

3rd May 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

What a busy and exciting week it has been in school! We've had a sushi making demonstration and tasting in Year 1, super independent writing and spelling in Reception and Tri-Golf in Year 2.

It was wonderful to see Year 6 using, applying and practising their computing skills to help teach Year 3 to programme microbits. They were supportive, patient and clear with their instructions and both classes enjoyed the session.

Well done everyone in school for your work this week!

We are pleased to be celebrating National Mental Health week later this month. On Friday 17th May we are inviting children to wear something green (or non-uniform). There will be a special assembly, activities and the day will start with a school wake-up shake-up on the yard at 8.50am!

There is a change from our usual E-Safety page this week. Instead we are sharing a leaflet from Northumbria Police about County Lines. To view the video about this as indicated in the leaflet please [click here](#).

Could I also request that parents do not use the school car park around pick up and drop off times in order to ensure the safety of children entering and leaving the school premises. Thank you in advance for your help with this.

Please also check out our Stay and Play page. If you or someone you know would like to come along it takes place each Wednesday 9-10am (term time) and is only £1! You would be more than welcome.

Northumberland Family Help Workers are available for free to provide support and help to families with concerns and difficulties. To find out more please check out the information on our [school website](#).

Well done to Year 6 with the best attendance this week: 98.1%!

Well done to Year 2 and Year 4 for the joint best attendance for the year to date: 96.3%.

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

Mr. A. Wheatley,
Headteacher

Attendance Matters



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

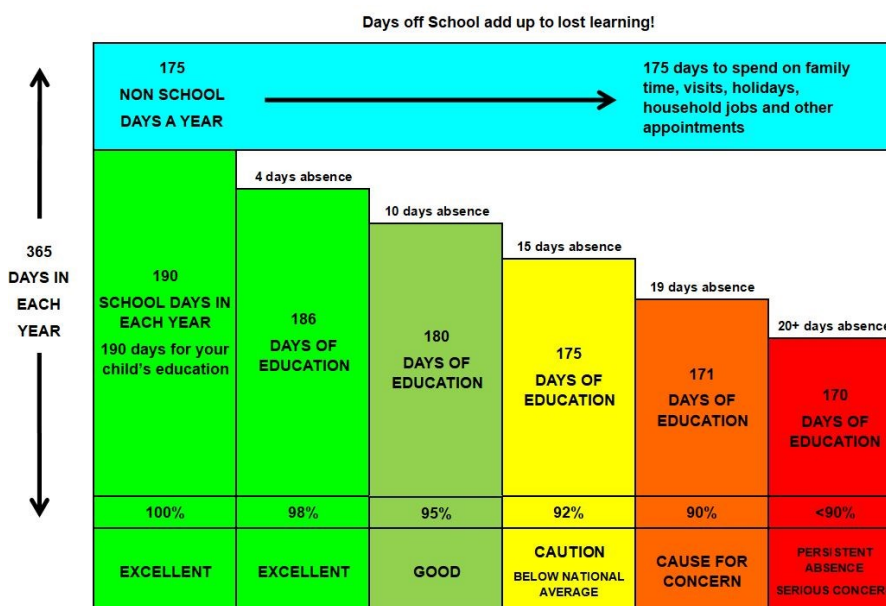


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Reception (Owls)	98%	95.5%	Year 3 (Gibside)	96.6%	95.2%
Year 1 (Wallington)	90.8%	95.0%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	93.6%	96.3%
Year 2 (Cragside)	93.5%	96.3%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	96.6%	95.4%
			Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	98.1%	95.8%

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

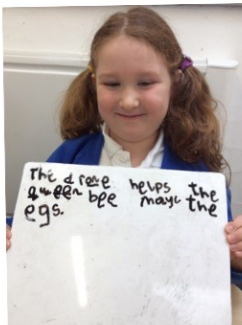
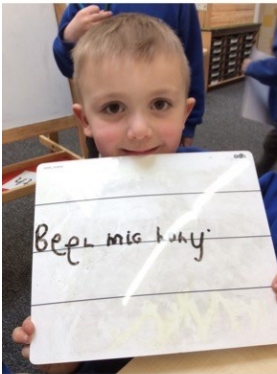
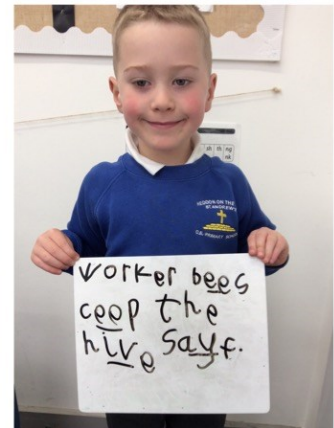
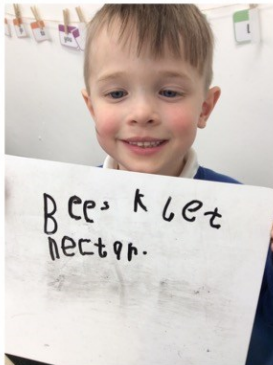
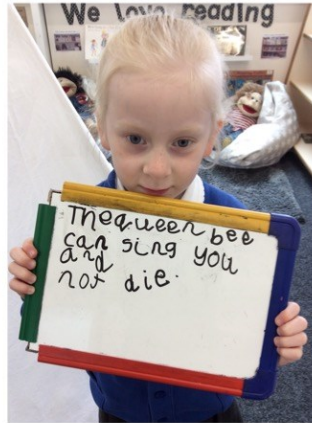
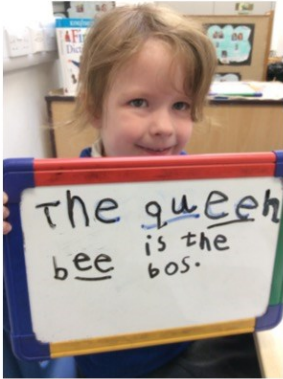


'Whatever you do work at it with all your heart'



We have continued to learn all about mini beasts this week. We have been focusing on developing our creative skills by drawing, painting and making our own butterflies. Look at our amazing work!

This week we have continued to learn about Bees. We found out some amazing facts and wrote them down all by ourselves. We used our 'Fred Fingers' 🐸 to help us spell the words we needed.



We found out how honey bees make honey 🐝 🍯 We tasted some honey too we had mixed reviews!



PIC-COLLAGE

Trying Sushi in Year 1!

We had a fantastic experience on Monday, Louie prepared sushi for everyone to taste, we even got to try soy sauce and use chopsticks. We loved learning about how sushi is made as part of our Japan topic in Geography. We are so excited for Japanese day!



PIC•COLLAGE

Tri-Golf with Year 2

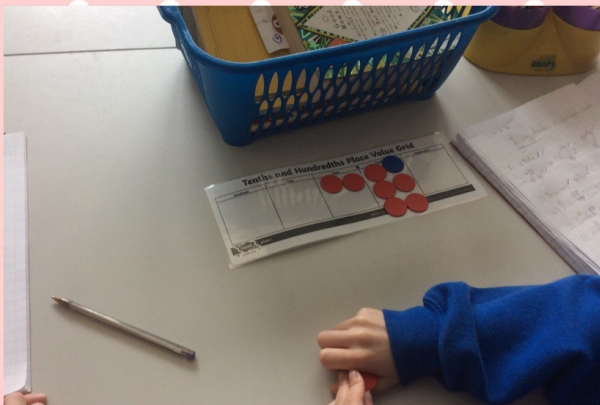
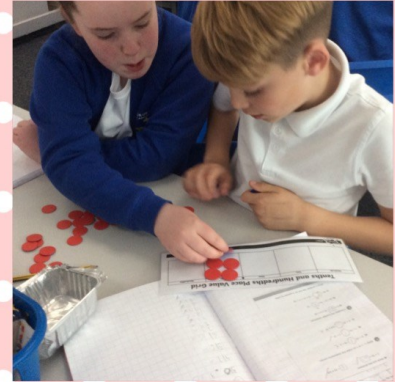
Year 2 have been learning Tri-golf skills. We have learned how to hold a club, the correct stance to take (feet shoulder width apart, knees slightly bent) . We have practised putting the ball towards a target and how to use the chipper or iron to hit the ball further. It is harder than it looks!



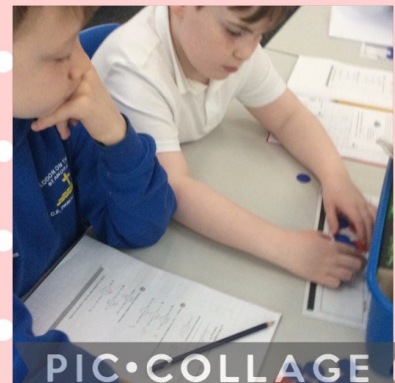
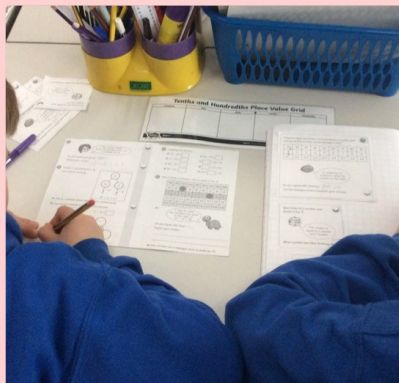
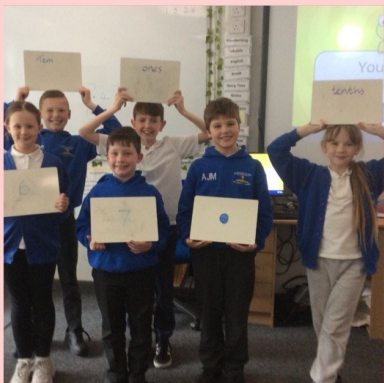
Microbits with Year 3 (and Year 6!)

Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed using the Micro Bits with Year 6 as our guides. We coded the Micro Bit to show an LED heart and then a bouncing duck. Some of us managed to use the physical buttons to make a star-jumping figure; to play 'rock, paper, scissors'; to make emojis with sound effects and musical notation. Thank you to Year 6!





Year 4 continued to learn about decimals in Maths this week. We divided by 10 using counters on a place value chart and a living place value chart. We then solved problems using this knowledge.



PIC•COLLAGE

How do Plants Change with Year 5

This week, Year 5 have started planting spider plants, bean plants, potato plants and petunias around the school grounds. This is linked to our Science topic; Living things and their Habitats. Each week, the children will measure the heights of each plant along with the number of leaves and petals. We are going to observe the change over the ten weeks and discuss the changes as the plants continue to grow.



Investigating the changes in plants over time. Phenomenal planting!



PIC•COLLAGE

Microbits with Year 6 (and Year 3!)

What a lovely way to end a hard working week! Year 6 teamed up with Year 3 to help guide them during their Microbit lesson. It was great to see the children take a lead role, showing both patience and understanding, and the Year 3 children really enjoyed their help. Thank you Year 6, for both your hard work this week and your help this afternoon.



Stay and Play

What a lovely morning, as usual! Made even better by our new ball pit. Thank you to everyone who has donated toys to us recently, the little ones absolutely love them! It's so lovely to see all of the children having lots of fun and the grown ups getting involved too!

Wednesday mornings (term time) 9:00-10:00am - £1 donation

Come along for lots of fun and grab a cuppa whilst you're here!



Out of School Achievements

We are so proud of Joseph in Year 3 who took first place in both Rounds 1 and 2 of the Youth British Trial Bike Championship. This is a remarkable achievement as he was competing against riders from across the UK. He is in practice for Round 3 and 4 which take place later in May. Good luck Joseph!



We would also like to congratulate Poppy in Year 4 who has successfully auditioned for a role in 'The Magic of the Musicals' show with the Young Phoenix. The show is being staged in June at the Phoenix Theatre in Blyth. Well done Poppy!

National Mental Health Week

On **Friday 17th May** we will be celebrating 'Wear it Green Day' to raise awareness of national Mental Health Week. This year's theme is '*Moving More for Mental Health*' and we will have a special assembly and activities to do in school to make us all feel good! No donations required - just come in wearing something green (or non-uniform). In keeping with this year's theme, we are holding a whole school '**Wake Up Shake Up**' at **8:50am** on the top yard - all invited - please come along if you can!

We're taking part in
Wear it Green Day this Mental
Health Awareness Week

13-19 May 2024



County Lines

Information for parents and carers of primary school-aged children



What is County Lines?

County Lines is a form of criminal exploitation involving the transport and sale of drugs. It can involve moving drugs and money from one street to the next, or from one end of the country to the other, and the people who do the 'running' are often children who have been targeted and groomed into doing so by criminal gangs. Drugs are advertised by text message on dedicated 'deal lines' and on social media.

Why do I need to know about this? My child is so young

Unfortunately, children as young as 7 have been known to be recruited by gangs who are involved in drug dealing and other criminal activity. Awareness is key, as is early intervention, and knowing how to seek help if you are concerned is important, too. Be particularly aware if your child has older siblings or spends a lot of time with older children when you're not present.

How do criminals exploit children?

TARGET

Criminals will watch an area - e.g. children coming and going from school or hanging around a park - to see if they can spot a particularly vulnerable child. They will then strike up a friendship and get to know them before moving to the 'test' stage.

TEST

The criminal will offer gifts such as money, expensive trainers, a phone, and will aim to make the child feel special and part of the gang. They will then test the child's loyalty by asking them to run small errands or hold onto items for them, whilst rewarding this loyalty with more gifts.

TRAP

The criminal will now control the child by isolating them from their friends and family, making threats against them if the child tells anyone about what the gang does. They will demand payback for all the gifts previously given, which could include moving and selling drugs, and sexual exploitation. The child will now feel indebted and trapped.

[This video illustrates the process.](#)

How do I protect my child, and what are the signs that a child could be being criminally exploited?

Be curious about their friendship groups and where they are when they're not at school or with you. Make sure they know they can come to you if they are approached by new 'friends' when they are out and about, especially older people. Remind them about [Childline](#) as a source of support, too. If you have concerns, share them with family members and the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at your child's school.

There are many signs that a child may be being groomed and/or exploited, including a change in their behaviour. Be conscious of any changes in presentation: they may begin to take more interest in their appearance and in the clothes they wear. Visit this [NSPCC weblink](#) for more information.

Report

You can report any information to the police: 999 in an emergency, or otherwise via 101 or [our website](#).

Visit [Crimestoppers](#) for advice on how to report County Lines-related information anonymously.

[Fearless](#) (part of Crimestoppers) is available for young people to make anonymous reports.

CrimeStoppers.



Support

[Unseen's County Lines campaign](#) - Request an information guide to learn more about County Lines.

Unseen also runs a [free helpline](#) offering advice and support.

[SafeCall - Missing People](#) - A free and confidential anonymous helpline for children and their families affected by County Lines.

[NSPCC Helpline](#) - Help and advice if you have concerns about a child's welfare.



Dates for your Diary - Summer Term



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
Wednesday 15th May 2024	Jonathan Storey (Hexham Beekeeping Association) visiting Reception
Friday 24th May 2024	HALF TERM
w/c Monday 3rd June 2024	Made in the North East Theme Week
Monday 3rd June 2024	Year 5 Visit to Woodhorn Museum
Tuesday 4th June 2024	Year 2 Visit to Discovery Museum
Tuesday 4th June 2024	Year 4 Train Trip to Haltwhistle
Wednesday 5th June 2024	Year 1 Trip to Newcastle Quayside
Wednesday 5th June 2024	Nursery visit to Bays Leap Farm
Wednesday 5th June 2024	Year 6 Visit to Sunderland Maritime Museum
Thursday 6th June 2024	Year 3 Visit to Castle Keep in Newcastle

Dates for your Diary - Summer Term

Thursday 6th June 2024	Nissan Visit to talk to Year 4
Friday 7th June 2024	Reception visit to La Luna Farm
w/c Monday 10th June 2024	Year 1 Phonic Screen Check Week
Monday 10th June 2024	Class Photographs
Monday 10th June 2024	Phil Earle (Author) visit for Key Stage 2
w/c Monday 17th June 2024	Year 6 Bee Week Transition Project
Wednesday 19th June 2024	Year 6 Leavers Service at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Newcastle.
Sunday 23rd June 2024 - Thursday 27th June 2024	Year 6 France Trip
Friday 28th June 2024	Armed Forces Day
Wednesday 3rd July 2024	Current Year 6 Parents Evening at Ponteland High School
Thursday 4th July 2024 & Friday 5th July 2024	Year 6 Transition Days at Ponteland High School
Thursday 11th July 2024	The Tempest - Music and Drama Showcase in School Hall (Matinee performance also)
Friday 12th July 2024	Rocksteady Concert at 10am in School Hall
Thursday 18th July 2024	Year 6 Leavers Assembly at 1.30pm in School Hall
Friday 19th July 2024	SUMMER HOLIDAYS