

26th September 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

It was lovely to see so many of you at St. Andrew's Church this morning for our annual Welcome Service for our new starters in Reception and Nursery and their parents / carers. I was so impressed with the children's readings and their singing. It is always a pleasure to see the joy and delight that the services in church bring to children and adults alike.

Well done to our Year 5 and 6 football teams. Both our boys and girls teams have been in action this week. During a hard fought tournament our boys team reached the final and narrowly missed out to Ponteland Primary. While results did not go our way for the girls team they had a great time playing and representing our school. Well done, we are so proud of you all.

Along with a number of schools nationally we are increasingly concerned with the impact that smartphones and excessive screen time is having on both the mental and physical health and wellbeing of our children. Therefore, we are looking to join the nationwide 'smartphone free childhood', beginning in Early Years and Key Stage 1. To explain what this means Mrs. Abbott has created a short video which is on our Youtube channel and can be viewed by [clicking here](#). This is an initiative which I hope you will help support us with.

For those children who enjoy singing please check out the flyer for the Newcastle Children's / Youth Choirs later in the flyer. The eagle-eyed among you might be able to spot some of our current and ex-pupils on the flyer! As Mrs. Milner frequently reminds us; 'everyone has a voice and can sing'.

A number of people have expressed concern to the school about the speed of cars driving around the village, particularly at pick up and drop off times. The 20mph speed limit is there to keep our children safe. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Well done to Year 6 with the best attendance this week: 99.6%.

Well done to Year 2 and Year 6 for the best attendance for this year: 99.1%.

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

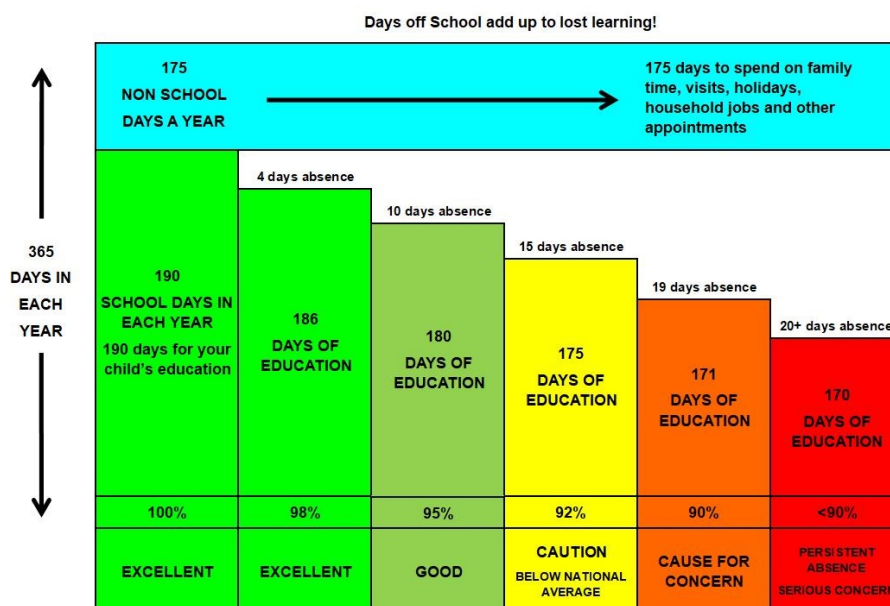


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Nursery (Hedgehogs)	94.7%	95.5%	Year 3 (Gibside)	91.2%	96%
Reception (Owls)	94.4%	96.5%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	97.9%	98.6%
Year 1 (Wallington)	95.2%	97.2%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	94.8%	97.3%
Year 2 (Craggside)	98.1%	99.1%	Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	99.6%	99.1%

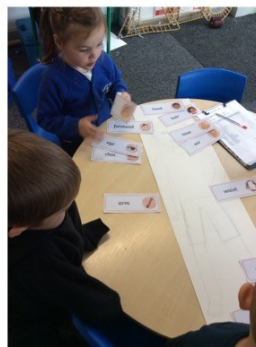
Please see the graphic below which shows the significant impact of absence over time .



'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14

This week in Nursery
 we've been very busy!
 We discussed the
 importance of brushing
 our teeth, labelled body
 parts, explored colour
 mixing and developed
 our teamwork and
 problem-solving skills
 while playing marble run.
 We also enjoyed sharing
 lots of stories together.



PIC•COLLAGE

Life



Ourselves

Others



'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14

All about our Bodies with Reception

Reception have been learning about, and using, their bodies lots this week. We have labelled body parts, used our fine motor skills to practise holding a pencil and really enjoyed our PE lesson with Mr. Walker; pretending to be different kinds of beans.



PIC•COLLAGE



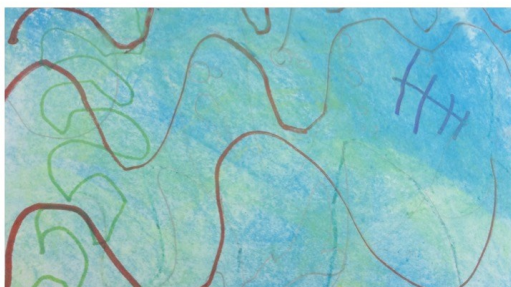
Ourselves



Learning

Water Effect Art in Year 1

In Art this week we have been making a water effect using different lines and tools. We started out by having to draw three big wavy lines and then we had to connect our lines with patterns and colours and other lines to create our water effect.



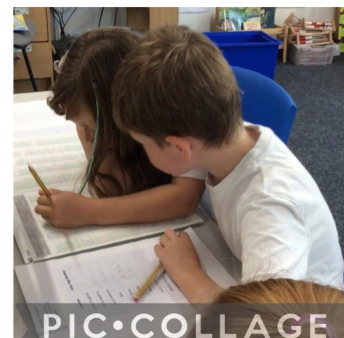
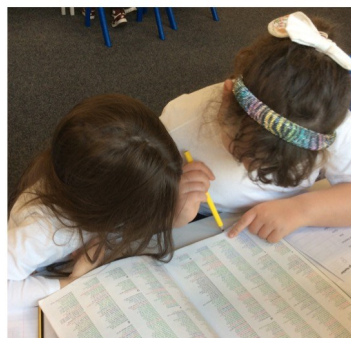
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Learning

Using an Atlas with Year 2

In Geography we have been looking at maps and learning how to use an atlas. We started our lesson this week by looking at the world map in the corridor and seeing what countries and oceans we could find. We then discussed how an atlas is a collection of maps and that the index page lists all of the countries, cities, towns etc that can be found in the atlas. We were given a list of countries and oceans and we had to use the index page to find out which page of the atlas we would find the country. Super work Year 2!



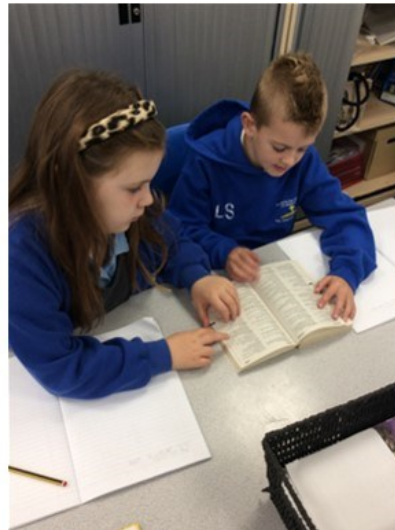
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Learning

A Busy Week in Year 3!

This week in Year 3, we have started our new book in English 'The Stolen Spear'. This links to our Prehistoric Britain topic and the class have had fun predicting what will happen in the story, describing the scenes of the story and using thesauruses to improve their writing. We also did our second ukulele lesson which the class thoroughly enjoyed and enabled them to continue practising some of the songs they are learning. In Music, the class were learning about rhythm and identifying different beats. In PE, we continued to practice invasion games and discussed the importance of working as a team as well as deciding who attacks and who defends. In science we continued our 'rocks' topic and examined a variety of igneous rocks to identify whether they had large or small crystal structures.





Mastering our running stitch
skills in preparation for
making our Roman Bulla.



PIC•COLLAGE



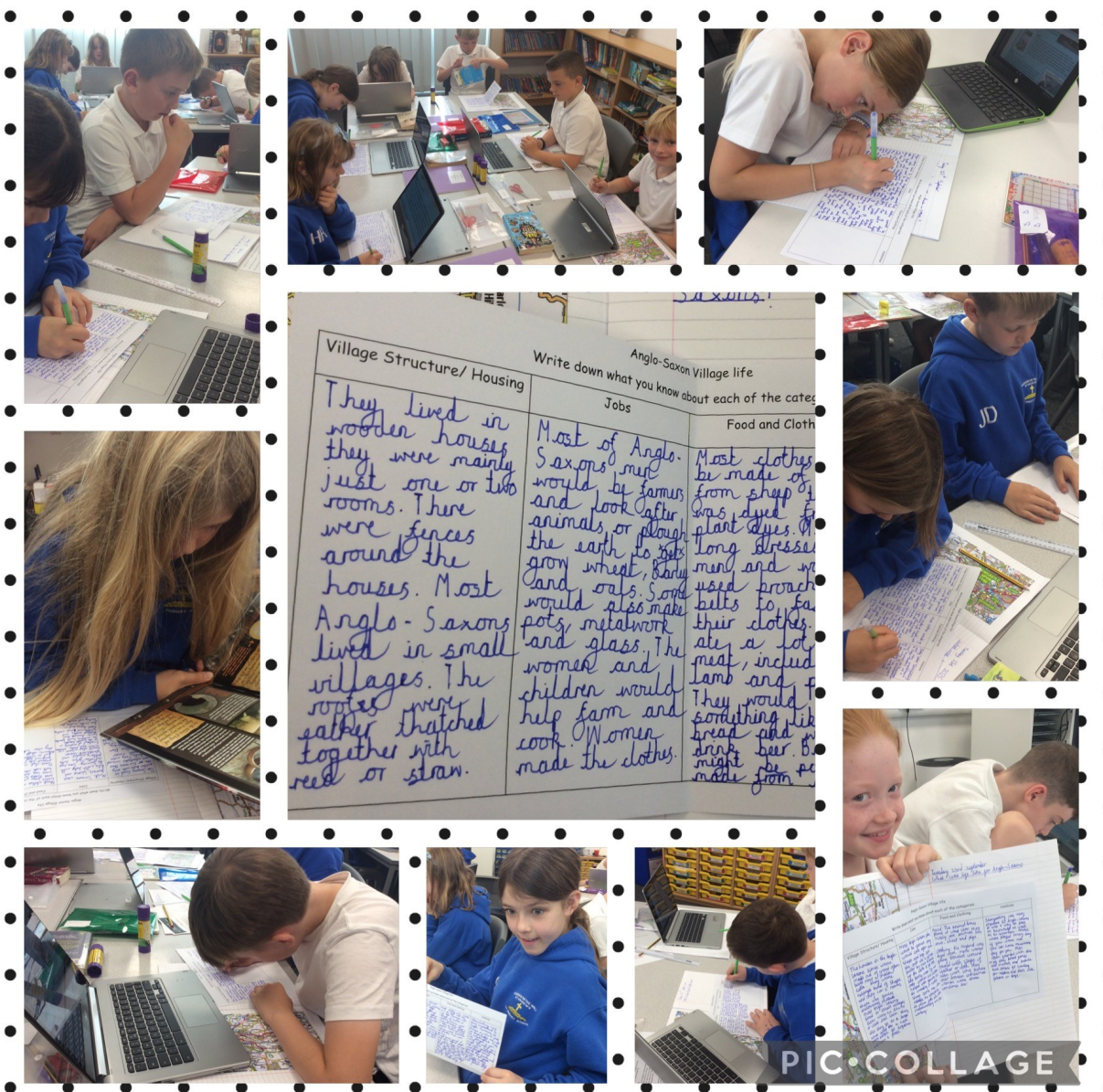
Learning

Life



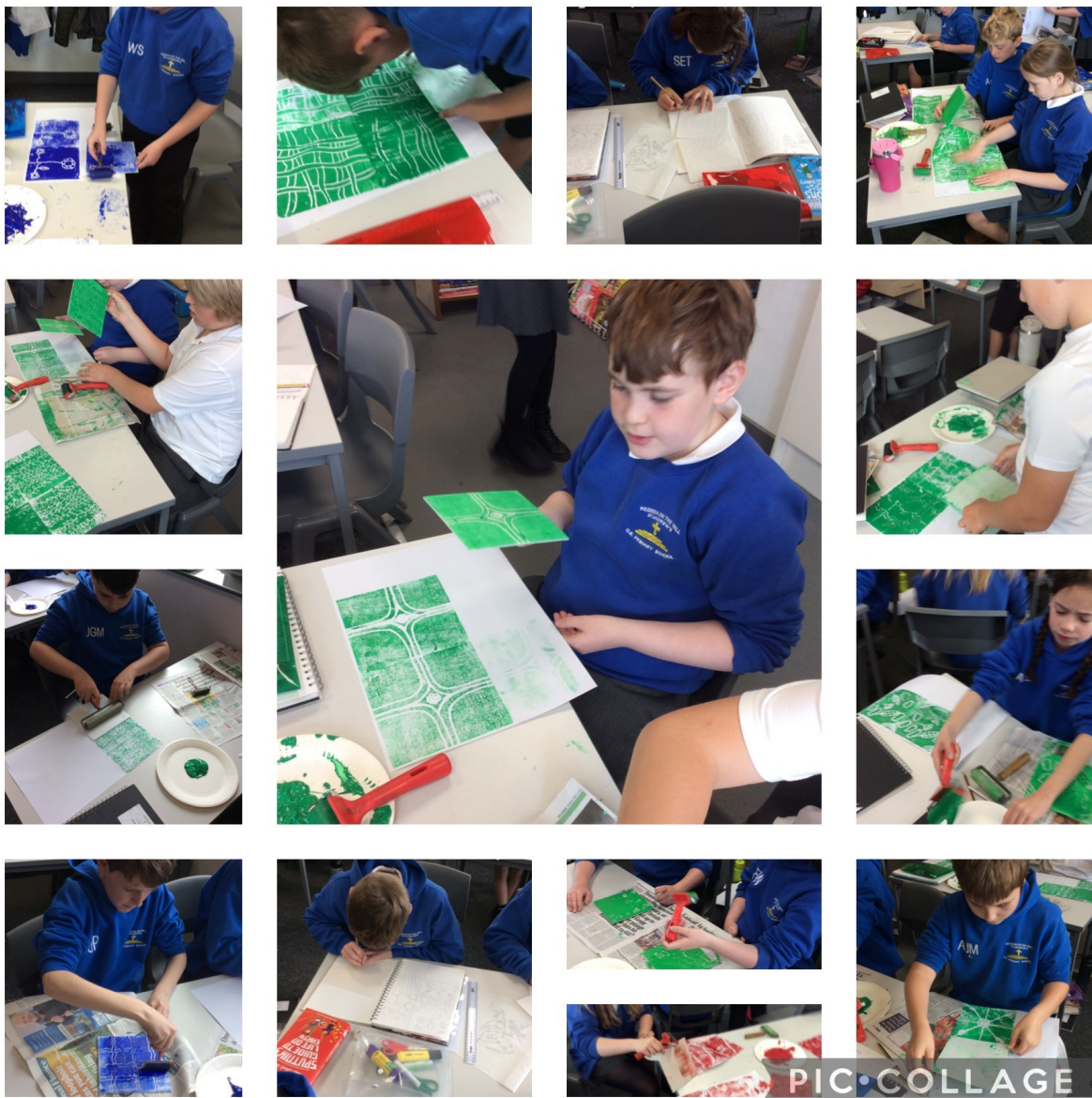
Anglo Saxon Life with Year 5

This week, our Year 5 class used the Chromebooks to research what life was like in Anglo-Saxon times. We discovered the kinds of jobs people had, the food they ate, and what their houses looked like. We also found out about their clothing and even some of their hobbies! Everyone worked hard to record the information, and we now know much more about daily life over 1,000 years ago.



Designing and Printing Wallpaper with Year 6

Year 6 designed their own William Morris inspired printing tiles, before choosing a preferred repeating pattern. They applied printing ink to their tiles and then attempted to print their own wallpaper. Next week we will try and replicate this process, only this time we will be using lino and carving tools to create our design.

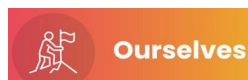


Our Welcome Service

Early Years and Key Stage 1 led our Welcome Service at St. Andrew's Church. They sang songs and shared information about what our school vision is and means as well as some of the things they have enjoyed in school so far and what they are looking forward to. It was a lovely service which the children enjoyed and it was lovely that so many parents, carers and friends came to share it with us. A special thanks to our Year 6 children who led some of the readings!

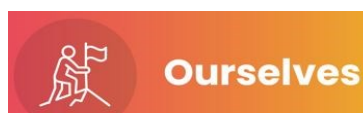


PIC•COLLAGE



Football Tournament Update

Year 6 boys and Year 5 and 6 girls represented the school playing football this week. In both cases the players competed with the correct spirit and attitude. A special shout out to the Year 6 boys who made the final of their tournament. Well done!



Ourselves



Life

Out of School Achievements

Well done to Rory who was selected to be the mascot for Newcastle United at their Champions League match against Barcelona! It was an amazing experience to meet the players and go onto the pitch at St. James Park in front of a capacity crowd. The only thing which could have made it a better night would have been a win for Newcastle!



Well done to Poppy who has successfully auditioned and been accepted for TS Training Academy for Dance. This week she has also performed on stage with the west end star Kerry Ellis who is best known as being the first British person to play the role of Elphaba in the musical 'Wicked'.



Did You Know?



1

In the UK, 25% of fatal accidents occur when the driver was speeding.

2

25% of parents say they fear walking their kids to school because traffic is too fast.

3

Every 1 mph over the speed limit increases the rate of crashes by 5%.

Moral of the story...

Speeding kills
Mind the limit!



Others



LOVE TO SING?

www.newcastlemusicservice.co.uk/choirs




NEWCASTLE YOUTH CHOIR

Whatever your level of experience, there's a place for YOU to find your voice in Newcastle's most exciting choirs! Make new friends, build confidence, and perform music that makes you feel amazing.

✨ Newcastle Children's Choir

 Ages 7-10

 Tuesdays | 5:30-7:00 PM

 Armstrong Building, Newcastle University Music Department, NE1 7RU

✨ Newcastle Youth Choir

 Ages 11-18

 Tuesdays | 6:30-8:30 PM



✨ No auditions. Every voice welcome! To sign up or find out more:

www.newcastlemusicservice.co.uk/choirs



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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 GROUP CHATS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

On messaging apps, social media and online games, group chats are one of the most popular ways that children connect. Group chats allow messages, images and videos to be shared in one place and help friendships flourish; however, they also come with a number of risks.

TEASING AND BULLYING

Children of all ages are keen to fit in socially, and group chats can sometimes complicate that process. While group chats can foster connection, they can also give way to mean comments or jokes at someone's expense, especially when others join in for laughs. When bullying happens publicly, in front of friends and classmates, it can intensify the emotional impact – adding to embarrassment, anxiety and feelings of isolation for the child being targeted.

UNKNOWN MEMBERS

Children often can't control who is added to a group, which can lead to privacy concerns. Sharing personal details in group chats can be dangerous, and children have no control over what others do with the material they send. Some members of the chat might even decide to use such information maliciously.

PEER PRESSURE

Children may feel they have to constantly stay engaged just to be included and keep up with the conversation. In some cases, they might partake in inappropriate behaviours – like sharing explicit photos, jokes or teasing – just to fit in. Group settings can also encourage children to act in ways they normally wouldn't, or stay silent when they know something is wrong, out of fear of being excluded. Some children may find it difficult to leave toxic group chats.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some group chats may include inappropriate language or imagery. Even if a child isn't actively participating in the conversation, they may still be exposed to this content simply by being part of the group. Some apps have disappearing messaging features, where content is only available once or for a few seconds, which makes it harder for children to report something they've seen.

EXCLUSION AND ISOLATION

Exclusion in group chats is common and can take several forms. Sometimes a new group is created specifically to leave one child out on purpose. In other cases, the chat may happen on an app that a child doesn't have access to, making it impossible for them to join in. This can cause feelings of being left out – even unintentionally.

VIDEO AND LIVE CHATS

Many popular apps allow children to engage in live streaming with interactive chats or have group video chats. Anyone can be added to these streams, and often children tag peers in the comments and have conversations which are unmoderated. There's a risk of being exposed to inappropriate or violent content and offensive language, either in the group videos or via the group chats.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER OTHERS' FEELINGS

Group chats can become an arena for children to compete for social status. Help children consider how people might feel if they behave unkindly. If a child does upset someone, encourage them to reach out, show empathy and apologise for their mistake.

SET SOME GROUP CHAT RULES

Discuss safe group chat practices, such as asking a peer for consent before adding them to a group chat, or leaving a group chat if a stranger is added. Tell children that if they're added to a group they didn't agree to beforehand, it's OK for them to leave immediately.

BLOCK, REPORT AND LEAVE

If a child encounters inappropriate content or feels uncomfortable in a group chat, encourage them to block and report the sender and leave the group. Make sure children know it's OK to leave a group chat if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

SUPPORT, NOT JUDGEMENT

Group chats are an excellent way for children to connect and feel like they belong. However, remind them that they can confide in you if they feel bullied or excluded, instead of responding to the person who's upset them. Validate their feelings and empower them by discussing how they'd like to handle the situation. You can also encourage children to speak up if they witness others being bullied.

PRACTISE SAFE SHARING

It's vital for children to be aware of what they're sharing and who might potentially see it. Ensure they understand the importance of not revealing personal details – like their address, their school, or photos they wouldn't like to be seen widely. Remind them that once something is shared in a group, they can't be certain where it might end up or how it might be used.

SILENCE NOTIFICATIONS

Being bombarded with notifications from a group chat can be an irritating distraction – especially if it's happening late in the evening. Explain to children that they can still be part of a group chat while disabling notifications. In fact, it would be healthier for them to do so, helping them avoid the pressure to respond immediately.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware, who has developed anti-bullying and cyber-safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government, comparing the internet use and online behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday®

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Dates for your Diary - Autumn Term 1



Thursday 2nd October 2025	Prospective Parents Evening at Ponteland High School - 5.30pm
Friday 10th October 2025	World Mental Health Day
Monday 13th October 2025	Nasal Flu Vaccinations (Nursery to Year 6)
Tuesday 14th October 2025	Year 4 visit to Arbeia Roman Fort
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
w/c Monday 27th October 2025	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 3rd November 2025	TRAINING DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED
Tuesday 4th November 2025	Parents Evening
Thursday 6th November 2025	Parents Evening
Friday 14th November 2025	Children in Need Non-Uniform Day

Dates for your Diary - Autumn Term 2



Friday 5th December 2025	Friends of Heddon Christmas Fair from 1.30pm
Monday 8th December 2025	Year 5 visit to the Great North Museum
Thursday 11th December 2025	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 11th December 2025	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
w/c Monday 22nd December 2025	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Monday 5th January 2026	School Reopens for Spring Term