

22nd March 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

We have had a 'tasty' week this week with a focus on foods from French speaking countries around the world each lunchtime. The children have been able to have a go at using some of the French they have learnt while speaking to the Kitchen staff too!

Our new menus for next term are now available and can be found on the school website by [clicking here](#). We are also looking forward to some more food theme days before the Summer holidays. Check out the page in the flyer to learn more.

As you will see from the class pages in the flyer the children have had a busy week in their classes with exciting activities covering the whole curriculum. Their constant enthusiasm, curiosity and delight in learning is wonderful to see.

Early Years enjoyed a fantastic visit to Heddon library this week as part of Hexham Book Festival. They enjoyed hearing stories and making a Very Hungry Caterpillar collage.

We look forward to welcoming our newest Nursery children into school next week for a taster session before they start after Easter.

Our youngest children, who attend Stay and Play, had a lovely time exploring Easter this week. Stay and Play is open to all pre-school children and runs from 9am-11am each Wednesday.

Looking ahead, we look forward to welcoming you to our Key Stage 2 Easter Service at 9.30am on Thursday 28th March 2024 at St. Andrew's Church. The children are looking forward to sharing the Easter story with you through song, acting and readings.

We were pleased to have our termly Rocksteady band concert this week. The children have worked hard and enjoyed performing to their families in a special concert. For more details and pictures please see later in the flyer.

I would also like to thank the school staff and volunteers who have given up their time to run tonight's Movie Night for the children. I am sure the children will have a great time, particularly with the hot dogs and popcorn!

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.

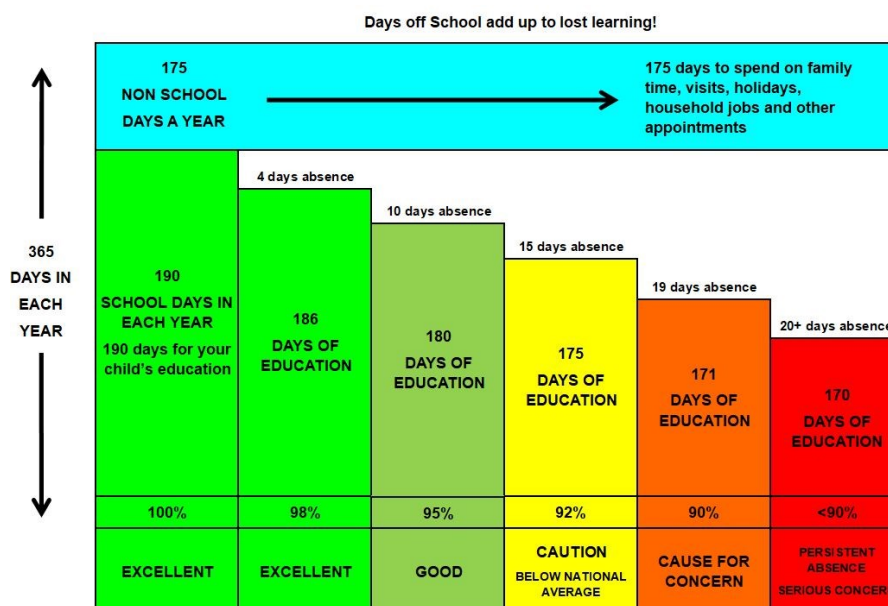


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Reception (Owls)	90.7%	94.9%	Year 3 (Gibside)	99.3%	95.1%
Year 1 (Wallington)	93.8%	95.1%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	98.4%	96.6%
Year 2 (Cragside)	95.8%	96.2%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	96.6%	95.1%
			Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	90.3%	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'



On Tuesday this week, Early Years were invited to Heddon Library as part of the Hexham Book Festival celebrations. Kath read us the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar and then she shared some of her beautifully printed paper so we could collage our own caterpillars in the style of Eric Carle's illustrations. What an absolutely super session we had! Thank you to all who organised the event and to the parents who helped on the day.



PIC•COLLAGE



A Busy Week in Year 1!

Year 1 have had a busy week learning about measuring, we have been using cubes to measure objects and then we moved on to using centimetres. We also went on a Spring walk in Science, noticing the different signs that tell us Spring is coming!



Easter and Holy Week with Year 2

This week, Year 2 have been looking at the Easter story and the events which happened in Holy Week. We sequenced the story and even had a go at carrying a cross to think how Jesus felt. Then, we focused on forgiveness and how Jesus forgave everyone. It's not always easy to forgive people but it is the best thing to do! We made forgiveness hands to remind us what we can do to forgive someone.



Whatever you do work at it with all your heart

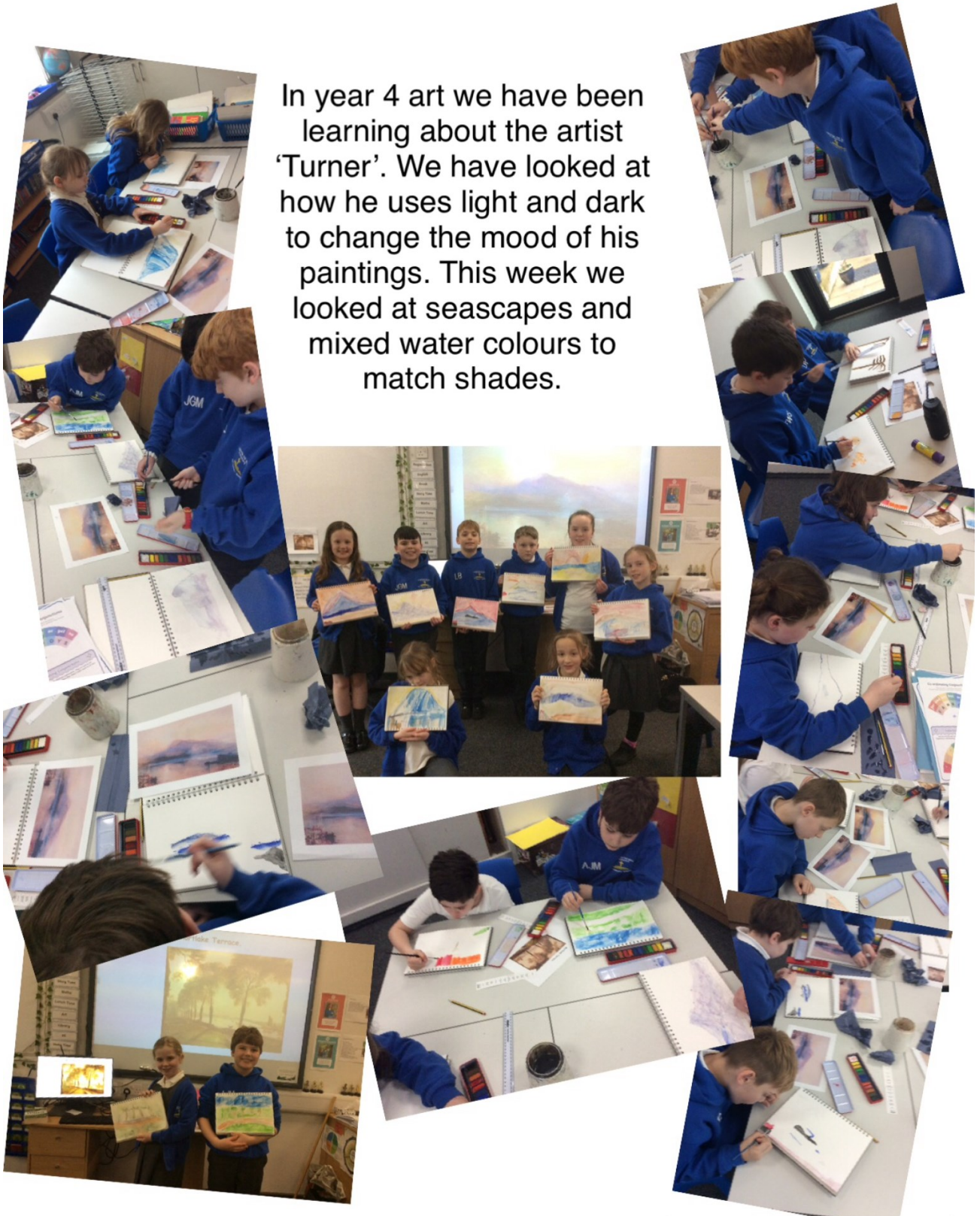
Colossians 3:23

Touch Typing with Year 3

This week, Year 3 have started a new unit of Computing - learning how to touch type! Touch typing engages various cognitive aspects of our brains as it's a very demanding motor activity. Just like learning to ride a bike, once your child has mastered typing it's a skill that they are unlikely to ever forget.



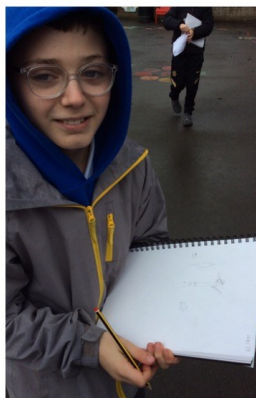
In year 4 art we have been learning about the artist 'Turner'. We have looked at how he uses light and dark to change the mood of his paintings. This week we looked at seascapes and mixed water colours to match shades.



PIC•COLLAGE

Exploring the Environment in Year 5

This week, Year 5 have been very busy with their Art Unit. We have been focusing on Sculpture this half term and we decided that it would be a good idea to go out around the school grounds to create an 'Environment Report'. The children in Year 5 visited multiple areas of the school and recorded different patterns, textures, shapes and colours in their sketchbooks. This will be used to inspire their clay sculptures later on in this unit.



Designing Quizzes in Year 6

To finish this half term's computing learning, Year 6 combined their knowledge of designing quizzes with their ability to navigate databases. They had the freedom to choose which database they wanted to explore, and created their own quiz to accompany this. The children increased the difficulty of their quizzes by adding questions that required the user to utilise the searching and filtering mechanisms of a database. Completed quizzes have been shared on the class display board, so that the children can have a go at completing their classmates' attempts.

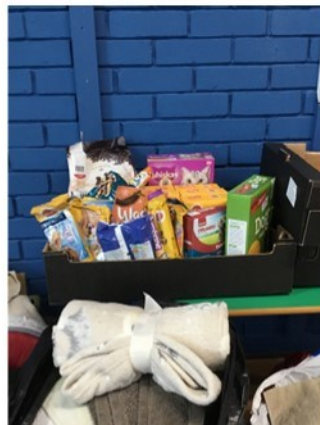


Out of School Club News

Thank you very much to all who donated - Niamh from the Cat and Dog Shelter came to collect our donations on Monday night and couldn't believe all the things we had! They were so thankful and shared how far it will go.

Another great week at Club, lots of Easter crafts and lots more to come next week.

Have a lovely weekend!





Music Minions



The Password is Password



Rock School

Our amazing Rocksteady bands enjoyed performing at our concert today.



Rocking Pom-poms



Heinz Beans

PIC•COLLAGE

Easter Crafts with Stay and Play

This week we started making some lovely Easter crafts. You all got stuck in making your headbands and we LOVE how your fingerprint chick bags have turned out. We are going to use these bags to do our Easter Chick hunt next week at our little party. See you all there!



2024 Pele Trust Theme Day Calendar (Term 3)



25th April - Greek Theme Day

To celebrate the partnership with our linked school in Athens we have some Greek Cuisine to try.



20th June - Bee Week The Day

Dishes inspired by Bees!



w/c 24th June - Euro's Week

Dishes inspired by some of the favourites from each group!



4th July - American Independence Day

Selection of American dishes & desserts!



14th July - Bastille Day

French Cuisine at its best. Can you ask for your meal in French!?



Engine off every stop!

We have had some concerns raised by local residents about car idling while waiting for school pick up in the afternoon. Please see below some information about the dangers of engine idling. We would request that you turn off your car engines while waiting to collect your child.

Did you know?

Idling wastes fuel and money as well as exposing you and the people around you to toxic fumes.

Children and the elderly are particularly vulnerable to the effects of air pollution.

Idling your engine unnecessarily is an offence and you could be fined.

2020 research from Transport Research Laboratory shows that idling for just 30 seconds produces twice as much pollution and wastes more fuel than switching off and restarting your engine.

Myth

I need to keep the engine running to keep the heater on.

If I'm parked on a yellow line, keeping my engine running means I won't get a fine.

Stopping and starting will wear out the engine?

Idling does not contribute very much to air pollution in the grand scheme of things.

Truth

If you switch the engine off when you park and keep the ignition on, the heater should stay warm for up to 30 minutes.

Traffic wardens can fine you if you are parked somewhere you shouldn't be, whether your engine is running or not.

This is no longer a problem with modern engines and by not idling you will use less fuel and reduce your fuel costs.

Research has shown that switching off engines when parked can reduce localised pollution levels.





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 ENCOURAGING OPEN CONVERSATIONS AT HOME

With tricky topics and occasional clashes of opinion, it can be challenging to maintain an environment where children feel able to talk candidly and honestly. However, encouraging such conversations helps to develop trust – making it easier to unpack even sensitive subjects as children get older. Here are our top tips for promoting open conversations at home.

1 CREATE A SAFE SPACE

Criticism, blaming or shaming can all prevent children from feeling emotionally safe – while showing affection, positive attention and an interest in what a child has to say builds their sense of security. These formative years are when children's opinions and values begin to take shape, so it's important to provide a non-judgmental environment in which to discuss them – especially if their opinions differ from your own.

2 CONSIDER OTHER OUTLETS

Some children may find it easier to talk while they're participating in another activity such as drawing, writing, walking or sport. If it's possible, taking part in these activities together presents you with an opportunity to communicate while doing something side by side. A child may feel less pressure that way and can be more inclined to open up of their own accord.

3 NORMALISE CHATS ABOUT FEELINGS

Incorporate mental health and emotional wellbeing into everyday conversations, using age-appropriate language and examples to help children understand their emotions. Ask questions like "How are you feeling today?", "What was the best and worst part of your day?", "If you could start today again, what would you do differently?" and "Is there anything you want to talk about?"

4 LISTEN ACTIVELY

When children express themselves, make it obvious that you're listening closely and giving them your full attention. Maintain eye contact and validate their feelings without immediately trying to solve the problem. It's not helpful to dismiss their issues as childish or "teenage angst" – or to assume that they'll simply "get over" whatever they're feeling. Children don't have your life experience; their resilience is still developing as they learn to push through difficulties and handle problems.

5 ASK OPEN QUESTIONS

Encourage children to share their thoughts by asking open questions about their feelings and experiences. Closed questions (such as "Did you enjoy school today?") are more likely to elicit a simple "yes" or "no" response. Instead, you could ask things like "Who did you spend time with at break?" or "Who did you sit with at lunchtime?"

6 RESPECT THEIR BOUNDARIES

If a child isn't ready to talk to about something yet, respect their boundaries: this reinforces that their feelings are important and worthy of consideration. Ideally, you're aiming to let them know you care without smothering them, so just make it clear that you're there for them whenever they're ready to chat. Gentle, regular check-ins can sometimes be the best form of progress.

7 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Model open, honest and healthy communication in front of children and young people. Try to demonstrate kindness when talking about others and yourself, because if children hear adults being overly harsh, critical or judgmental, or see them having unrealistic expectations of themselves, it makes them more likely to adopt and repeat this behaviour themselves as they grow.

8 HAVE REGULAR CHECK-INS

Check in with children periodically to discuss how they're feeling and what's going on in their lives. This could be a weekly or monthly conversation, where the child has an opportunity to share whatever's on their mind. For parents and carers, getting away from the house and other distractions might be productive here: you could consider regular trips to a coffee shop or a café, or just a weekly walk.

9 PROVIDE RESOURCES

It's often beneficial to let children know about other support that's available to them if they're struggling to talk to you specifically. Encourage them to talk to school counsellors, trusted adults or even a therapist, if necessary – while normalising this route and dispelling the harmful stigma around asking for help. Older children could engage with resources such as Kooth or YoungMinds.

10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION

It's beneficial to praise children for expressing their feelings honestly – emphasising how important it is to talk about their emotions and how proud you are of them for doing so. This can be especially pivotal for boys, who often experience more of a stigma around talking frankly about their feelings and their mental health – a barrier that can be overcome, with enough love and support.

Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.



#WakeUp
Wednesday®

The
National
College

Dates for your Diary - Spring Term 2



Tuesday 26th March 2024	Parents Meeting for France at Darras Hall Primary School at 5pm
Wednesday 27th March 2024	Nursery Taster session 9.30am
Wednesday 27th March 2024	Year 4 and Year 5 Basketball Taster session with Newcastle Eagles after 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 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
w/c Monday 13th May 2024	Year 5 Spain Trip
Friday 25th May 2024	HALF TERM