... and any other items you think may be fun to use in this area! Good luck!

 <b>Wooden spoons and spatulas</b>	 <b>Mixing bowl and measuring jug</b>	 <b>Pots and pans</b>	 <b>Colander</b>
 <b>Water butt with a tap</b>	 <b>Plastic containers</b>	 <b>Ice cube trays</b>	 <b>Cake tins</b>
 <b>Plastic dinner set</b>	 <b>Silicone cake cases</b>	 <b>Metal cutlery</b>	 <b>Any dried herbs and flowers</b>

### Get ready to play... OPAL BINGO



Years 3 and 4, you have chosen to develop the Dinosaur Land area. Your challenge is to collect the following items from friends and family (you do not need to buy them!) before the end of term. As a group, you must try to find all the items on the Bingo Board ... and any other items you think may be fun to use in this area! Good luck!

 Large and small, plastic dinosaurs	 small, garden digging tools	 sieves	 Off cuts of artificial grass
 Leftover gravel	 Artificial plants	 "Dinosaur Land" Small World items	 Metal pots
 Brushes	 Small world trees	 Terracotta pots	 Toy/model volcanoes

### Get ready to play... OPAL BINGO



Years 5 and 6, you have chosen to develop the Water Area. Your challenge is to collect the following items from friends and family (you do not need to buy them!) before the end of term. As a group, you must try to find all the items on the Bingo Board ... and any other items you think may be fun to use in this area! Good luck!

 Plastic pipes	 Buckets	 Guttering	 Hosepipe
 Rubber Ducks	 Toy (boats etc)	 Bubbles	 Spades
 Sponges	 Jugs	 Watering Cans/ Sieves	 Animals

In other news, our Break the Rules day raised an impressive £452.85 which will be spent on large scale garden games for the children to enjoy in the better weather e.g. giant Jenga, boules, connect 4 as well as some physical play equipment such as slack lines to walk along. Our next planned fundraiser is a Movie Night on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Details to follow but our next goal is to raise enough money to purchase and install a large-scale sandpit on the field.

**As always, thank you for your ongoing support with our OPAL endeavours**



## Had a brush with nits? Switch to a comb

  
Blackpool  
Clinical Commissioning Group

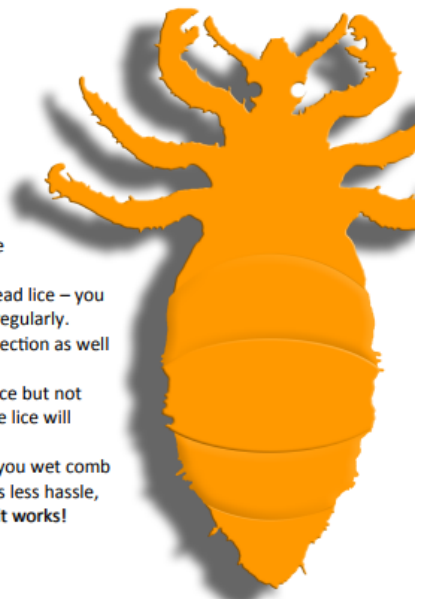


Wet combing is the most effective method of treatment for head lice.

Head lice combs come in different shapes and sizes but have finer teeth that are shaped to catch head lice and nits effectively.

### The Facts of lice...

- Head lice and 'nits' aren't the same thing – nits are the empty eggshells which remain in the hair after the lice have hatched.
- Itching isn't the first sign of having head lice – you should carry out detection combing regularly.
- A head lice comb can be used for detection as well as treatment.
- Insecticide shampoos deal with the lice but not the eggs. There's a good chance more lice will hatch after the treatment.
- There's no insecticide needed when you wet comb – that makes it safer for your kids, it's less hassle, easier to do and most importantly – **it works!**



To wet brush your child's hair:

1. Wash the hair thoroughly with ordinary shampoo and apply plenty of conditioner
2. Yes! The hair has to be wet. Dry lice can scurry away from the comb but will remain still when wet giving you a better chance of catching them in your comb;
3. Use an ordinary, wide toothed comb to straighten and untangle the hair;
4. Once the comb moves freely without dragging start to use your head lice comb;
5. Make sure the teeth of the comb slot into the hair at the roots with the edge of the teeth lightly touching the scalp;
6. Draw the comb down from the roots to the ends of the hair with every stroke, and check the comb for lice each time—remove lice by wiping the comb with tissue paper or rinsing it
7. Work through the hair, section by section, so that the whole head of hair is combed through;
8. Do this at least twice to ensure you haven't missed any areas, until no more lice are found
9. Repeat the process 5 days later just to be sure!

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



# 14 WAYS TO BE KIND ONLINE

Showing kindness online can mean so much to someone else. It is a choice we can all make that helps others, puts people's needs before our own and which can generate feelings of empathy and compassion. Small gestures can have a large impact and often one act of kindness can lead to more, making the world a happier and more positive place. That's why we've created this guide to suggest a few simple 'acts of kindness online' that can benefit people's mental health, support their wellbeing and encourage a more positive approach to engaging online.



## 5. LIKE, LOVE & CELEBRATE

If somebody posts something that you like on social media, like it, love it or celebrate it! It's a small gesture but could mean a lot.

## 8. SHARE POSITIVE POSTS

If you see something online that inspires you, share it with people you know. An inspirational quote, a beautiful photo or a motivational video can lift spirits, improve self-esteem and help make people feel better about themselves.

## 9. HOST AN ONLINE QUIZ

Video conferencing apps are a great way to get friends and family together. If you know someone who is feeling lonely, host an online quiz and invite them to join in. It could really cheer them up.

## 12. CONNECT FRIENDS & FAMILY WITH SIMILAR INTERESTS

You may know two people amongst your friends and family who you trust and know well who have similar interests and likes. Introducing them can be a great way for them to make new friends but remember to always ask their permission first.

## Meet our expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



Sometimes a friend or family member might post a question online or ask for help with something they can't do themselves. If you know the answer or are able to offer help, provide support and send a response. Something that may be easy for you might be difficult for someone else.



If somebody you know has done something good or shown kindness themselves, thank them for it. It costs nothing and showing them that you appreciate it means so much.

## 4. SHARE FUNNY VIDEOS OR IMAGES WITH FRIENDS & FAMILY

We often come across funny videos or images online that make us laugh and then we move on. If you found it funny, your friends and family might too. It could help someone smile who may be having a bad day.

## 6. VIDEO CALL YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY

It can be easy to be consumed by daily routine. Using apps like Zoom, FaceTime or WhatsApp are great for connecting with others far away and shows you're thinking of them even though you can't physically meet them in person.

## 7. TELL SOMEONE YOU'RE THINKING OF THEM

We can't always tell how people are feeling online and just dropping somebody a message to ask if they're ok or that you're thinking of them could literally make their day.

## 10. THINK BEFORE YOU COMMENT

Sometimes thinking before you act can be just as significant as acting in the first place. Showing thought before you comment could stop you posting something hurtful, offensive or negative. It's always better to post positively or post nothing at all.

## 11. BE COMPASSIONATE & UNDERSTANDING

Being empathetic towards others and their situation is often an act of kindness and selflessness that gets overlooked. If you notice someone who is upset, drop them a message and offer to listen.

## 13. RECOMMEND SOMETHING YOU ENJOY DOING TO OTHERS

If you enjoy doing something online, such as playing a game, or if you've found a great learning resource, share it with others. Even if you've watched a good film, letting others know can be an act of generosity that brings them excitement or pleasure at a time when they might need it the most.

## 14. PRAISE OTHERS FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

Sometimes your friends or family might post something online that they're proud to have done. It might be an exam they've passed, learning a new skill or just completing a task. Either way, it's always kind to recognise hard work and effort through praise and celebration.



## Dates for your Diary - Spring Term 2



Monday 4th March 2024	Year 5 Spain Meeting for Parents
Tuesday 5th March 2024	Parents Evening
Thursday 7th March 2024	World Book Day
Thursday 7th March 2024	Parents Evening
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 8th March 2024	Choir taking part at Ryton and District Music Festival from 1pm
Thursday 14th March 2024 until Monday 18th March 2024	Scholastic Book Fair on after school in the Studio.
Friday 15th March	Red Nose Day
Thursday 28th March 2024	Key Stage 2 Easter Service at Church at 9.30am
Thursday 28th March 2024	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Monday 15th April 2024	<b>SUMMER TERM 1 BEGINS</b>
29th April 2024	School Photographer in for individual photographs