

8th March 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

What a week it has been!

We had World Book Day on Thursday and our Mother's Day Services at St. Andrew's Church today alongside all our normal activities.

Mrs. Blain, Deputy CEO Pele Trust and Mrs. Parr, Headteacher at Darras Hall Primary School enjoyed their visit to school on Tuesday. They had the chance to see the children in lessons, on the yard and to speak to them. The children, as ever, were so polite and well mannered with one remarking to our visitors that 'it was a pleasure to speak to them.' We are so proud of our children!

It has been lovely to see and speak to so many of you this week both at parents evening and at our Church Services today. The children worked really hard with their poems and songs to share with you at Church. I hope you enjoyed them as much as the children did performing and that some of you may even have had a tear in your eye!

The children had a great time dressing as book characters and adjectives and taking part in special World Book Day activities such as spending their book tokens and reading with other classes. To finish off this great week please don't forget to read with your child and sign their reading diary over the weekend.

Don't miss our Scholastic Book Fair coming next week! Details later in the flyer and on our website - [click here](#).

Our sports teams have been busy again this week with children representing our school at both the Year 3 and Year 4 football tournament. There was also a Year 4 team at the Gymnastics Competition in Ashington. All the children were great ambassadors for our school. Well done!

Our Choir is competing at the Ryton and District Music Festival today and I will share how we do in next weeks flyer. Good luck to them this afternoon!

Check out what Stay and Play and Out of School Club have been doing this week to celebrate Mothers' Day.

Could I remind parents that you are not able to bring dogs onto the school site, this includes carrying them. Could I also ask that if you bring your dog and tie it up that this is done well away from where the other children are entering and exiting the site in order to keep them safe. Many thanks for your co-operation with this.

Well done to Year 3 with the best attendance this week of 99.3%

Well done to Year 4 for the best attendance for the year to date: 96.6%.

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

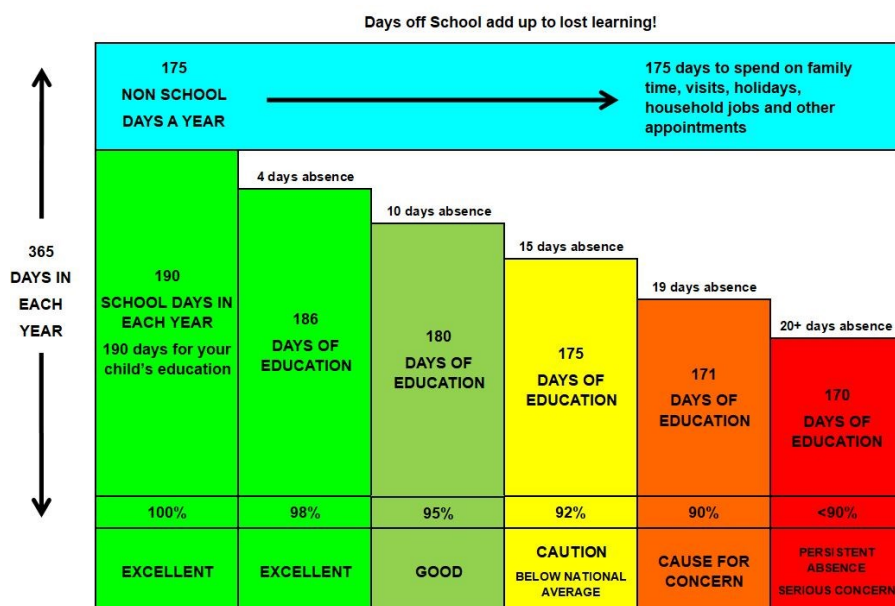


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Reception (Owls)	94.3%	95.3%	Year 3 (Gibside)	99.3%	95.2%
Year 1 (Wallington)	92.9%	95.0%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	98.4%	96.6%
Year 2 (Craggside)	95.8%	96.4%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	99.0%	95.2%
			Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	96.1%	96.0%

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

World Book Day!

What a fantastic day the
Hedgehog's had
celebrating World Book
Day! Look at our wonderful
costumes!



This week we have enjoyed listening to, and comparing, different versions of Little Red Riding Hood.



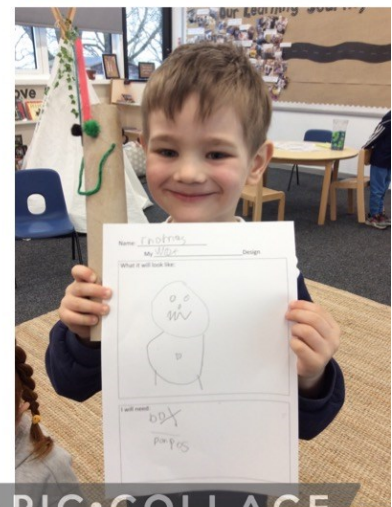
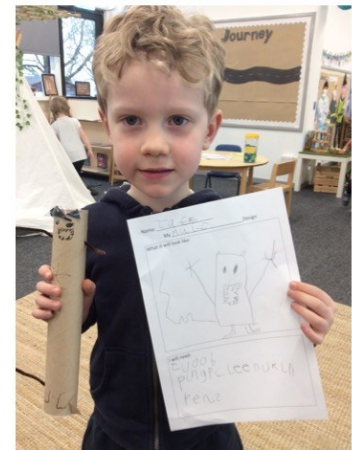
We have created our own story maps and used key phrases and actions to retell the story to an audience.



We have continued to design and build a variety of traps to ensnare the Big Bad Wolf ... no luck yet!



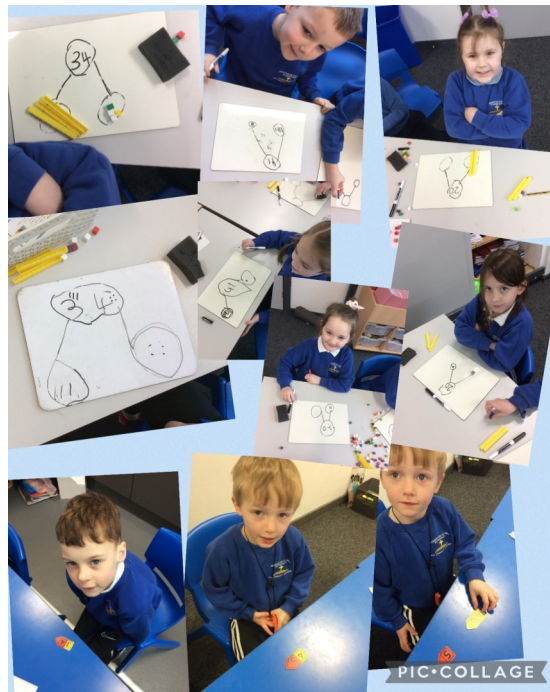
We have designed and created some of the characters in the creative area.



PIC•COLLAGE

Sculpture in Year 1!

In Maths today the Year 1 have been working hard to partition numbers into tens and ones. The children showed a great understanding of this and were able to represent the number in a whole part model. This is something that they can all practise at home. Example: 38 is made of 3 tens and 8 ones.



Year 1 loved the opportunity of peer reading with Year 3 on World Book Day! The children loved dressing up and having so much fun reading books!



Measuring with Year 2

In Year 2 this week we have been measuring lots of different things for length. We started measuring things in cm using a ruler and then moved to measuring more large scale lengths using a metre ruler. We talked about different things that can be measured and the importance of measuring accurately. What can you find at home to measure?



Creating Settings Outdoors with Year 3

Year 3 have been thinking about Roald Dahl's word choices in *The Minpins*. We went out to 'experience' the woodland in Heddon Common and thought about the sights, sounds and smells of our local wood and then compared it to the description of the Forest of Sin.



PIC•COLLAGE

A Sporty Week in Year 4

We've had a Super Sporty week in Year 4 with 2 out of school Sports Activities. We are so proud of the children in our Gymnastic and Football squads who showed perseverance and resilience as well as great teamwork skills - we loved how the children all supported each other and celebrated each other's success!

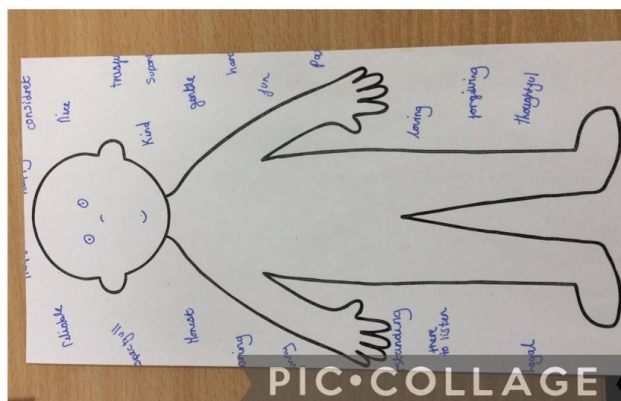
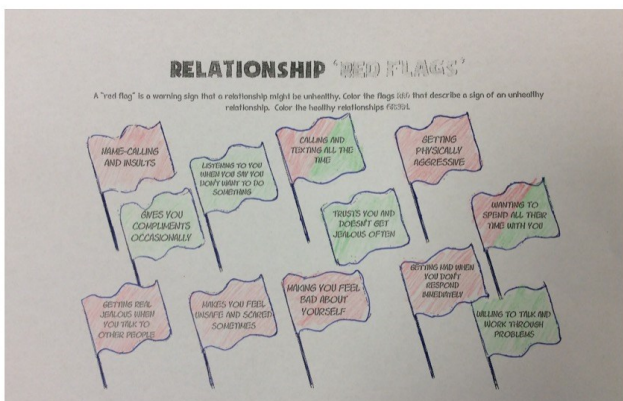
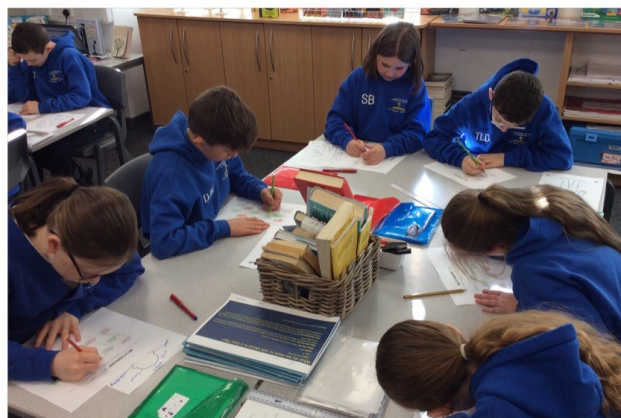


Whatever you do work at it with all your heart

Colossians 3:23

Healthy Relationships in Year 5

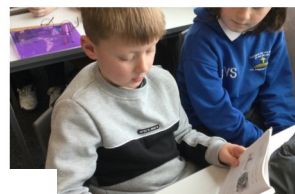
This week, Year 5 have had the opportunity of having a visitor come in from NDAS (Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services). We learned about safe and respectful relationships by highlighting positive characteristics that we would like to see in friendships and other relationships. We also discussed 'Red and Green Flags' and how behaviours in relationships can be harmful or hurtful.



Healthy Relationships in Year 6

Another busy week in Year 6. On Monday we had a visit from NDAS (Northumberland Domestic Abuse Services) to deliver a workshop to the children based around healthy and unhealthy relationships. We completed different activities focusing on consent and personal boundaries. Then, as part of World Book Day on Wednesday we took part in some peer reading with Year 3. I was very proud of how the Year 6 children set a great example for their younger peers.





More World Book Day Fun

Please don't forget to read
with us this weekend.



Out of School Achievements

Well done to Finn who was cast in the role of Gavroche in Les Miserables which was at Newcastle Arena during half term. He had a great time performing and was amazing. We are so proud of you!



Year 3 Football Tournament

Our Year 3 football squad had a great time at the tournament this week. They played well, tried their best and were great ambassadors for our School. Well done everyone!



Fun at Out of School Club

We've had a lovely week celebrating the ones we love for Mother's Day. The children have put so much hard work and thought into their cards and biscuits, writing some beautiful words and creating some special pictures with their fingerprints. We hope you all have a lovely weekend and Mothering Sunday!

Polite reminder: we are collecting items for the Cat and Dog Shelter and they have asked specifically for unopened food and treats, toys, blankets and towels. However, they cannot accept duvets and pillows. Someone will be coming in soon (hopefully with a special guest) to collect and thank you all for your kind donations. Thank you!



Mother's Day with Stay and Play

We had such a lovely 'Mother's Day' inspired Stay and Play this week. We celebrated all of the special mother figures in our lives by making some fabulous sentimental bags with our fingerprints. They looked so beautiful! It was amazing to see so many of you this week, enjoying the toys, arts and crafts, each other and the biscuits!



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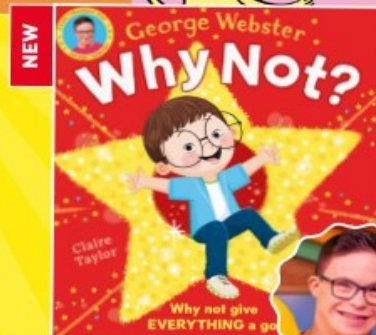


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At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators PROMOTING STORYTIME

Being read to regularly can help the under-fives in acquiring literacy; teaches them the value of books and stories; and sparks their imagination and curiosity. Reading to babies, meanwhile, provides the building blocks of language development and the beginnings of social and emotional skills. Here are our top tips for helping children discover the wonder of stories.

1 BE A READING ROLE MODEL

Children thrive on copying the behaviours of adults around them, so it's vital to model regular reading habits: if your child sees you reading, they're likely to copy you. Reading on a screen could be misinterpreted by a child as a different activity, so a printed book is preferable.

2 JOIN A LIBRARY

Local libraries are a cost-effective way of introducing your child to new books. Libraries often host free events to build engagement with reading. Librarians can recommend books based on age, interests, genre or author. Having their own library card and choosing their next read can be exciting for little ones.

3 TAKE IT IN TURNS

Taking turns to read and turn the pages can build your child's confidence and lets you model what's expected. For younger ones, reading doesn't have to mean the exact words on the page – they might prefer their own version! Reading to different audiences is useful: teddies are excellent listeners!

4 CATER TO THEIR INTERESTS

Like adults, children tend to favour books with themes they're interested in. If they're less keen to move away from their preferred subject matter, you could vary the type of book they read by swapping between fiction and non-fiction. There'll be plenty of scope to diversify as they grow up.

5 BUILD READING INTO YOUR DAILY ROUTINE

Building reading into your daily routine will have a positive impact. Just before bedtime is ideal for many families, helping settle the child to sleep. The adult usually reads the story, but children enjoy more interactivity as they get older. It can be handy to have books with you when out and about.

Reading Corner

6 USE PICTURES AND PROPS

Most children's books contain beautiful illustrations which enrich the text. Spend time discussing these with your child and pointing things out. As well as doing voices for different characters and making any relevant noises, you could also enhance story time with props such as toys or puppets.

7 RELISH THE LANGUAGE

The language in children's books is varied and rich; sometimes they might include words children are less familiar with, so you can take the opportunity to explain what they mean. With younger children, you could try paraphrasing certain sentences afterwards to help with understanding.

8 A COMFORTABLE ENVIRONMENT

Where possible, read to your child in an environment that's free from distractions. This helps children to get fully immersed in the experience, supporting their concentration and engagement. Doing this often can help to build up the child's ability to focus for greater lengths of time.

9 TAKE REGULAR BREAKS

Although reading can be hugely enjoyable, children can sometimes struggle to sit for long periods or to engage with texts fully. Have regular breaks: reading a few pages is better than none. You could also have some movement breaks – there's no particular 'right' or 'wrong' way to enjoy a story.

10 RE-READ FAVOURITES

Most children have certain stories that they love hearing again and again. This repetition lets them become familiar with language patterns and more engaged by feeling able to join in. Choosing other books by your child's preferred author can help them to discover new favourites.

Meet Our Expert

Kara Klerman has worked in senior leadership positions (both in the UK and internationally) for 15 years, supported by an MEd in Educational Leadership. As an educational consultant, she now delivers training for a range of organisations – notably on EYFIS practice and child development. Previously, Kara was head of a nursery and junior school and has also been a director of early years.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/blog/reading-children-to-power-to-simple-and-yet-so-misunderstood/> | <https://cdn.booktrust.org.uk/globalassets/resource/research/benefits-of-reading-booktrust-2023.pdf> | <https://www.wellbeing.org.uk/blog/the-importance-of-reading-to-your-children/>

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Dates for your Diary - Spring Term 2



Monday 11th March 2024	Big Foot Production Workshops for Early Years
Wednesday 13th March 2024	Year 6 SATS Information Meeting at 4pm
Thursday 14th March 2024 until Monday 18th March 2024	Scholastic Book Fair on after school in the Studio.
Friday 15th March	Red Nose Day
Tuesday 19th March 2024	Early Years visit to Heddon Library
Friday 22nd March 2024	Friends of Heddon Movie Night 3.30pm-5pm
Wednesday 27th March 2024	Nursery Taster session 9.30am
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 BEGINS
29th April 2024	School Photographer in for individual photographs
Monday 6th May 2024	MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY
w/c Monday 13th May 2024	Year 6 SATS Week