

12th September 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

What a busy week it has been in school! The children are settling well into their new classes and are really working hard, meeting their challenges with enthusiasm, resilience and enjoyment.

It was lovely to see so many of you turn up to our Early Years Reading Picnic. I know that the children really enjoyed seeing you and spending some special 1:1 time sharing stories with you. We know that regular reading and sharing stories together can make such a difference to the future life chances of the children.

Well done to our Year 5 and 6 Football Team. They took part in the Pele Trust Primary Football Tournament this week. They showed excellent team work, supported each other brilliantly and were great ambassadors for our school. To find out how they did please check out later in the flyer.

We are really proud of some of our Year 6 boys who having discovered an injured pigeon after school took it upon themselves to help. Well done, you really showed our school vision of loving others. To read the full story check out the page in the flyer.

There have been some reported instances of threadworms in school. While they are not serious they are not very pleasant to have. For advice on symptoms and treatment options please check out NHS guidance by [clicking here](#).

Many apologies for the mix up with the dates in the last flyer. These have now been corrected and can be seen on the 'Dates for your Diary' page.

If you missed the virtual sleep workshop from the Family Hub this week they are running it again in October. For details please check out their page in the flyer.

Well done to Year 4 with the best attendance this week: an amazing 100%.

Well done to Year 4 for the best attendance for this year: 100%.

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

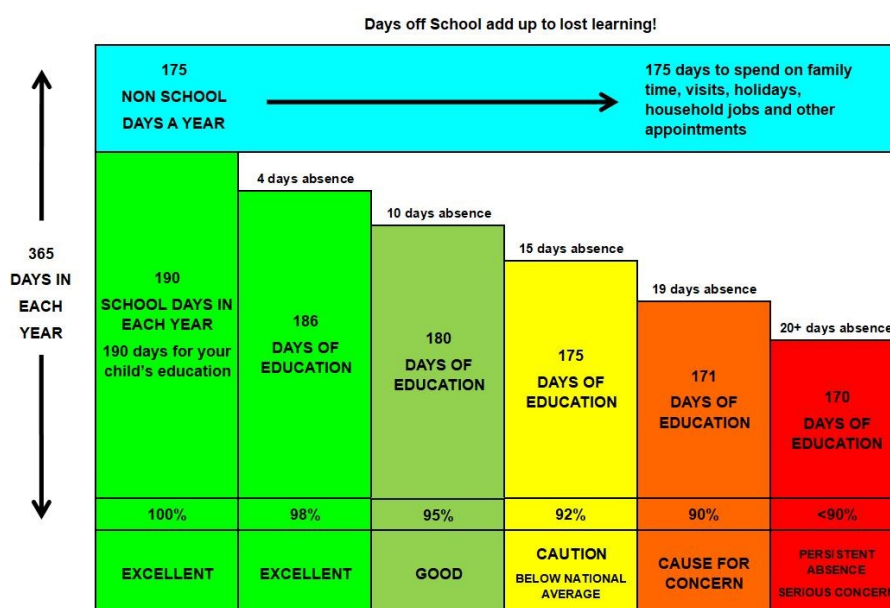


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Nursery (Hedgehogs)	96%	96.3%	Year 3 (Gibside)	98.4%	98.7%
Reception (Owls)	98.6%	97.9%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	100%	100%
Year 1 (Wallington)	96.4%	98%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	96.8%	98.4%
Year 2 (Craggside)	99.4%	99.7%	Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	98.9%	99.5%

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

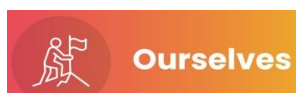


The Hedgehogs have had another fantastic week! We have been settling into our new routine and learning how to explore our new environment.



We have been busy dressing up in the Home Corner, riding bikes outside, developing our cutting skills in the Creative Area and doing lots of emptying and pouring in the Water Area.

**PIC•COLLAGE**





## Early Years Reading Picnic

Reception (and Nursery) had a brilliant time having a reading picnic; sharing books with our grown ups. Even though it was too rainy for the field, we still enjoyed snacks and a story in the hall. Thank you to all of our parents and grandparents for coming this afternoon.



PIC•COLLAGE



Ourselves

Others



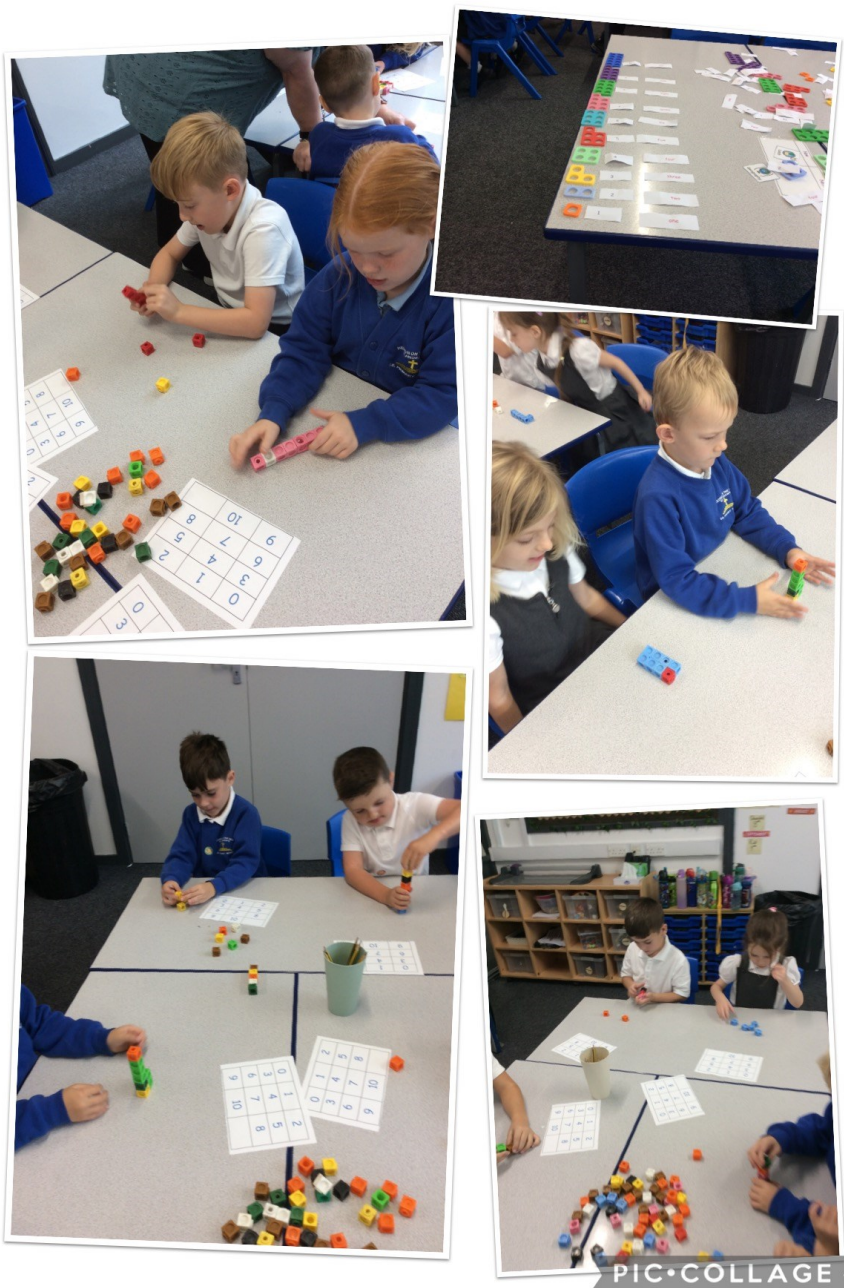
Life





## Maths Bingo in Year 1

This week we have been learning to recognise numbers as words. We have been doing lots of matching games to help with this. We have also been learning how to find one more than the number we have. We started to do this with some cubes and then played a game of bingo. Every number that was called the class had to work out one more than that number. Great work Year 1.



PIC•COLLAGE



Learning

## Following a Route in Year 2.

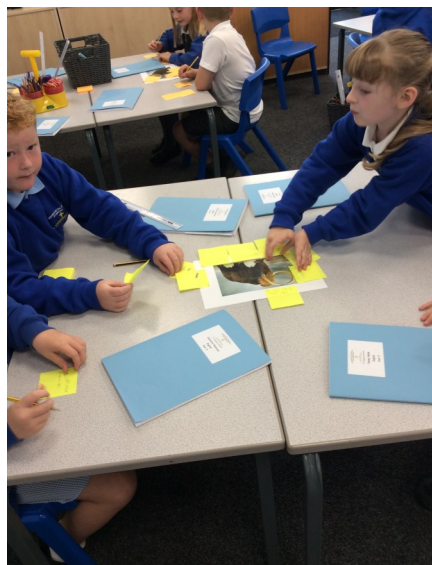
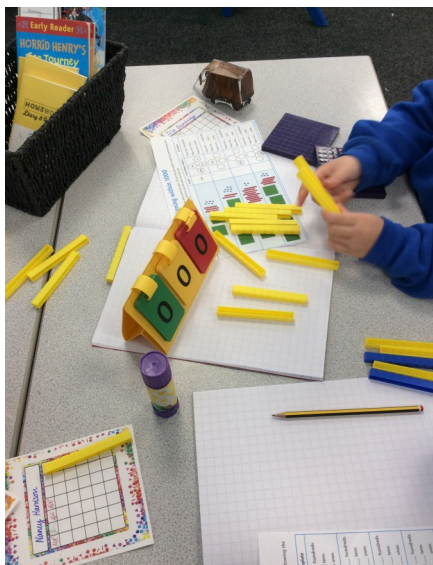
In Geography we have been looking at compass points and we thought about what the four points of a compass are, what do we use a compass for and who might use a compass? We then had a go at describing a route for our partners where we had to follow the instructions we were given to move a counter from one location to another on our map. We then planned a route around Heddon in our books and verbally discussed the route with our partner. Super work Year 2!





## A Busy Week in Year 3

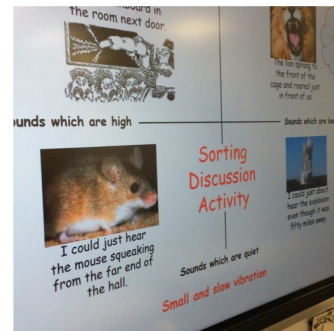
We started off the week in Year 3 with a fun PE lesson lead by Mr Smith which was all about invasion games and followed the theme of 'K-Pop Demon Hunters'. The children loved being putting in teams to defeat the 'demon'. We also had our first Art lesson in which the class drew some beautiful line drawing of animals found around Britain. We have been very busy with our English topic and the class concluded the week by creating their own mammoths. In Maths, we have continued our place value topic and have been using practical resources to aid our learning. We look forward to next week when we will start Ukulele lessons and elect our student council members.



**Learning**

## Exploring Sounds in Year 4!

Year 4 have been exploring sound in science. Today, we explored the relationship between pitch, volume and vibration. First, we recapped our understanding of sound using key words like 'source', 'medium' and 'vibration'. Then, we looked at how the speed of vibrations changed when twanging a long vs a short length of ruler. We used sequins on a drum to visualise the strength of vibrations and how that linked to volume. Finally, we sorted sounds into low and high pitch **and** loud and quiet volume.





## Character Descriptions with Year 5

This week, Year 5 have been working on writing character descriptions of an antagonist from our class text. We've been exploring figurative language and expanded noun phrases to make our writing more vivid and engaging for the reader. The children really enjoyed sharing their descriptions with their peers, and they also had the opportunity to edit and improve their work. It's been a fun and creative week of writing!

advance the scene

The recently <sup>opphand</sup> thirteen year old boy, slowly pushed the doors of a big hall, where all eyes were upon him, all of a sudden he gets <sup>uncomputable</sup>.

As Oslaf <sup>enterd</sup> into the great hall, his heart felt as heavy as a mountain as he stood still. Looking around he saw a figure at the far end of the <sup>eneamorous</sup> hall. This boy <sup>had</sup> wheat colored hair unbrushed and <sup>beled</sup> falling over his forehead. He had a seax blade with an ivory handle, gleaming in the sun light.

His eyes were hazel. As he strided towards Oslaf, the Villain's grass green tunic cluching to his <sup>mucly</sup> legs as he approached. Wermund's boots clattered like angry drums.

The recently <sup>opphand</sup> boy, slowly walked through the grand <sup>opphand</sup> as he <sup>enterd</sup> the hall and then suddenly he felt <sup>extremly</sup> uncomfortable as five sets of eyes stared at him.

The room fell silent, as Wermund stared <sup>nervously</sup> at Oslaf as he <sup>was</sup> <sup>enterd</sup> the hall. Then he looked at Wermund again and <sup>releasd</sup> he should be <sup>unocied</sup> as Wermund's seax blade sliced the air as the vicious boy swung it. Wermund's shoulders were as broad as a bear and his eyes squinted as if they were <sup>scratching</sup> Oslaf.

"Why are you here in my father's hall, you don't belong here!" bellowed Wermund, as his noies <sup>edged</sup> around the hall. "I... I... was just trying to get some <sup>fun</sup> in you don't get in this way you go with all the <sup>st</sup> and the people without any <sup>gornily</sup> look. As Wermund <sup>leat</sup> his big <sup>thor</sup> boots <sup>toppled</sup> in the distance Oslaf Only ate an O large, when he <sup>ment</sup> into the hall as he wasn't hungry anymore.

vance the scene

A <sup>confident</sup> 13 year old boy named Oslaf <sup>wanderd</sup> through a small town. But <sup>then</sup> he saw a <sup>empty</sup> <sup>ery</sup> door. He peered through the crack and all his confidence <sup>glutterd</sup> away.

He <sup>opened</sup> the door and a large figure <sup>stood</sup>. Oslaf pushed him aside looking for the thing little dose he knew that was biggest mistake of his life. Wermund <sup>so</sup> of Alagar, <sup>stared</sup> into Oslaf's <sup>so</sup> <sup>so</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>no</sup> <sup>turning</sup> his heart into stone.

His hair <sup>was</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>color</sup> of wheat and eyes as big as an owl, his muscles <sup>tenst</sup> and <sup>his</sup> <sup>enruld</sup> a tunic had an imprint of a bulky big <sup>bo</sup>. His sword <sup>rood</sup> and his boots <sup>cliked</sup> as his shadow filled the room <sup>and</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>perfer</sup> <sup>a</sup> perfect jawline.

The recently <sup>opphand</sup> boy, <sup>as</sup> Oslaf <sup>nervously</sup> <sup>shook</sup> past the great <sup>of</sup> the giant, silent hall <sup>but</sup> he <sup>fe</sup> something <sup>spying</sup> on him.

Before Oslaf could <sup>get</sup> his <sup>turn</sup> Wermund <sup>confronted</sup> Oslaf. <sup>Where</sup> you think you're <sup>going</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>he</sup> son of Alagar's seax blade <sup>smiled</sup> at Oslaf like a bully finding it's prey.

Wermund slammed his seax blade down it <sup>echoed</sup> in the hall <sup>like</sup> a lions <sup>roar</sup>. What are you doing <sup>rat</sup> <sup>twisting</sup> his <sup>blade</sup> the innocent boys <sup>beck</sup>. Wermund <sup>shoved</sup> Oslaf <sup>against</sup> the <sup>wall</sup>.

PIC•COLLAGE

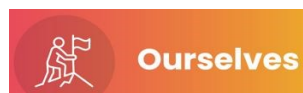
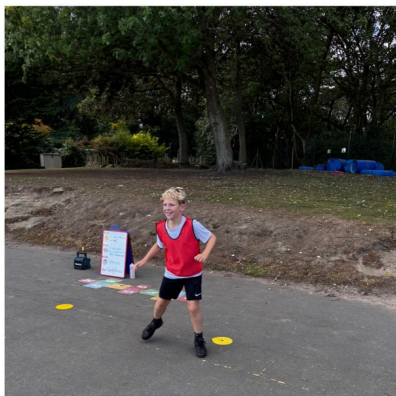


Learning



## Invasion Games with Year 6

It was great to see Year 6 in action during their first PE session of the year with Mr Smith. It is clear that we have some very athletic children in the class. Importantly, the children played their invasion games in great spirits; they were competitive, respectful and encouraging to one another. Hopefully the sun stays shining for a few more weeks! Well done Year 6.





## Compassion Takes Flight!

On Wednesday after school Sam from Year 6 came back into school to ask for Heidi to help with an injured bird in a garden in Trajan Walk. Sam, Luxton and Ethan walked down to the vets in the village to ask for advice. They returned with a cardboard box and blanket, carefully captured the bird and took it to the vet so that it could be cared for. Sam said that he knew what to do as 'his uncle looks after racing pigeons'. By the time Heidi and Mr. McDonald had picked up a box and blanket to go back outside the boys had sorted it. We are very proud of, not only how caring they were but also how sensible/grown up they were.



Others

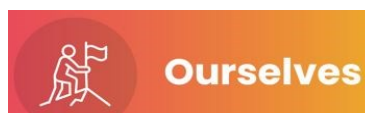


## Pele Trust Primary Football Tournament

We are very proud of the Year 5 and 6 football team who participated in the Pele Trust Primary Football Tournament this week. The children were enthusiastic, encouraging and played with great spirit. With one win, two goalless draws and a narrow 1-0 defeat, we finished third overall. Well done to all involved.



While our first tournament is over there are a number of others scheduled throughout the year and we hope to see many other children being able to participate and represent our school.



**Ourselves**



**Life**





## An Invitation from Year 7 students.

Please come along to the **BEE SHOWCASE** event to see what we have been learning in our exciting curriculum project from Year 6 and into Year 7 in the PELE Trust.

**Date:** Tuesday 23rd September 2025

**Time:** 4-5pm

**Place:** Ponteland High School

We'd like you to 'bee' there!



Ponteland High School

# Y6 OPEN EVENING

The Crescent  
Callerton Lane  
Ponteland  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE20 9EG



## Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025 5.30-7.30pm

Listen to the Headteacher talk and take the opportunity to visit our fantastic curriculum areas

Aiming for our students to be happy, feel safe and secure, and achieve exceptionally well

## Virtual Sleep Workshop

Prudhoe Family Hub is running another virtual sleep workshop for parents / carers. The workshop is free to attend as in virtual, meaning it can be done from the comfort of your home.

I know that sessions about sleep have been requested a number of times by parents across school. This session is being run twice and you can book onto it by [clicking here](#).

For more details please see the flyer below:

# Is your child struggling with sleep?



\*For children and young people aged between 4-25 years

- Understanding sleep cycles
- Causes of sleep issues
- The importance of sleep
- What you can do to support your child to sleep better

### **Virtual Sleep Workshop**

Delivered **virtually** over one session.

**BOOK NOW** 

**Thursday 11th September 12:30-2:30pm**

**Wednesday 15th October 10:30-12:30pm**



http://

Visit our website

[nland.cc/familyhubs](http://nland.cc/familyhubs)





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](https://nationalcollege.com).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

### ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

### MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

### GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

### CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

### ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

### PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

### MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

### REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

### Meet Our Expert

Brandon O'Keeffe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/conspiracy-theories>



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The  
National  
College®



# Domestic abuse is everyone's business

You are not alone



## Support services in Northumberland

**DASSN** for adults – 01670 820199

**NDAS** for adults and children – 01434 60 80 30

**Cygnus Support** – 01670 853977

**Acorns** – 0191 3498366

[www.northumberland.gov.uk/domesticabuse](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/domesticabuse)



## Dates for your Diary - Autumn Term



Wednesday 17th September 2025	Music Tuition with Mr. Reay starts
Friday 26th September 2025	Welcome Service at St. Andrew's Church - 9.30am Early Years and Key Stage 1
Thursday 2nd October 2025	Prospective Parents Evening at Ponteland High School - 5.30pm
Monday 13th October 2025	Nasal Flu Vaccinations (Reception to Year 6)
Friday 24th October 2025	Early Years and Key Stage 1 Harvest Festival at St. Andrew's Church - 9.30am
Friday 24th October 2025	Key Stage 2 Harvest Festival at St. Andrew's Church - 10.20am
<b>w/c Monday 27th October 2025</b>	<b>HALF TERM HOLIDAY</b>
<b>Monday 3rd November 2025</b>	<b>TRAINING DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED</b>
Friday 5th December 2025	Friends of Heddon Christmas Fair from 1.30pm
Thursday 11th December	Choir Christmas Showcase in School Hall at 4.30pm
Tuesday 16th December 2025	Early Years Nativity in School Hall at 10am
Tuesday 16th December 2025	Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance at St. Andrew's Church at 1.30pm
Wednesday 17th December 2025	Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance at St. Andrew's Church at 10am
Friday 19th December 2025	Key Stage 2 Carol Service at St. Andrew's Church at 9.30am