

2nd May 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we begin the Summer term it is lovely to write this while we all enjoy the warm Summer sun which hopefully will continue for some time to come!

The children have returned to school and applied themselves to their learning with their customary enthusiasm and determination. As you will see in the flyer, the children have hit the ground running with their work and have had a busy week. The warm weather has meant that some classes have even been able to do their learning outside. Early Years have been out doing some Forest School activities today and Year 1 have been learning about plants first hand in our school grounds.

Our Year 3 and 4 Dance Club had an amazing time at the Dance Festival held at Dame Allen's School. The children enjoyed sharing their dances and having workshops to learn about different dance styles including one from Olympic breakdancing coach, Rob Anderson. They were great ambassadors for our school. Well done!

Next week from Wednesday to Friday there will be a chance for a sneak peak of the children's work for the Kaleidoscope project with an exhibition in the studio. We would love to see you and your children there. Details later in the flyer.

This term is very busy with many of the children completing

Well done to Reception with the best attendance this week: an amazing 100%.

Well done to Year 5 and Year 6 for the best attendance for this year: 97.5%.

I would like to remind you that school is closed for the Bank Holiday on Monday and will reopen on Tuesday 6th May 2025.

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.

Northumberland
County Council

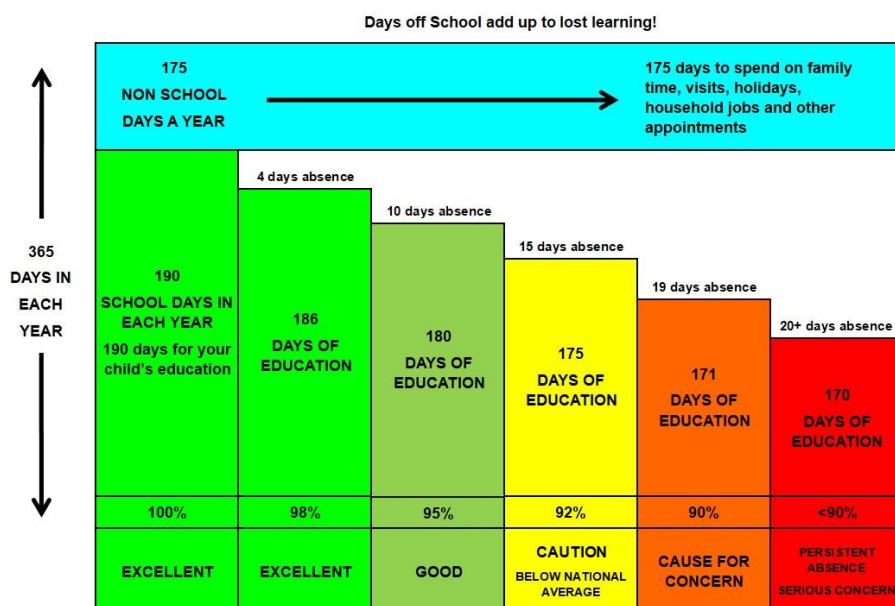


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Nursery (Hedgehogs)	95.4%	96%	Year 3 (Gibside)	95.1%	95.8%
Reception (Owls)	100%	96.2%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	96.1%	96.2%
Year 1 (Wallington)	96.5%	97%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	98.5%	97.5%
Year 2 (Craggside)	96%	96.9%	Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	97.9%	97.5%

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



A great first week back!

It has been so lovely seeing all of the Hedgehogs again after their Easter break! We have loved catching up and telling each other all about our adventures. This week we have enjoyed learning about 2D shapes, as well as reading our new story, 'The Ugly Duckling'.



PIC • COLLAGE


Learning

Life


A Busy week in Reception

It's been lovely finding out about what the children got up to in the Easter holidays, they have been talking and writing about their adventures.

This week was the first of our new topic 'Our Wonderful World'. The children have enjoyed using their fine motor skills to make bees out of playdough and paint honeycomb using bubble wrap. In PE they have been using their arms and focusing their eyes to help them balance.

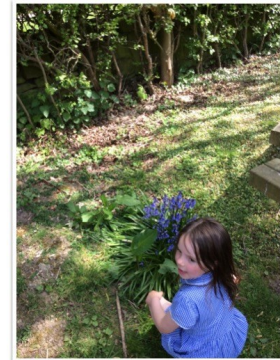
Our role play area is now a Garden Centre and they have enjoyed exploring the different roles this offers. They have also enjoyed making 10 by finding the missing bees.



Learning

Learning about Plants with Year 1

In Year 1 we have started learning all about plants. Before the holidays we learnt the different parts of plants and trees. This week we went on a flower hunt for common flowers such as dandelions and daisies around our school grounds. After this we all wrote descriptions about the flowers; focusing on their shape and structure.



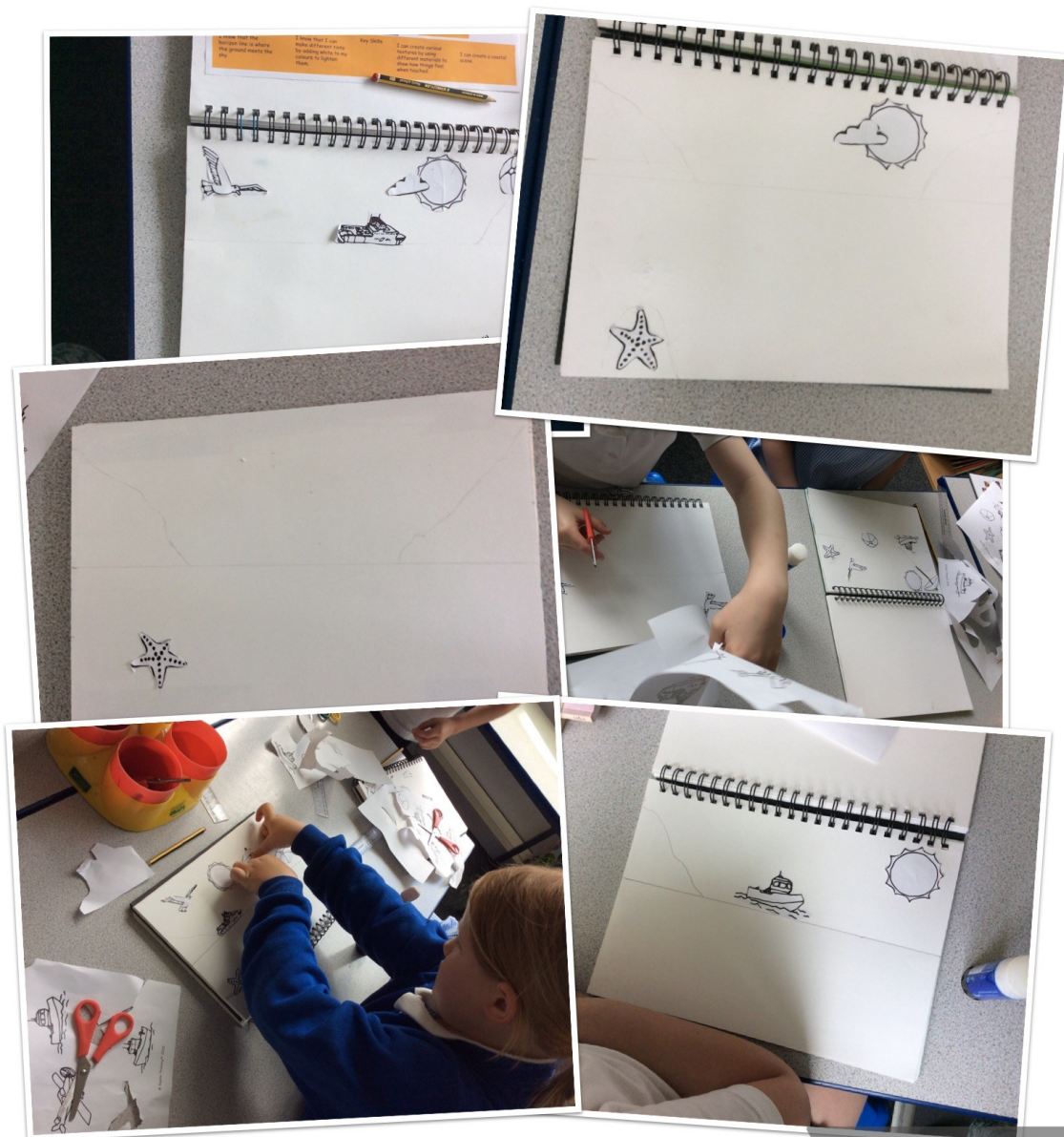
PIC•COLLAGE



Learning

Art with Year 2

Year 2 have started their new Art topic focusing on seaside and coastal landscapes. We have looked at the artists Renoir, Sorolla and Kroyer to help inspire us.



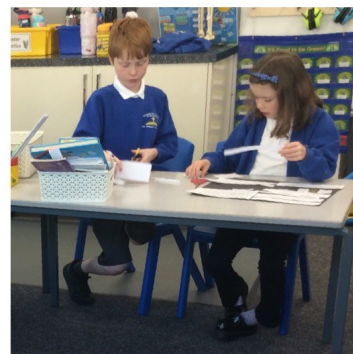
PIC•COLLAGE



Learning

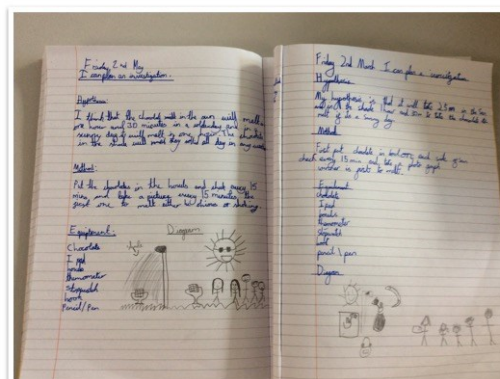
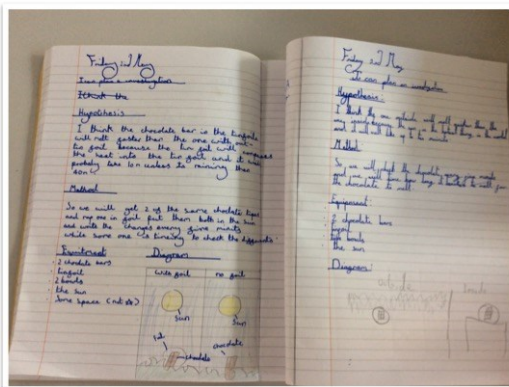
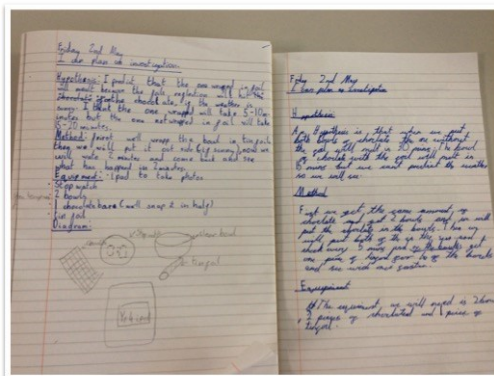
English with Year 3

In English this week, Year 3 became editors. In pairs we were given paragraphs from two pages of our class text 'Why did the Shang write on turtles?' and we had to stick the information text back together on sugar paper. We had to think about which paragraph comes first, which subheading fits where and where each picture goes.



Learning

This week in Science, Year 4 planned an investigation to find out how quickly different things would melt. They worked in groups to make decisions, plan a method and discuss their hypothesis. Next week we will find out if they were right!





We have thoroughly enjoyed our DT this week in Year 5! Beginning our new topic, we have looked at different factors to consider when creating our own food product and have taste tested different crumbles to gain ideas when creating our own!



PIC•COLLAGE

Year 6 children have worked to describe settings and characters within a narrative this week. We have created different atmospheres within our writing and revisited utilizing speech to advance our plot. The children spent some time today putting together a plan for their own narrative piece of writing, which they will be completing on Tuesday next week. Well done Year 6 - I look forward to reading your excellent stories.



Year 3 and Year 4 Dance Festival

On Thursday Miss Robinson took a group of year 3/4 children to a dance festival at Dame Allan's Senior School. The children had attended a dance club last half-term and had learnt a routine which they performed in front of other schools, they did a wonderful job. Then they all got to experience some workshops where they all learnt different skills and different styles from musical theatre to breakdancing. One group was lucky enough to work with the Olympic breakdancing coach, Rob Anderson. All of the children worked super hard and were amazing representatives of the school.



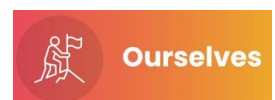
Kaleidoscope

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.



Ourselves



Others

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. Trigger Warning: This guide contains mention of suicide, which may be distressing for some readers.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 19% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

ONLINE GROOMING THREATS

Predators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. This may quickly develop into grooming or exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2023, UK police recorded nearly 34,000 online grooming offences – an 82% increase in just five years.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while interacting with online contacts – especially via TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 45% of children aged 8 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or upset.

PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS

Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 15-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they'd only spoken to online.

COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY

Meeting an online 'friend' in real life risks placing a child in serious danger. From abduction to coercion, the consequences can be devastating. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

Online harm – such as cyberbullying, grooming or exposure to disturbing content – can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. 'Sexortion' gangs, who threaten to release sexual information about a person unless they pay them money, have reportedly targeted children as young as 11, leaving them traumatised and ashamed.

LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS

Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent, or self-worth. In a recent case, a 26-year-old posed as a girl on Snapchat to befriend children aged 10 to 16, manipulating them into sexual activity and causing profound emotional distress. One 12-year-old tragically died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological harm online friendships with strangers can cause.

26 FRIENDS
ONLINE NOW

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS

Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning, like pressure tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share – and whom they're talking to.

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from opening up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to disclose problems before they escalate.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS

Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with over 30 years' experience in supporting children, families, and adults across education, local authority, and mental health settings – both in the UK (including at Parliamentary level) and internationally.



#WakeUp
Wednesday

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Dates for your Diary - Summer Term



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