

24th October 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

I can't quite believe that we are at the October holidays already despite it being such a long half term. We have had such a busy term in school and I know that the children are ready for a break to reset and to come back raring to go for the run up to Christmas!

It was lovely to see so many of you at Church this morning to share in our Harvest Festival worship. I know that the children really enjoyed sharing their songs and poems with you and getting across the meaning of Harvest. Thank you again for your generous gifts of food and other items for The People's Kitchen and West End Foodbank. They will go to help those in need in our own local community.

For parents of children in Year 6 I would like to remind you that the deadline for applications for High School places is Thursday 31st October 2024. If you have not done so already you might be interested in watching Ponteland High School's latest information video which can be found by [clicking here](#).

Well done to the Year 5 football team who represented the school for a friendly match at Darras Hall Primary School. They played well and supported each other throughout the game. They had a great time and were amazing ambassadors for our school.

Could I take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of both listening to your child read and also sharing a story with them. This is a great way to spend special time together.

As the weather is getting wetter I would like to remind you that the children will need wellies and appropriate waterproof clothing for outside play and to access all the OPAL play areas. Thank you for your help with this.

I would like to remind you that Monday 3rd November 2025 is a teacher training day and school reopens on Tuesday 4th November 2025.

Well done to Year 6 with the best attendance this week: an amazing 100%.

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

I hope that you enjoy reading this flyer and have a peaceful and relaxing break. We look forward to seeing everyone safe and well back in School on **Tuesday 4th November 2025**.

Mr. A. Wheatley,
Headteacher



Attendance Matters



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

Northumberland
County Council

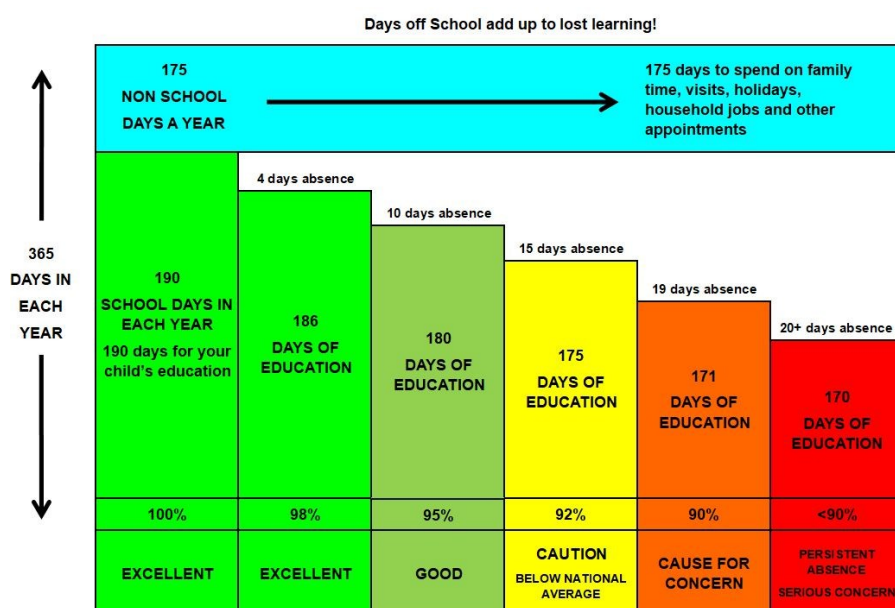


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Nursery (Hedgehogs)	98.6%	96.5%	Year 3 (Gibside)	96.4%	97.1%
Reception (Owls)	89.2%	96.5%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	91.5%	95.7%
Year 1 (Wallington)	92.8%	94.6%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	97.1%	98%
Year 2 (Craggside)	99.7%	98.9%	Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	100%	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

A Creative Week with Nursery

This week, the Hedgehogs have been busy developing their skills across different areas. In the painting area, they have been exploring colour mixing to create pumpkin artwork. In the creative area, children have been learning how to stick and join a variety of materials. What a creative bunch you are, Hedgehogs. We have had a fantastic first half term together!



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Learning

A Busy Week in Reception

We have had a great week making potions, matching Autumn colours and looking at repeating patterns. We all loved celebrating Miss Smith's special birthday too!



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Ourselves

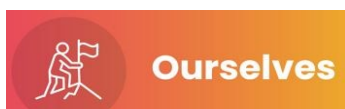
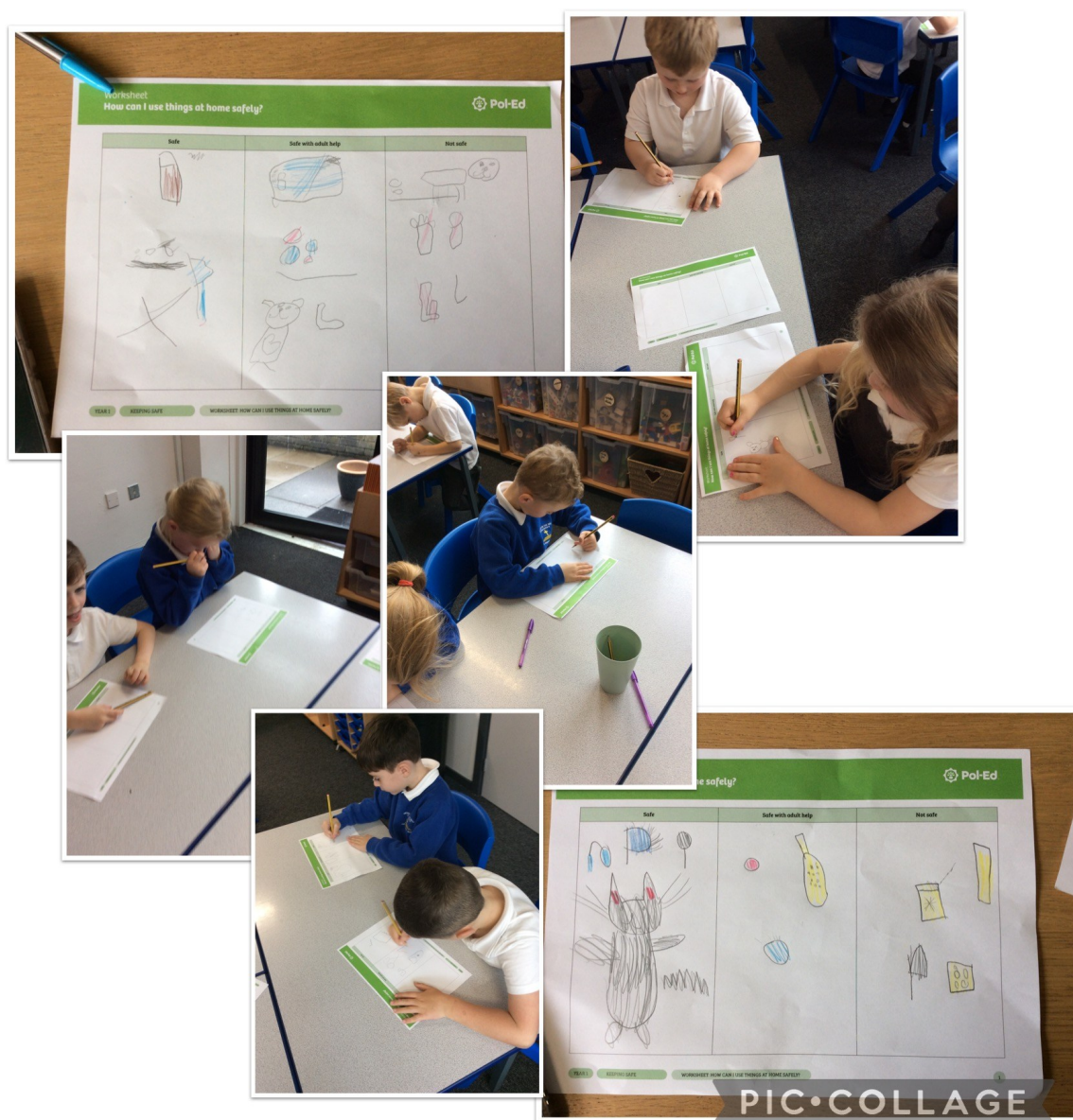
Others



Learning

Keeping Safe with Year 1

In PSHE this week we were discussing how we stay safe, particularly how to stay safe at home. We talked about the things we can use independently on our own, such as a hairbrush, the things we can do with an adult, like cooking, and things we shouldn't ever use. We then drew our thoughts into the categories on our worksheet. What a brilliant first half-term we have had together in Year 1.



Chocolate Cake in Year 2!

This week in English we have been looking at the poem 'Chocolate Cake' by Michael Rosen. We were inspired to write our own poems based on our favourite food. From pizza to pickles and chocolate to fish goujons we have a wide variety of poems. Great work Year 2!

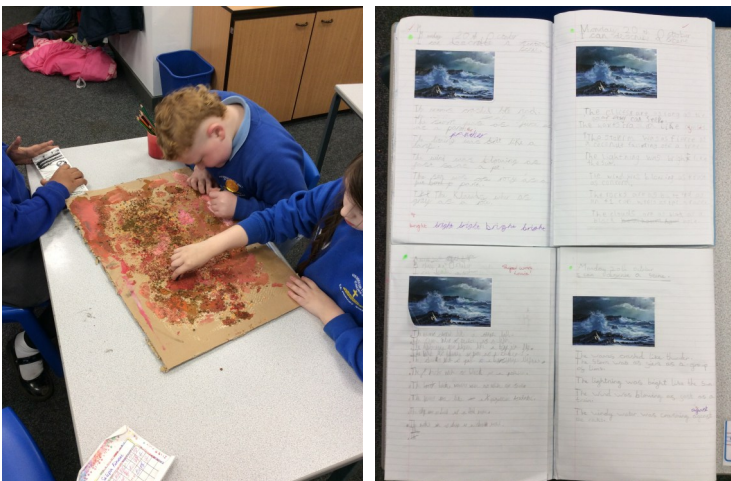
Thursday 23rd October I can complete a modelled verse of a poem. I can perform my poem out loud. My favourite food in the entire world is <u>Pepperoni Pizza</u> It looks <u>cheesy</u> and <u>delicious</u> It smells <u>yummy</u> and <u>meaty</u> When I take a bite it makes a <u>melting</u> sound. It feels <u>slippery</u> and <u>sweet</u> in my mouth.	Thursday 23rd October I can complete a modelled verse of a poem. I can perform my poem out loud. My favourite food in the entire world is <u>lumpy</u> It looks <u>gooey</u> and <u>hot</u> It smells <u>peppery</u> and <u>delicious</u> ohhh When I take a bite it makes a <u>hard and yum</u> sound. It feels <u>cold and sweet</u> in my mouth.
Thursday 23rd October I can complete a modelled verse of a poem. I can perform my poem out loud. My favourite food in the entire world is <u>fish goujons</u> It looks <u>light brown</u> It smells <u>yum</u> and <u>delicious</u> When I take a bite it makes a <u>soft sweet</u> sound. It feels <u>hot and crunchy</u> in my mouth. <u>gobble gobble gobble</u>	Thursday 23rd October I can complete a modelled verse of a poem. I can perform my poem out loud. My favourite food in the entire world is <u>chocolate</u> It looks <u>creamy</u> and <u>gooey</u> It smells <u>sweet</u> and <u>soft</u> When I take a bite it makes a <u>hard</u> sound. It feels <u>melty</u> and <u>delicious</u> in my mouth. <u>gobble, gobble, gobble</u>
Thursday 23rd October I can complete a modelled verse of a poem. I can perform my poem out loud. My favourite food in the entire world is <u>chocolate</u> It looks <u>hard</u> and <u>cold</u> It smells <u>creamy</u> and <u>sweet</u> When I take a bite it makes a <u>crunchy</u> sound. It feels <u>soft</u> and <u>yum</u> in my mouth.	Thursday 23rd October I can complete a modelled verse of a poem. I can perform my poem out loud. My favourite food in the entire world is <u>flies</u> It looks <u>scaly</u> and <u>rocked</u> It smells <u>delicious</u> and <u>hot</u> When I take a bite it makes a <u>crunchy, crack</u> sound. It feels <u>hard</u> and <u>squishy</u> in my mouth. <u>Gobble Gobble!</u> WORD BANK
Thursday 23rd October I can complete a modelled verse of a poem. I can perform my poem out loud. My favourite food in the entire world is <u>banana ice cream</u> It looks <u>creamy</u> and <u>smooth</u> It smells <u>like banana</u> and <u>sweet</u> When I take a bite it makes a <u>crunchy</u> sound. It feels <u>smooth</u> and <u>hard</u> in my mouth.	Thursday 23rd October I can complete a modelled verse of a poem. I can perform my poem out loud. My favourite food in the entire world is <u>chocolate</u> It looks <u>sticky</u> and <u>melty</u> It smells <u>thick</u> and <u>sweet</u> When I take a bite it makes a <u>crunchy</u> sound. It feels <u>smooth</u> and <u>hard</u> in my mouth. PIC•COLLAGE



Learning

A Busy Week in Year 3!

Year 3 have had a great week to round off Autumn 1. At the start of the week, Mr Smith gave our PE lesson a spooky twist by asking the children to get into teams and dodge the zombies whilst trying to steal another team's 'pumpkins'. We have been writing some descriptive pieces in English, using similes to help our setting descriptions. We completed our Art project by creating a cave wall by gluing couscous and lentils onto a piece of card in groups and then painting over it in earth colours. We finished this off by drawing the outlines of British wild animals in charcoal which the class discovered was much harder than it looked! We have spent a lot of time practicing our Harvest song 'Harvest Samba' and we hope that you enjoyed watching the Year 3 performance in the church, I thought they did a brilliant job.



Learning

Others



Sewing Roman Bullas in Year 4

Year 4 are feeling so proud of their finished Roman Bullas. Perseverance and resilience have been demonstrated again and again throughout the designing, skill building and creating of these beautiful bullas. Each person has their own lucky charm to keep safely inside, too. I hope they will hold some treasured memories!



Life



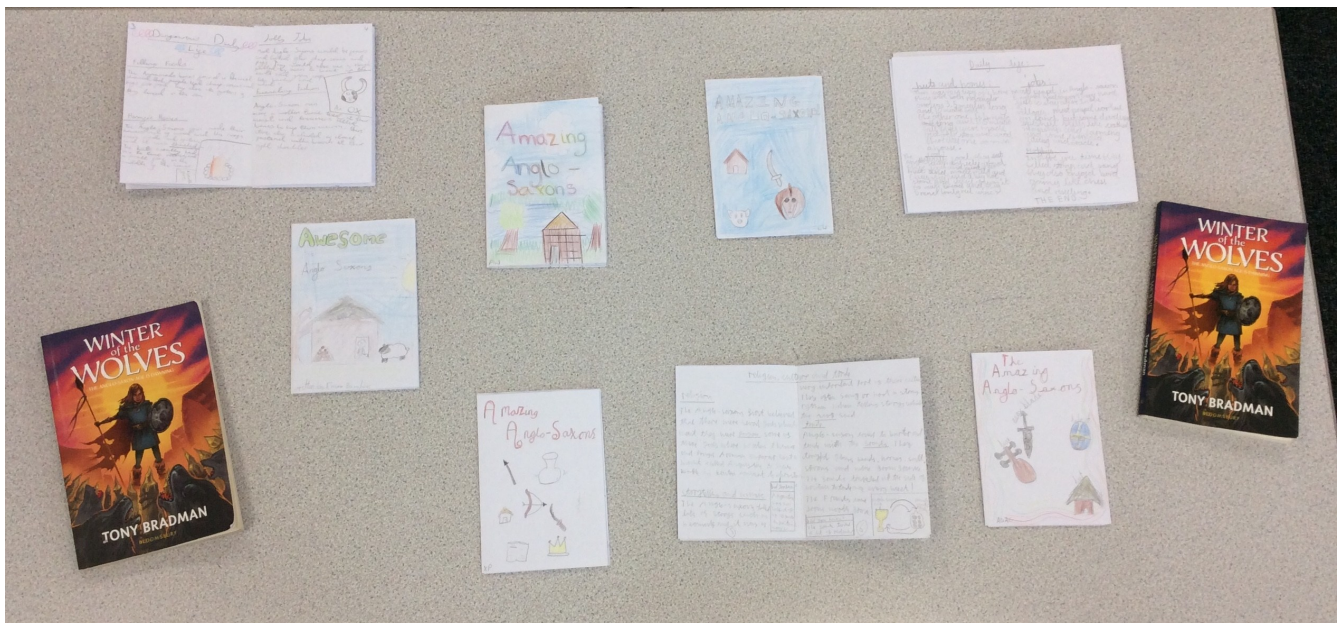
Learning

'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14

The Power of Words with Year 5

Our Year 5 class has been learning all about the Anglo-Saxons invading and settling in Britain. This helped us record and share all of our knowledge in our own information booklets. We explored daily life, religion, the Christian conversion and trade in Anglo-Saxon times. We are really proud of our work and hope you enjoy discovering what we have learned!



Learning

All about the Vikings in Year 6!

To end our Viking unit, Year 6 created mind maps summarising our learning across the half term. I was really impressed with the detail and presentation of their work. Additionally, I'd like to say a big well done for their attitude and effort across our first round of SATs tests this week. I know some of them are very keen to receive their marked papers; these will be handed out after the half term break.





Well done to Early Years and Key Stage 1 for an amazing half term and a fantastic harvest festival show this morning! Well done and thank you for the amazing songs and dances! Happy half term Early Years and Key stage 1!

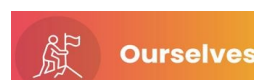




Key Stage 2 have had an amazing half term this autumn and a great harvest festival this morning! Well done for all your hard work this term!



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Harvest Donations

Thank you once again for your generous donations of food and other items for both The People's Kitchen and The West End Foodbank. They will make a real difference to people in need in our local area. This is a lovely way to show our love for others at this Harvest time.



PIC•COLLAGE

Others



CELEBRATE SAFELY



Hi there!



I'm Frankie Fire Dog, and I want to remind you that staying safe is just as important as having fun this autumn, especially as the nights get darker and we get ready for exciting events like Halloween and Bonfire Night.

REMEMBER

Bonfire Night isn't a time to burn old stuff or rubbish. Make sure to recycle or use the bins at home to get rid of it the right way!

MORE ADVICE

humbersidefire.gov.uk

Check social media for local Halloween and Bonfire Night events.

Dark NIGHTS

Stay safe by sticking with at least two friends or family. Bring a torch, keep your phone charged, and wear something reflective so drivers can see you!

Firework SAFETY

It's easier to take the hassle out of organising your own event and go to an organised firework display. But if you are using fireworks at home, carefully follow the instructions. Never return to a firework once it's lit, even if it seems to have malfunctioned. Always stand well back and keep others at a safe distance.

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 FORTNITE

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite; it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

There's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like The Witcher and Halo.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Power Rangers and Avatar: The Last Airbender, to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

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.



#WakeUpWednesday

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Dates for your Diary - Autumn Term 1



w/c Monday 27th October 2025	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Saturday 1st November 2025	Online Reception Class Place Application Portal opens
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
Friday 28th November 2025	Choir singing at The Swan and the Knott Hall after school (More details to follow)
Friday 5th December 2025	Friends of Heddon Christmas Fair from 1.30pm
Monday 8th December 2025	Year 5 visit to the Great North Museum
Tuesday 8th December 2025	Year 6 visit to Beamish
Thursday 11th December 2025	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 11th December 2025	Choir Christmas Showcase in School Hall at 4.30pm

Dates for your Diary - Autumn Term 2



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
Wednesday 17th December 2025	Christmas Dinner Day in School.
Thursday 18th December 2025	Clumsiest Elf Performance (Theatre Group) in school for Early Years at 1pm
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