

19th September 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you can see from the Flyer this week the children have been having a great time doing lots of different things. From creating self portraits and making hedgehog biscuits in Nursery, through thinking about love in Year 1, developing PE and Art skills in Years 2 and 5 to exploring circuits and voltage in Year 6. I always love to see the varied and exciting things that the children get up to each week.

Each class got to learn all about democracy this week with the election of our new School Council. Candidates had to write and present a manifesto to their class mates and then a secret ballot took place. It was lovely to see our new councillors sitting proudly in Celebration Assembly today. I am sure they will be amazing representatives for our school.

If you have not already done so could I remind Year 6 parents to apply for your child's place at High School. The online portal for applications is currently open and closes on Friday 31st October 2025. The High School is holding a prospective parents meeting after school on Thursday 2nd October 2025 5.30pm-7.30pm. This is a great opportunity to listen to the Headteacher, Mr. McElwee, talk about the school and to have a look around the curriculum areas.

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](#).

Well done to Year 2 with the best attendance this week: 98.7%.

Well done to Year 2 for the best attendance for this year: 99.4%.

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

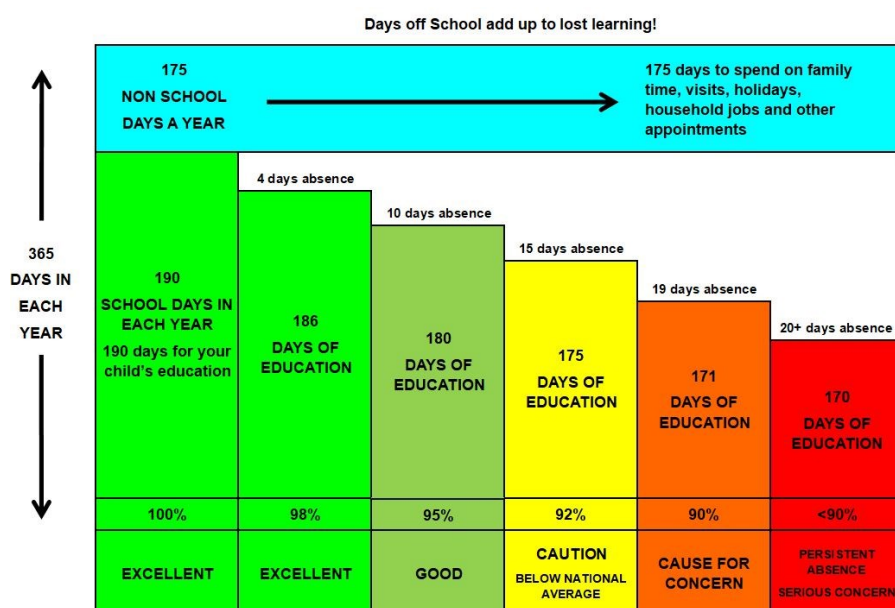


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Nursery (Hedgehogs)	94.5%	95.7%	Year 3 (Gibside)	95.2%	97.5%
Reception (Owls)	95.7%	97.2%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	96.6%	98.9%
Year 1 (Wallington)	97.6%	97.8%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	97.4%	98.1%
Year 2 (Craggside)	98.7%	99.4%	Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	97.8%	98.9%

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

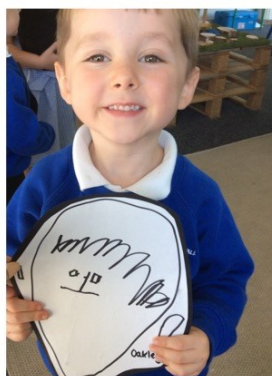


'Let all that you do be done with love'

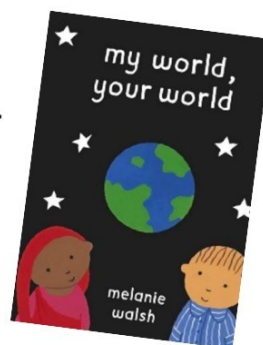
1 Corinthians 16:14



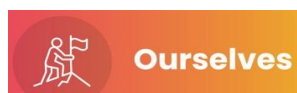
As part of our 'Me and My World' topic, this week we have been thinking about what makes us all unique and special. We looked at our facial features, using a mirror and then we created self portraits. Look at all of our brilliant art work! Well done Hedgehogs!



We also read the book, 'My world, your world' to help us to think about our differences and similarities.



PIC•COLLAGE





## Working Together in Reception

Reception have had a great week working together and have been showing lots of caring behaviours towards each other. Well done, Owls!



PIC•COLLAGE



Ourselves

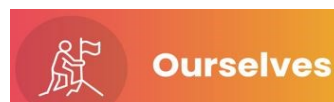
Others





## The Story of the Lost Son in Year 1

In RE we have been learning about the parable of the Lost Son which teaches that God is forgiving and loving. This week we talked about the ways that Christians could show their love to God such as by going to church or praying. On a heart the children drew a way they could show their love to God.



**Ourselves**

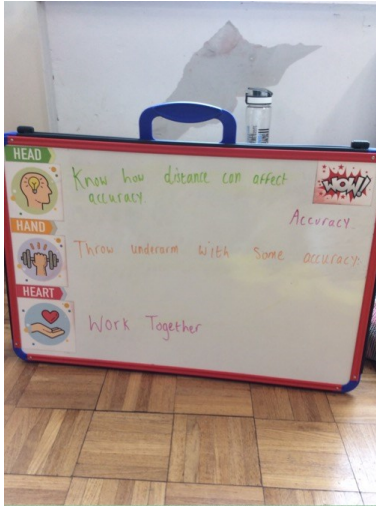


**Learning**

'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14





In PE this week we have been learning to throw underarm with some accuracy. We learned how distance can affect accuracy. We also worked together in a team. Well done Year 2



PIC•COLLAGE

Others

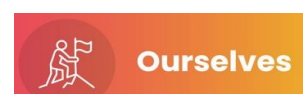


Learning



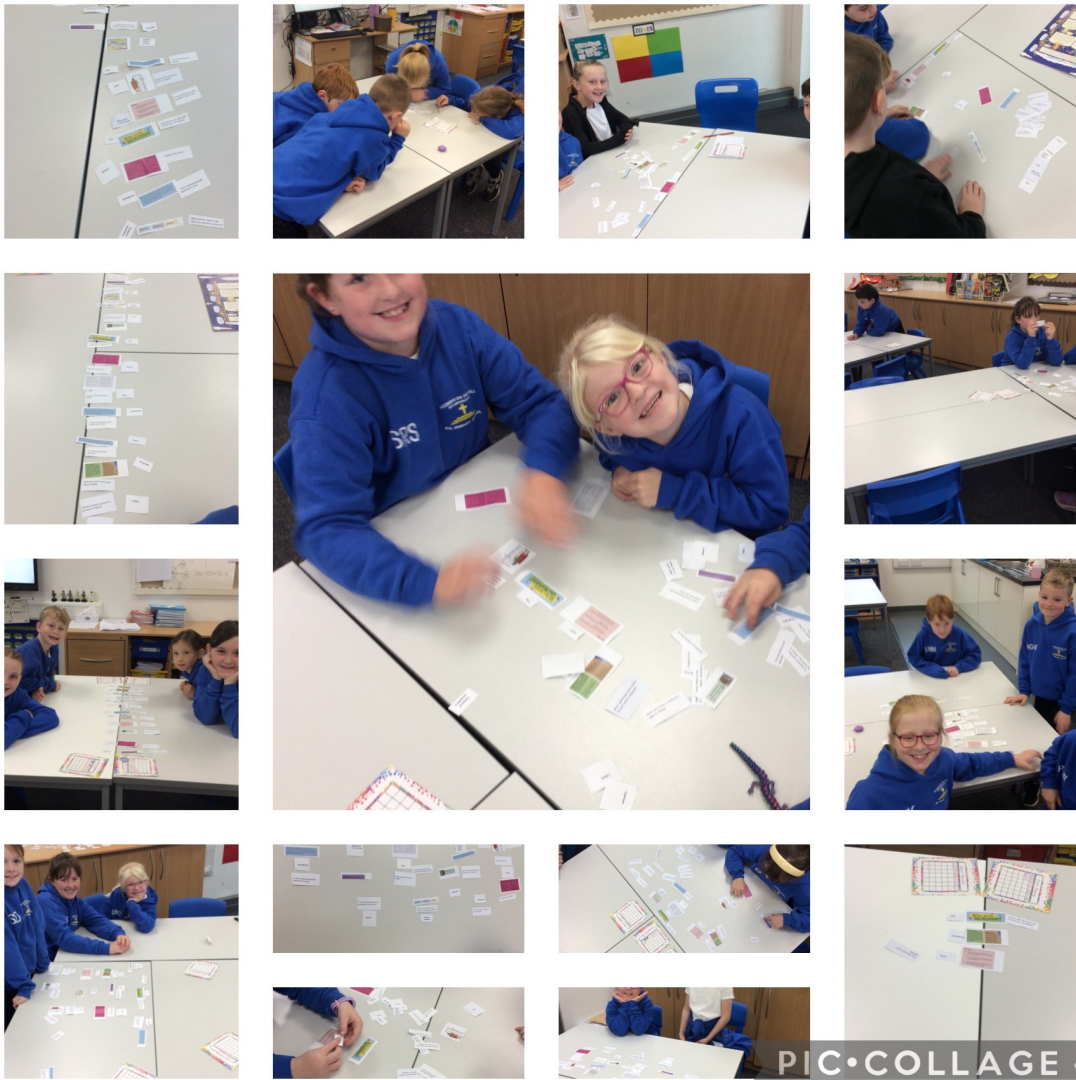
## A Busy Week in Year 3!

We have had a very busy week in Year 3! On Monday we spent our PE lesson inside because of the rain and the class did a great job at practising their kicks and jumps. We continued this in our Thursday PE lesson and also practiced attacking and defending by playing a game of capture the cone. On Wednesday we started our Ukulele lessons. The children were taught how to correctly hold and strum the ukulele as well as playing the start of two songs that we will continue to learn. We finished off the week with our science lesson in which we were learning how metamorphic rocks are formed. The class used sweets to warm up and squash together to create their own metamorphic rocks.



## Reading about the Romans in Year 4

Year 4 continued their Roman learning by exploring non-chronological reports in English. We learned all about the features that make this sort of text so super at conveying information. In teams, children were challenged to match the feature to its description and then to an example from our key text. Once we were confident with the non-fiction genre, we read an information text, identified its features and used it to answer questions. What a busy week!



**Learning**



## Stained Glass Windows with Year 5

In Art today, Year 5 studied examples of medieval stained glass, noticing how a limited colour palette was used to great effect in creating striking images. The children experimented with mixing their own colours and explored ideas in their sketchbooks, considering how the lead lining in real stained glass could be represented. They then created abstract designs using greaseproof paper and milk bottle tops to inspire their work. Next week, the class will continue this project by using thick black pens to draw the lead lines, giving their stained glass windows an authentic effect.

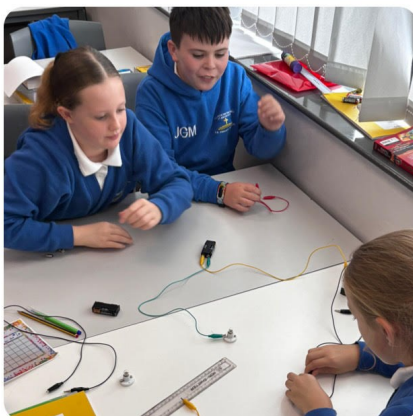
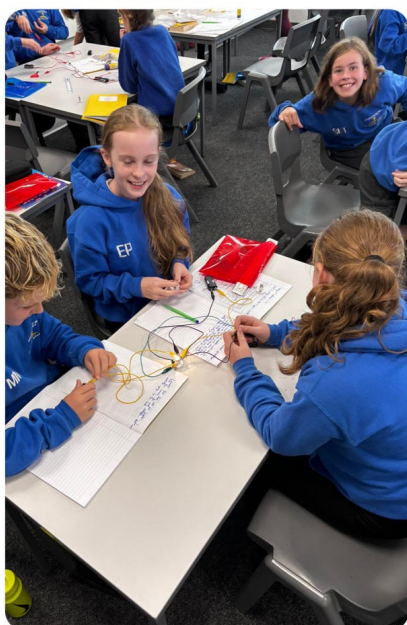
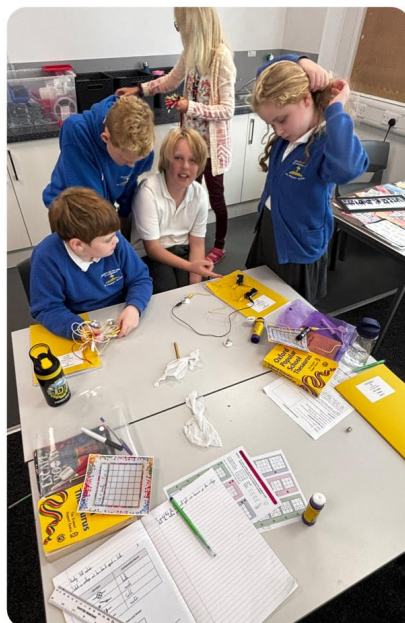


Learning



## Exciting Electricity with Year 6

In Year 6 Science this week we have been exploring the relationship between the voltage used in a circuit and the brightness of a bulb. We added batteries and bulbs to our circuits to see how this impacts brightness. The children worked well in teams after making their predictions. Well done Year 6.



Others



Learning





## 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



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).

## SNAP STREAK

97

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION  
13+

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.



## SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🔥 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.



## SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.



## SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.



## ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.



## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.



## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.



### ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.



### BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.



### USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.



### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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

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# 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



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