

11th April 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

The Spring term has really flown past and I can't believe we are now looking forward to the Summer. I would like to thank all the children and staff for their hard work since Christmas and I would also like to thank you for your support in helping your children and the School.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Early Years Easter Craft afternoon yesterday. I know how much the children were looking forward to spending this time with you and I hope you thoroughly enjoyed making the crafts with them.

We are sorry to let you know that Miss Ridley is leaving us today to begin a new job after Easter. I know she has worked with many of your children both in school and in out of school club. I am sure you will join with me in wishing her the best for the future.

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Key Stage 2 Easter Service this morning. I always look forward to this service where the children share the Easter story in song and readings ending the term on a note of joy and happiness with the risen Jesus.

Well done to our Key Stage 2 gymnasts who had a great time participating in the gymnastics competition at Newburn this week. They were inspired by a display from the event organisers.

Thanks again to Mr. Kirk Lester, Service Families Officer, who has been in school again this week leading Forest School activities for Year 3 and Year 4. I know that the children enjoyed their sessions.

I would like to remind you about safe and appropriate clothing for PE. We ask that children wear a plain t-shirt and suitable length shorts. Unfortunately, cycling or lycra shorts are not appropriate as they are slippery when children are using apparatus. Many thanks for your co-operation with this.

Check out the article about Lego Club in the Flyer which was created by the children.

Looking ahead to the Summer there are lots of exciting things planned such as the visit to France, Made in the North East week and Armed Forces Day to look forward to. It is also the season for Key Stage 2 SATS, Year 4 Multiplication Check and Year 1 Phonic Screen so there is still lots of work for the children to do.

Well done to Year 2 with the best attendance this week: 99.2%.

Well done to Year 6 for the best attendance for this year: 97.4%.

I hope that you enjoy reading this flyer and have a peaceful and relaxing Easter break.

We look forward to seeing everyone safe and well back in School on Monday 28th April 2025.

Mr. A. Wheatley,
Headteacher



'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14

Attendance Matters



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

Northumberland
County Council

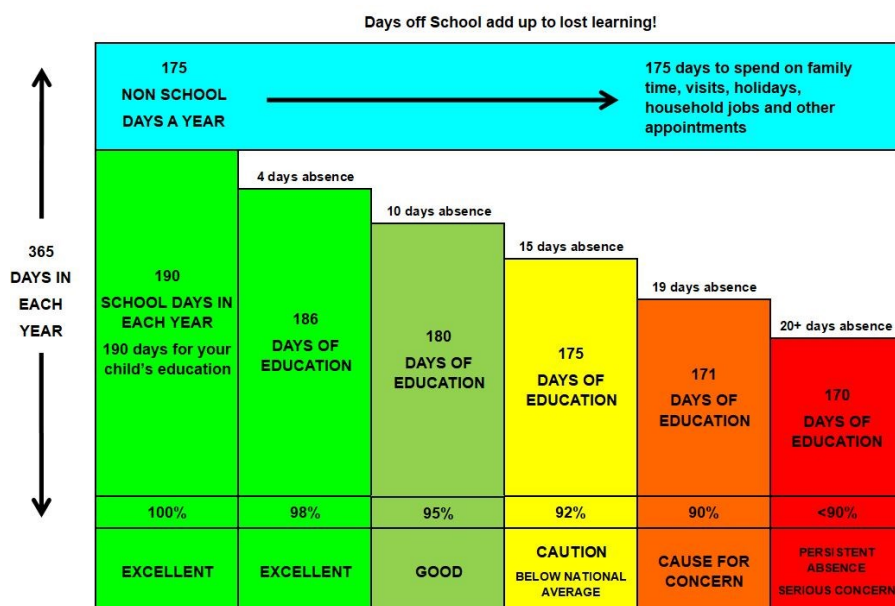


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Nursery (Hedgehogs)	99%	96.1%	Year 3 (Gibside)	91.1%	96%
Reception (Owls)	91.9%	95.3%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	95.5%	96.3%
Year 1 (Wallington)	96.1%	97.1%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	97.7%	97.3%
Year 2 (Craggside)	99.2%	97.1%	Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	98.6%	97.4%

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



'Let all that you do be done with love'

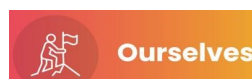
1 Corinthians 16:14

Easter Craft Afternoon!

The Owls and Hedgehogs had such a lovely afternoon yesterday making Easter crafts with their grown ups. The children had a fantastic time and we were so lucky that the sun was shining too! A big thank you to all of our grown ups for coming along... it was so lovely spending the afternoon with you all.



PIC•COLLAGE



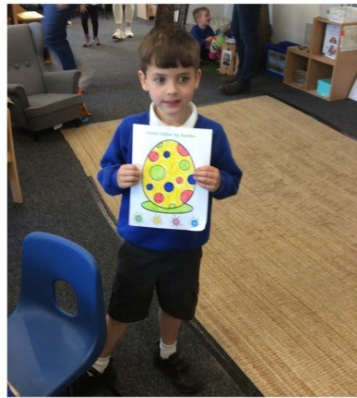
Ourselves

Others



'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14



PIC • COLLAGE



Ourselves

Others



Sewing Hand Puppets with Year 1

Over this half-term Year 1 have been busy designing and making their own Easter hand puppets. Each child has sewn their own hand puppet and have decorated it themselves. They have done such a wonderful job. Well done Year 1!



PIC•COLLAGE



Learning

Kings and Queens Day in Year 2

Year 2 had a fabulous day yesterday at their Kings, Queens and Castles Day - we loved baking medieval biscuits, having a banquet, creating crowns and even coming up with jester-style entertainment - what a great end to our topics!



PIC • COLLAGE



Ourselves

Life



'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14

Scrumptious Sandwiches in Year 3

Year 3 have had a rather tasty end to their Design & Technology project, making and evaluating their scrumptious sandwiches!



Life



Learning

'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14



Year 3 had a fantastic afternoon exploring the great outdoors in our Forest School session with our Army Welfare Officer, Mr. Lester, who helped us create some amazing waterproof shelters!





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PIC•COLLAGE

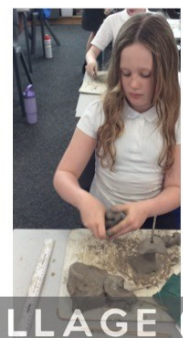
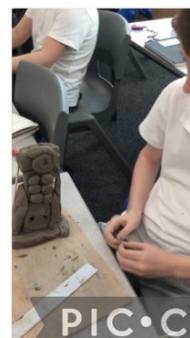
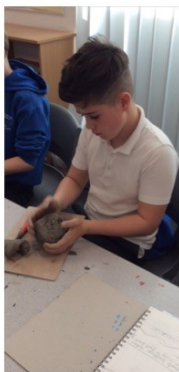


Learning



This week has been exceptionally busy for Year 5, and I couldn't be prouder of each and every one of them. After completing several assessments, we thought it would be the perfect way to round off the week by putting the final touches on our sculpture projects.

Throughout the half term, we've been exploring the work of renowned sculptors including Antony Gormley, Louise Nevelson, Barbara Hepworth, and Tony Cragg. Their creativity and unique styles have served as powerful inspiration for us. Drawing from their work, we set out to create our own clay sculptures, focusing on texture and how our pieces reflect the environment around us.



PIC•COLLAGE



Learning

Maths and Orienteering with Year 6

This week we took our SATs revision outside, and the children combined their Maths skills with their orienteering ability. After answering some tricky problem solving questions, the children had to check their answers by visiting certain control points around the school field. We look forward to repeating this with some grammar and spelling tasks after the Easter break.



PIC•COLLAGE



Learning

Key Stage 2 Easter Service

Thank you to everyone who came to share our Easter worship with us.



Life



Ourselves

Others

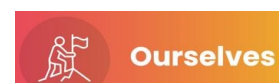


'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14



Some of the Year 5 & 6 children were taking part in a gymnastics event on Thursday. The event was very well organised and the children all enjoyed the event. At the end of the event there was even a performance from the organisers which was very inspiring.



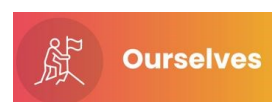
Kaleidoscope

USING OUR DIFFERENCES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

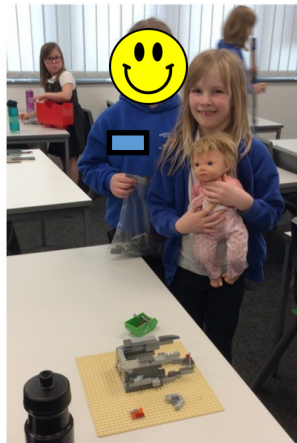
As you may be aware Kaleidoscope is a year-long Music, Art, Drama and Dance project across the Pele Trust which aims to celebrate the uniqueness of our children, help them to understand and value their differences, promoting mental health and well being. Children will use their voice to create work which reflects what is important to them both individually and as a collective community.

We are pleased to invite you to a sneak preview of the art work the children have completed for the project. It will be available to view in the Studio after school between **Wednesday 7th May 2025 and Friday 9th May 2025**. The children have worked really hard and are looking forward to sharing their work.

You will also be able to see it as part of the main exhibition at Ponteland High School in the summer term. Details of this to follow.



In lego club we have had so much fun after school this week! We have created so many different creations including, a crossbow, a pirate ship and a tiny town. Each week we are given an amazing challenge by our Lego club teacher or you are able to create your own things and ideas with Lego. This week the challenge was to create a zip line and cable car for a mini-figer, but there are many more challenges yet to come. We really enjoy playing in Lego club every week!



Many thanks to Jaxon for writing this article and taking the pictures. Well done!

Fundraising –this term

Thank you so much for all of your continued generosity with fundraising.

We have raised:

£230 on World Book Day Golden Ticket – Winners of the vouchers below. Thank you to Mrs Ashworth for organising this & Heidi for her sales skills!



£173 on Easter Raffle. Lucky winner of first prize below.



Bags2School raised £74!

Others



Asda have just sent us £209.76 – Thanks to Mrs Gaffney for sorting this.

Domestic abuse is everyone's business

You are not alone



Northumberland Integrated Domestic Abuse Support Service

- DASSN for adults (Harbour) – 01670 820199
- Children & Young People Counselling & Outreach (Acorns) - 0191 3498366
- Changing Behaviour (Harbour) - 03000 202525
- DA in Rural Areas (NDAS) – 01434 60 80 30
- DA Counselling (Cygnus Support) – 01670 853977

Visit: nland.uk/DomesticAbuse

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SEARCH ENGINES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Search engines are an integral part of everyday life – with Google alone processing around 100,000 searches every second. Search engines use algorithms to predict which results will be useful to us, though this can expose children to inappropriate content, misinformation and even scams. This guide explains the risks associated with search engines and offers practical advice to help safeguard young users online.

MANIPULATED SEARCH RESULTS

Although search engines take site reputation into account, trustworthiness isn't the main factor. Instead, they use algorithms that can be gamed via tactics like search engine optimisation (SEO), which is big business. As a result, users may encounter misleading content and low-quality commercial products that appear more credible than they actually are.

MISINFORMATION AND DISINFORMATION

Search engines index billions of web pages – and not all of them are factual or safe. Children might stumble across false information or even deliberate disinformation, especially when searching for trending topics or controversial issues.

ENGINES BEYOND GOOGLE

Even if Google's SafeSearch is enabled, children may use lesser-known search engines that don't have similar protections. Some of these alternatives are less effective at blocking unsavoury content – sometimes by design – making it easier for children to encounter harmful or explicit material. Parental controls may also struggle to detect and block these sites.

FUNNY JOKES

ILLEGAL CONTENT CAN SURFACE

Search engines are designed to retrieve content based on keywords – not to judge whether that content is lawful. As a result, even illegal or harmful material can appear in search results. Children might assume that anything found through search engines must be safe, just because they're so widely used. This misunderstanding can lead to accidental exposure to seriously inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT EXPOSURE

Although parental controls like Google's SafeSearch exist, they aren't foolproof, and search engines may bypass them. Young users may still see inappropriate images or content, especially in image searches, even though they may not be able to click on the results. Some niche search engines lack even basic filtering, posing further risks.

UNRELIABLE AI SUMMARIES

Some search engines now offer AI-generated answers at the top of results. While these can be helpful as webpage summaries, they're not always accurate. There have been instances where AI summaries have presented false or even dangerous information, reinforcing the need for critical thinking.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS

While no parental controls tool is perfect, this software can help reduce the likelihood of inappropriate content appearing in search results. Use tools like Google Family Link to set search restrictions and monitor your child's browsing activity.

QUESTION AI-GENERATED CONTENT

While AI content is generated quickly and often appears legitimate, teach children that, just because an AI summary is well presented, it doesn't mean it's accurate. Encourage them to review the sources behind AI summaries and check the information with reputable sites or fact-checkers.

IDENTIFY AND AVOID ADVERTS

One of the ways search engines generate revenue is by showing adverts to their users. Sponsored search results are labelled, but they're not always easy to spot and can sometimes be malicious. Show your child how to distinguish between paid ads and organic search results – explain why some ads might be misleading or unsafe.

PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Encourage children to question the motivation behind online content and develop critical thinking, as not all sites can be trusted. Some deliberately misinform users in order to sell products or promote misinformation. Developing a critical mindset is one of the best defences against these tactics.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



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'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14

Dates for your Diary - Summer Term



w/c Monday 14th April 2025	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Monday 28th April 2025	SUMMER TERM 1 BEGINS
Monday 5th May 2025	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR MAY BANK HOLIDAY
Thursday 7th May 2025	Year 1 visit to the Lifeboat Station
w/c Monday 12th May 2025	Key Stage 2 SATS Week
Friday 16th May 2025	Nissan visiting school to speak with Year 6
Wednesday 21st May 2025	Cricket Engagement Day (Further details to follow)
w/c Monday 26th May 2025	HALF TERM HOLIDAYS
w/c Monday 2nd June 2025	Made in the North East Week
w/c Monday 9th June 2025	Year 1 Phonic Screen Check Week
w/c Monday 16th June 2025	Year 6 Bee Week Transition Project
Monday 23rd June 2025 - Friday 27th June 2025	Year 6 France Trip