

6th June 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

It is lovely to welcome all the children back for the final half term of the school year.

What a week it has been in school! It has been our 'Made in the North East week' and the children have been learning about different aspects of life and the history of the North East. All the children have had the opportunity to participate in a visit this week related to what they have been learning about.

We have been to places as diverse as local farms with Nursery and Reception, the bridges across the Tyne with Year 1 to exploring our industrial heritage with Years 2, 5 and 6 exploring inventors at the Discovery Museum, mining at Woodhorn and shipbuilding at the Sunderland Maritime Museum respectively. Year 3 and 4 explored the history of our region visiting the Castle Keep (or 'new castle'!) and the Victoria Tunnel.

While out and about, all the children were amazing ambassadors for our school drawing many positive comments from the guides and volunteers at the venues.

The children were all amazing when out and about and were a real credit to the school.

I would also like to extend thanks to all the parent helpers who gave up their time this week to volunteer and accompany the children on their visits. Your help is very much appreciated.

Thank you all for your contributions towards the costs of the visits which enabled them to take place and so enriched the children's learning and experiences.

Good luck to Year 1 and Year 4 who, next week, will complete the Phonic Screening Check and Multiplication Tables Check respectively. You will be amazing!

I would like to remind you that on Monday 9th June 2024 our school photographer is in to take class photographs. If your child has PE please could they bring their school uniform to change into. We would also ask that Year 6 children wear / bring their blue school hoodie for the photograph rather than their leavers hoodie.

We have had a number of reported cases of Headlice in school this week. I would ask that you check your child's hair carefully. Advice for treatment is later in the Flyer.

Well done to Year 2 for the best attendance this week: 98.4%.

Well done to Year 5 for the best attendance for this year: 97.4%.

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

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

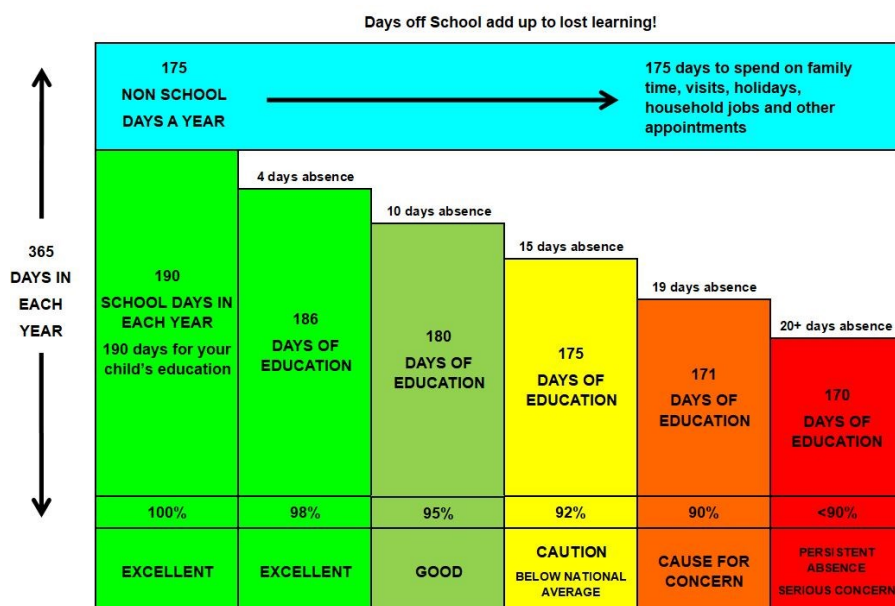


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Nursery (Hedgehogs)	96.7%	95.9%	Year 3 (Gibside)	96.3%	96%
Reception (Owls)	85.9%	93.9%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	94.5%	95.9%
Year 1 (Wallington)	97.4%	97.3%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	97.7%	97.4%
Year 2 (Craggside)	98.4%	97.1%	Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	91.7%	96.5%

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

What a fantastic first week we have had! This week, we have been learning all about farming as part of 'Made in the North East Week'. We have been busy making and painting our own farm animals, playing farms in the small world area and we even had a visit from a real tractor!



PIC•COLLAGE



Learning

Life





Made in the North East Week



We started the week with a visit from Paul at Lloyd's who brought in a tractor for us to look at. On Wednesday we visited La Luna Farm we met pigs, duck, sheep and horses. As well as planting sunflowers and making a flower bomb. At school we made butter and turned wool into felt. Finally on Friday we went to Bays Leap to see the dairy cows and have some ice cream.



PIC•COLLAGE



Learning

Life



Bridges on the River Tyne with Year 1

This week in Year 1 we have been learning all about the seven different bridges along the Quayside. We have been busy making collages of the different bridges along with writing descriptions about the bridges. On Wednesday we took a trip to the Quayside to see the bridges for ourselves, while we were there we made some sketches of the bridges. Also, when we got on to the Millennium Bridge we had to quickly evacuate the bridge as some boats needed to go underneath so we were lucky enough to watch the bridge tilt!



Learning

Fabulous Forest School with Year 2

Year 2 have had a fabulous week learning all about inventors from our local area as part of Made in the North East Week. The staff at the Discovery Museum were really impressed with our level of knowledge and how confidently we could work in a team to create our locomotives for the Rainhill Trials.



PIC•COLLAGE



Learning

Visiting the 'New' Castle with Year 3

We have had a busy Made in the North East week in Year 3! On Tuesday we went to visit the Castle Keep where we went onto the castle roof and learned the eight different ways enemies were stopped from getting into the castle. We also attended knight school where we listened to a story, watched someone demonstrate sword fighting and Mr. Currie was transformed into a knight.



Learning

Life



Exploring Transport with Year 4

Year 4's Made in the North East topic is transport. We started our week by honing our data handling skills while also learning about all of the different forms of transport on offer in the North East. Then, we went back in time to think about how the industrial revolution shaped our modern day local area and how, in turn, the industrial revolution was shaped by innovations in transport. We visited the Victoria Tunnel to bring to life our understanding of how many forms of transport were involved in mining- a defining feature of our area's past. Alongside this, we collected data in the form of a transport survey and compared our results from the Ouseburn, Hexham Road and Trajan Walk.



Learning

Life



Life as a Coal Miner with Year 5

We had the opportunity to travel to Ashington to visit the historic Woodhorn Colliery. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring the site on a guided tour, where they saw original mining machinery up close and learned about its use in the past. They also examined primary sources and conducted research into mining disasters that affected the North East region, gaining valuable insight into the area's industrial heritage. A particular highlight was viewing a collection of paintings created by the Pitmen Painters—local miners who expressed their experiences through art. Inspired by their work, the children took part in a workshop where they recreated one of the pieces themselves, showcasing both creativity and a deeper understanding of local history.



Learning

Life



Year 6 learn about Ship Building (with some hands on experience!)

In the first of many trips this half term, Year 6 enjoyed their day at the Sunderland Maritime Museum, learning about the history of ship building in the North East. We explored the model version of RMS Venerable, looked at some artefacts salvaged from old shipwrecks, and used some modern day tools to compare the ease of use against their older counterparts.



Kaleidoscope

USING OUR DIFFERENCES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Our Pele Trust Kaleidoscope showcase is fast approaching!

24 of our pupils from Years 4, 5 and 6 will be joining children from the other Pele Trust schools for a special performance of song and dance at the Tyne Theatre in Newcastle on Thursday 19th June.

The children have worked so hard and we cannot wait to see them shine brightly on the stage!

We are very excited to announce that the tickets are now on sale! If you would like to purchase tickets to see the performance you can do so by clicking the following link:

https://www.tynetheatreandoperahouse.uk/whatson/the-pele-trust-presents-kaleidoscope/#Tickets_in



Had a brush with nits? Switch to a comb


NHS
Blackpool
Clinical Commissioning Group

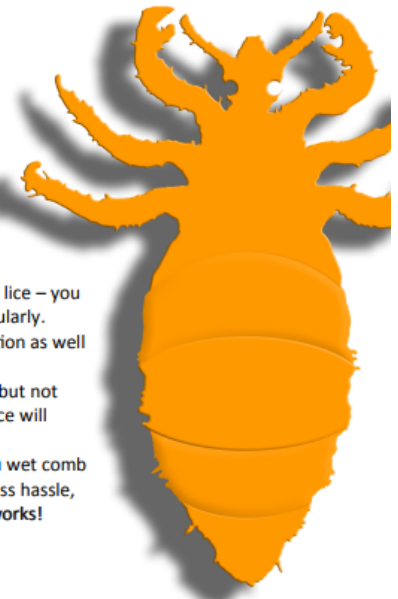


Wet combing is the most effective method of treatment for head lice.

Head lice combs come in different shapes and sizes but have finer teeth that are shaped to catch head lice and nits effectively.

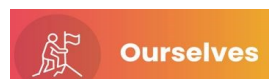
The Facts of lice...

- Head lice and 'nits' aren't the same thing – nits are the empty eggshells which remain in the hair after the lice have hatched.
- Itching isn't the first sign of having head lice – you should carry out detection combing regularly.
- A head lice comb can be used for detection as well as treatment.
- Insecticide shampoos deal with the lice but not the eggs. There's a good chance more lice will hatch after the treatment.
- There's no insecticide needed when you wet comb – that makes it safer for your kids, it's less hassle, easier to do and most importantly – **it works!**



To wet brush your child's hair:

1. Wash the hair thoroughly with ordinary shampoo and apply plenty of conditioner
2. Yes! The hair has to be wet. Dry lice can scurry away from the comb but will remain still when wet giving you a better chance of catching them in your comb;
3. Use an ordinary, wide toothed comb to straighten and untangle the hair;
4. Once the comb moves freely without dragging start to use your head lice comb;
5. Make sure the teeth of the comb slot into the hair at the roots with the edge of the teeth lightly touching the scalp;
6. Draw the comb down from the roots to the ends of the hair with every stroke, and check the comb for lice each time—remove lice by wiping the comb with tissue paper or rinsing it
7. Work through the hair, section by section, so that the whole head of hair is combed through;
8. Do this at least twice to ensure you haven't missed any areas, until no more lice are found
9. Repeat the process 5 days later just to be sure!



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 EMOJIS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

An emoji like 🍷 (thumbs up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but teens often interpret it as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.

SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE

When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar. Terms like 'mid' or 'delulu' may seem harmless, but they can be used to undermine peers in subtle ways.

RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person standing emoji (🧑) once signified awkwardness but might now be repurposed for something entirely different. This ever-changing lexicon can leave adults in the dark and young people vulnerable to misunderstanding or misuse.

MASKING DISTRESS OR HARM

Some emojis are used to discreetly signal troubling behaviours. For instance, 🍃 (falling leaves emoji) or 💊 (pill emoji) might suggest drug use, while 🌵 (wilted flower emoji) could hint at emotional struggles. Such usage can obscure serious issues, making them harder for trusted adults to detect.

NORMALISING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Emojis can make harmful actions seem light-hearted or fashionable. Strings like 🔥🍷 (fire + 'woozy' face + pill emojis) may appear humorous but can reference partying, intoxication or dangerous challenges, which might otherwise raise red flags.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEARN THE LINGO

Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like emojipedia.org or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.

ASK, DON'T ASSUME

Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted "What does 🍷 (juice box emoji) mean these days?" can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.

CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Showing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.

PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE

While parental controls and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to – not just someone who's watching them.

EMOJI CHEAT SHEET - The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples – please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

COMMON EMOJIS:

🤡 (Clown face) Foolishness or clowning around	🙄 (Pleading face) Over-affectionate or 'simping'
😏 (Cold face) Cool, stylish or ruthless	👁️ (Eyes) Watching drama unfold
😍 (Hot face) Intense attraction or excitement	🐐 (Goat) Greatest of all time (G.O.A.T.)
😐 (Meh) Stone-faced, unbothered	👉 (Nails) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference
👑 (Crown) 'Slaying', as in doing great	🚩 (Triangular flag) Red flag; a warning sign about someone's behaviour

POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

🍷 (Ear of corn) Slang for pornography (avoids censorship algorithms)	🌵 (Wilted flower) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness
❄️ (Snowflake, snowman, snow cloud) Can symbolise cocaine	🐍 (Snake) Can represent betrayal or being 'two-faced'
🗝️ (Key, lying face) Related to cocaine use	🔫 (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm
🍃 (Falling leaves, herb, maple leaf) Can symbolise cannabis	⚠️ (Warning) Used to emphasise drama, threats or emotional turmoil
💊 (Pill) May reference drug use or prescription misuse	🍜 (Steaming bowl) Refers to nudes ('noods' is an abbreviation of noodles)

Meet Our Expert

Keith Broni is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emojipedia.org, the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.



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Dates for your Diary - Summer Term



w/c Monday 9th June 2025	Year 1 Phonic Screen Check Week
w/c Monday 9th June 2025	Year 4 Multiplication Table Check Week
Monday 9th June 2025	Class Photographs
Wednesday 11th June 2025	Pele Trust Swimming Gala
Thursday 12th June 2025	Kaleidoscope Performance Rehearsal Day
w/c Monday 16th June 2025	Year 6 Bee Week Transition Project
Monday 16th June 2025	Sports Day (more details to follow)
Tuesday 17th June 2025	Year 6 Leavers Service at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Newcastle.
Thursday 19th June 2025	Kaleidoscope Performance at the Tyne Theatre
Friday 20th June 2025	Armed Forces Celebration and Summer Fair
Monday 23rd June 2025 - Friday 27th June 2025	Year 6 France Trip
w/c Monday 30th June 2025	Bikeability for Year 5

Dates for your Diary - Summer Term



Thursday 3rd July 2025 and Friday 4th July 2025	Year 6 Transition Days at Ponteland High School
w/c Monday 7th July 2025	Kaleidoscope Exhibition at Ponteland High School
Tuesday 8th July 2025	Year 6 Stadium Tour at St. James' Park
Wednesday 9th July 2025	Crepe Man visit to see Year 4, 5 and 6
Thursday 10th July 2025	Pele Trust Choir Concert (part of Kaleidoscope project)
Friday 11th July 2025	Rocksteady Concert for Parents/Carers in School Hall at 10am
Friday 11th July 2025	School Reports sent out
Monday 14th July 2025	Moving Up Morning
Monday 14th July 2025	Heddon's Got Talent Final (for children only)
Tuesday 15th July 2025	Music and Drama Showcase at 5pm in School Hall
Thursday 17th July 2025	Year 6 Leavers Assembly in School Hall at 2pm
w/c Monday 21st July 2025	SUMMER HOLIDAYS