

3rd October 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

What an exciting time the children have had this week in school. There have been lots of exciting things happening from scavenger hunts and building teamwork in Early Years to lots of Maths and Science as well as some drama to learn about Anglo Saxon traders! Year 6 have been developing their spreadsheet and data analysis skills on the computers. Watch out Mrs. Darby and Mrs Bower! They may be after your jobs!

Autumn seems to have well and truly arrived today with both wind and rain. As the weather becomes increasingly inclement please could you ensure that your child has an appropriate waterproof and warm coat and appropriate outdoor footwear for being outside.

Despite the weather the children are keen to be outside and enjoying themselves with their friends during OPAL play. We are once again seeking items to enhance the children's play. Each class has a bingo board of items to collect. Check out the boards later in the flyer.

I am aware that this is the season for colds, sore throats and other illnesses and that it can be difficult to get appointments to see a doctor. Therefore, I have included NHS information about the 'Think Pharmacy First' programme which can provide advice and prescription medication if necessary without the need to see a doctor. More information is available by [clicking here](#) or by watching the [Pharmacy First animation](#). For advice on whether your child is too ill for school please check out the NHS guidance by [clicking here](#).

Well done to Year 5 with the best attendance this week: 99.4%.

Well done to Year 6 for the best attendance for this year: 99%.

I hope that you enjoy reading this flyer and, despite the stormy weather, have a relaxing weekend.

Mr. A. Wheatley,

Headteacher



Attendance Matters



ATTEND *today...*
ACHIEVE *tomorrow...*
ATTENDANCE *matters.*

Northumberland
County Council

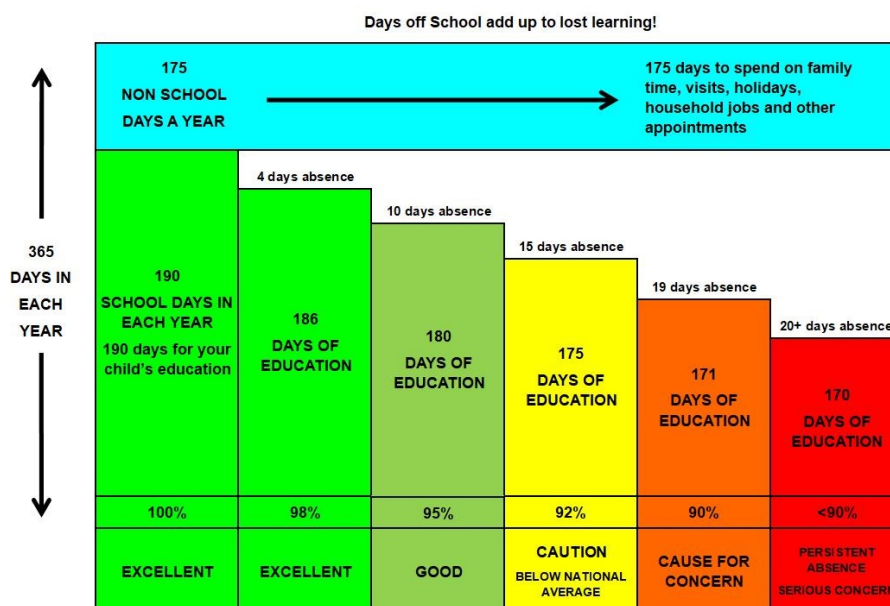


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Nursery (Hedgehogs)	98%	96%	Year 3 (Gibside)	98.4%	96.4%
Reception (Owls)	99%	97%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	94.9%	97.9%
Year 1 (Wallington)	87.4%	95.2%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	99.4%	97.7%
Year 2 (Craggside)	97.4%	98.7%	Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	98.5%	99%

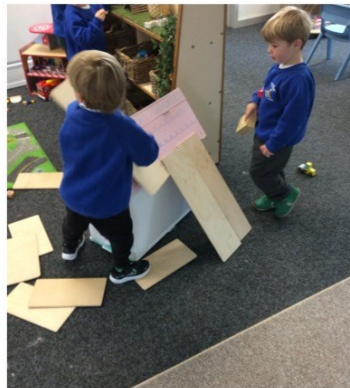
Please see the graphic below which shows the significant impact of absence over time .



'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14

Wow, what a busy week we have had in Nursery! We have been learning how to sort objects into groups in Maths, developing our teamwork in the Construction Area and making cards for our families! The children are really enjoying music lessons with Mrs Milner and PE with Mr Walker too!



PIC • COLLAGE



Learning

Life



Others



A Busy Week in Reception

Reception have had a great week focusing on our senses - we went outside to complete a senses scavenger hunt, sorted out things that we use our senses for and practised our cutting skills.

We have also worked really hard with our subitising, too. Well done Owls!



PIC•COLLAGE



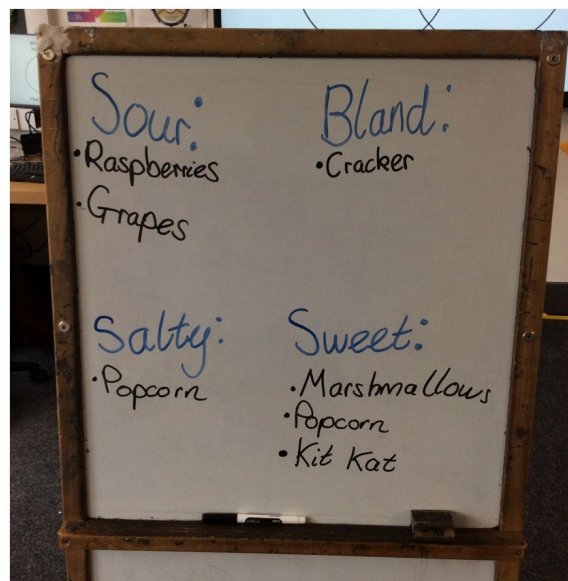
Ourselves



Learning

Taste Testing in Year 1

In Science we have been learning about our different senses and we have been using them to do different investigations. This week we were investigating how different foods can taste. To start with we talked about words we could use to describe the way foods taste and then we all got to try the different foods and put them into categories. It was a very exciting lesson.



PIC • COLLAGE





In Year 2 we have been looking at the artist David Hockney in our art lessons.



This week we recreated 'Garrowby Hill' by sketching a rough landscape in pencil then using oil pastels to add colour and texture. Over the next few weeks we will be using this as inspiration as we create a landscape of Heddon.



PIC•COLLAGE

 Learning

A Busy Week in Year 3!

This week in Year 3, we have been continuing to practice our invasion games in PE. We discussed working as a team to score a goal by passing to team mates and we also introduced the concept of dummy passes to trick defenders. In Art, we have continued our cave painting topic by using natural pigments. The class used salad, pink petals and mud to create pictures and colours on paper. We have been exploring the use of dialogue in English and the class worked in pairs to imagine the type of conversations the characters in our book, 'The Stolen Spear' may have. In RE we learned about the Christian organisation, the Salvation Army. The class worked in pairs to produce some beautiful posters all about the Salvation Army and the good work they do every day.



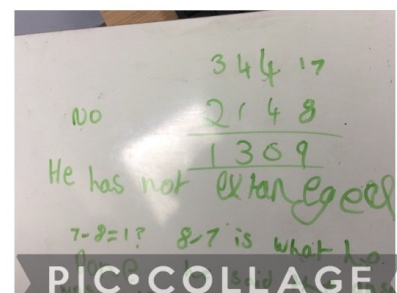
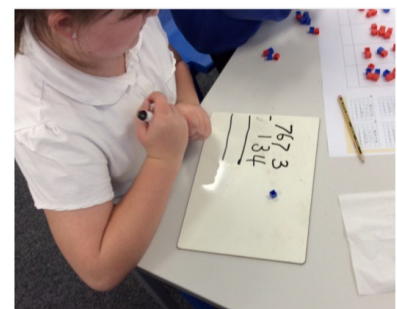
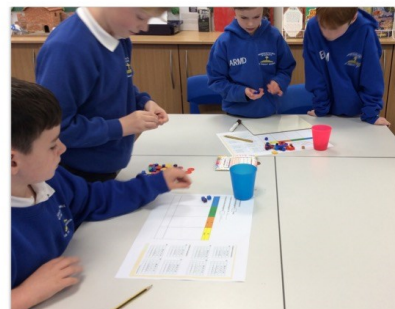
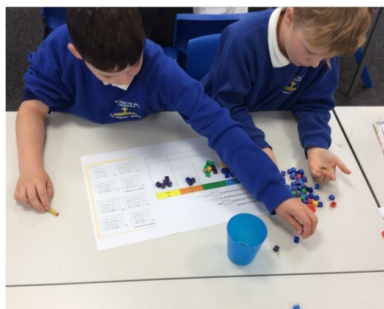
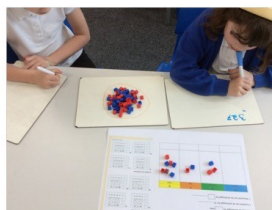
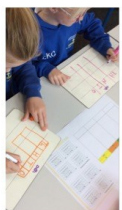
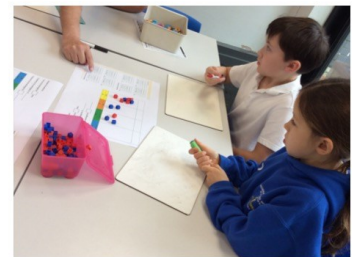
Others



Learning

Subtraction with Year 4.

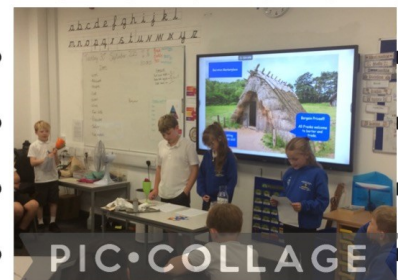
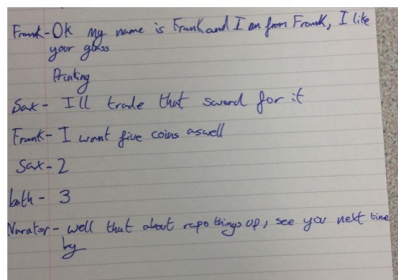
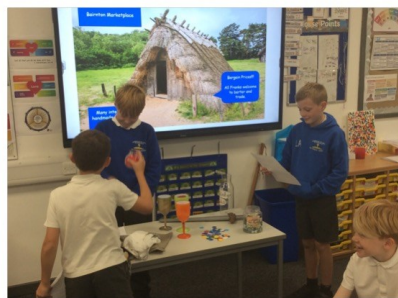
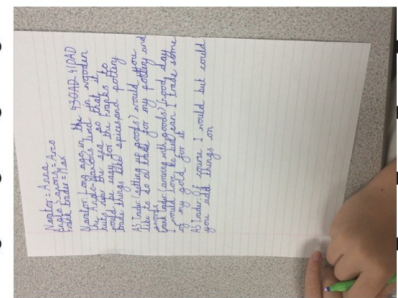
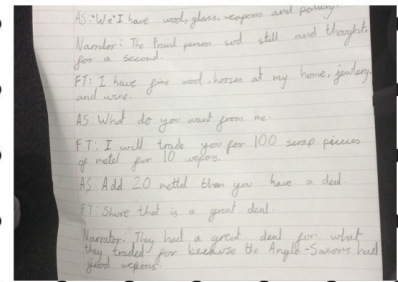
Year 4 have been working hard this week to use column method for subtraction; not only that, they have been using manipulates and diagrams to show their understanding of what happens in a mathematical exchange!



PIC•COLLAGE

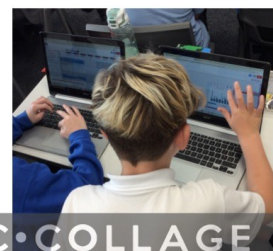
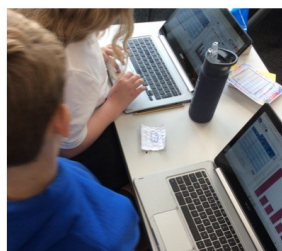
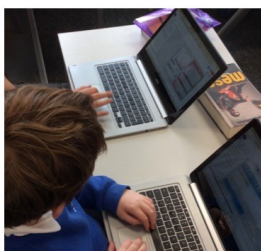
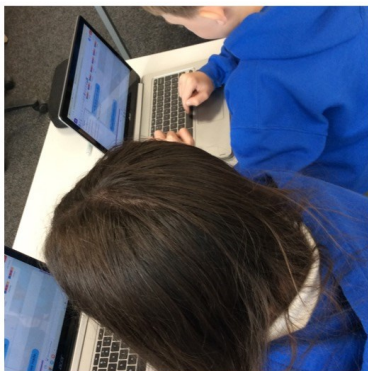
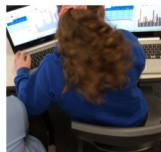
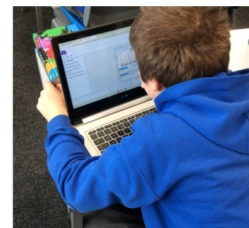
Anglo Saxon Life with Year 5

This week, Year 5 children have created short scripts to bring history to life, showing how the Anglo-Saxons traded with the Franks. They identified and acted out the goods that would have been exchanged, such as wool, pottery, jewelry, and spices. We have really enjoyed this week's lesson.



Data Handling with Year 6

In our new computing unit we are learning how to present data most effectively. For our first session, we looked at using a graphing software to transform a data table into a user friendly dual bar chart. Some of us then exported the bar chart to an additional document, where we typed up our explanation of the results.



PIC • COLLAGE






Learning

Get ready to play... OPAL BINGO



Year 1, you are responsible for the Machen World area. Your challenge is to collect the following items from friends and family (you do not need to buy them!) before the end of term. As a group, you must try to find all the items on the Bingo Board ... Good luck!

Bird houses 	Artificial flowers or real flowers 	Solar fairy lights 	Twigs, shells, leaves, conkers and pine cones 
Small logs to make fairy houses 	Little fairy chairs, benches, washing lines, bedroom and etc 	Small painted cable reels 	Painted rocks and pebbles 

Get ready to play... OPAL BINGO



Year 2, you are responsible for the Role Play area. Your challenge is to collect the following items from friends and family (you do not need to buy them!) before the end of term. As a group, you must try to find all the items on the Bingo Board ... Good luck!

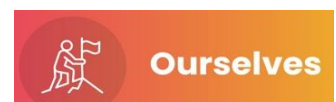
Microphones 	Curtains for putting on shows 	Wigs and hats 	Crazy glasses and sunglasses 
Masks 	Scarves and bags 	Puppets and a puppet theatre 	Real life clothes 

Get ready to play... OPAL BINGO



Year 3, you are responsible for the Digging area. Your challenge is to collect the following items from friends and family (you do not need to buy them!) before the end of term. As a group, you must try to find all the items on the Bingo Board ... Good luck!

Small brushes 	Spades 	Buckets 	Seeds 
Gloves 	Rakes 	Gardening tools 	Stepping stones 



Get ready to play... OPAL BINGO











Year 4, you are responsible for the ZEN Zone. Your challenge is to collect the following items from friends and family (you do not need to buy them!) before the end of term. As a group, you must try to find all the items on the Bingo Board ... Good luck!

Wind chime 	Tyre seats 	Outdoor seats 	Gnomes 
Fidget/sensory board 	Picnic rugs, yoga mats and outdoor cushions 	Tree decorations 	Stepping stones 

Get ready to play... OPAL BINGO











Year 5, you are responsible for the (NEW) Repair Centre. Your challenge is to collect the following items from friends and family (you do not need to buy them!) before the end of term. As a group, you must try to find all the items on the Bingo Board ... Good luck!

Tool boxes (plastic) 	Tool belts and aprons 	Nuts and bolts 	Wooden offcuts 
Small tyres and wheels 	Safety goggles 	Padlocks, keys, spanners 	Workbench 

Get ready to play... OPAL BINGO



Year 6, you are responsible for the (NEW) Mud Area on the field. Your challenge is to collect the following items from friends and family (you do not need to buy them!) before the end of term. As a group, you must try to find all the items on the Bingo Board ... Good luck!

Utensils 	Water butt 	Plants such as lavender, rosemary, chives, etc 	Pots and pans 
Mud kitchen furniture 	Baking trays 	Aprons 	Pinecones, dried oranges and lemons 



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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 26

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
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WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

As was the case with the last two EA Sports FC games and the FIFA series before it, the franchise rolls out once a year with updated squads and new features. This can make it expensive to keep up with, particularly when so many dedicated players are keen to get their hands on the latest edition.

VOICE CHAT

Voice chat can be enabled across all platforms, meaning young people can speak to anyone they play with or against. While it can be switched off, some children will no doubt want to speak to their friends while they play. This also means they may encounter strangers much older than them, which can expose them to inappropriate language or behaviours.

IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is the big draw for EA Sports FC, letting players spend real money on packs that they can open to build a squad of the world's best players. They're not always easy to obtain, and new, improved versions of players will be regularly added as limited-time offerings. Young people could feel pressured into spending money and experience fear of missing out.

SCAMMERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is managed by EA itself, but that hasn't stopped scammers from looking to dupe players out of money and in-game coins. Some scammers sell their accounts, which is a violation of EA's terms of service, while others will 'sell' coins – something the developer is still working to crack down on. Some try to gain access to others' accounts, potentially giving them access to payment information.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

While EA Sports FC is potentially addictive, thanks to its fast-paced gameplay and mirroring of the real-world skill and glamour of football, Ultimate Team's focus on limited-time rewards and the lottery of winning packs can make it feel closer to gambling than gaming, which may lead to addiction and impulsive spending of money.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR

The annual-release cadence aligns with the return of the school year, and can be a great way to incentivise good behaviour at the start of term. If children are applying themselves and preparing for a new year of school, or were particularly well behaved in the summer, EA Sports FC 26 could make a great reward.

LIMIT SPENDING

If you're worried about children accidentally spending real money in Ultimate Team, whether in game or on the EA Sports FC companion app, don't link a payment card to their account. Reclaiming funds can be a mountain to climb, and the dopamine hit of opening flashy packs with slick animations means one purchase can lead to another very quickly. It's also worth adding a prepaid card if you'd prefer them to make their own choices with their budget.

MONITOR VOICE CHAT

As in-game chat is open, be sure to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to call, to allow them to play without fear of outsiders.

BE VIGILANT

As with last year, there are ways to keep scammers at bay. Ensure passwords are locked down, and consider using a password manager application to keep them secure. EA will never contact players through the game itself, so be vigilant with incoming messages, and block and report suspected spam. EA will contact players by email if needed, but they will never ask for usernames or passwords. Players should also avoid buying in-game currency from unofficial websites – doing so can lead to accounts being banned and could cost players money in the process.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/ea-sports-fc-26>



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Dates for your Diary - Autumn Term 1



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