

7th November 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back everyone! It is great to be back in school this week as we begin perhaps the busiest and most exciting term of the year. Not only are the children busy with their learning but we begin that magical and exciting run up to Christmas which will be here before we know it! As I write this the sounds of classes practising their Christmas songs is ringing around the school. Please check out the Diary section at the end of the Flyer for the dates of all of our upcoming Christmas events.

This week has also been 'Green Careers Week'. We were pleased to welcome Northern Gas into school who led workshops across Key Stage 2. The children got to learn about renewable energy and climate change and biogas reactors. Some classes even got to generate their own biogas! The children have also been exploring and researching 'green' careers which they were interested in.

We have recently changed how our School Council works to increase their involvement in school and to give all children a voice. Please check out the page later in the flyer written by Alex and Poppy, two of our school councillors, to find out more.

It has been lovely to see so many of you at parents evening this week. If you were unable to attend, the school will be contacting you to arrange a telephone appointment with your child's teacher. Staff in school are always happy to speak with you should you wish to do so. You can do this via the home learning email addresses or via the School Office.

Thank you to everyone who completed the Reading survey. We will be collating this over the coming days and will use the information to refine our support for children and parents in relation to reading.

The online portal for Reception place admissions for September 2026 is now open. If your child is in Nursery and you have not yet applied please see the page later in the flyer for more information about the application process.

We have a three way tie for the best attendance this week: Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 have an amazing 100%!

Well done to Year 6 for the best attendance for this year: 99.5%.

I hope that you enjoy reading this flyer and have a relaxing weekend.

Mr. A. Wheatley,
Headteacher



'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14

Attendance Matters



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

Northumberland
County Council

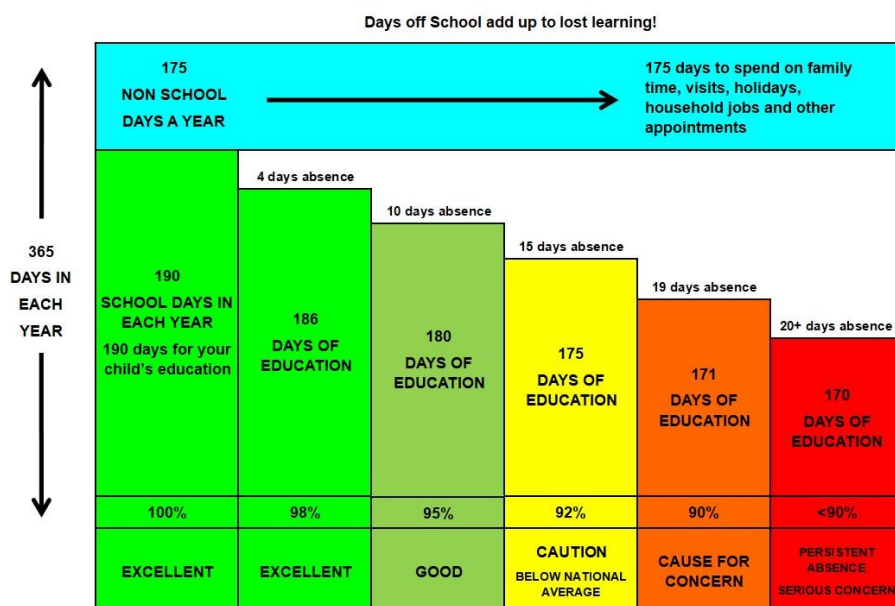


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Nursery (Hedgehogs)	97.5%	97%	Year 3 (Gibside)	96%	96.6%
Reception (Owls)	98.4%	97.5%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	100%	97.8%
Year 1 (Wallington)	93%	93.8%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	100%	99%
Year 2 (Craggside)	98.8%	98.8%	Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	100%	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 a brilliant first week back! They have been busy making their own rockets, developing their cutting skills, painting fireworks, mark making in glitter and learning about repeating patterns.



PIC•COLLAGE

The Three Little Pigs in Reception

Reception had a brilliant time this week starting our focus on The Three Little Pigs. We built houses together, thinking about how important their structural stability was.



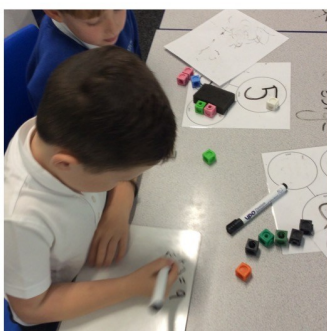
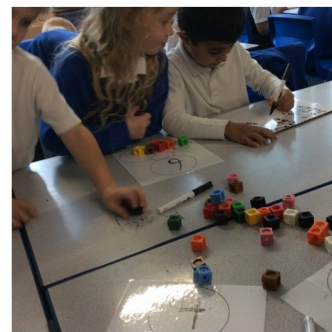
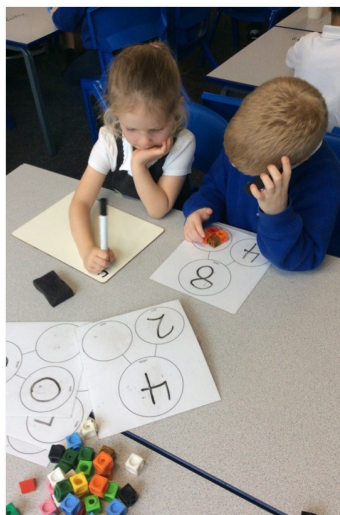
PIC•COLLAGE



Learning

Subtraction with Year 1

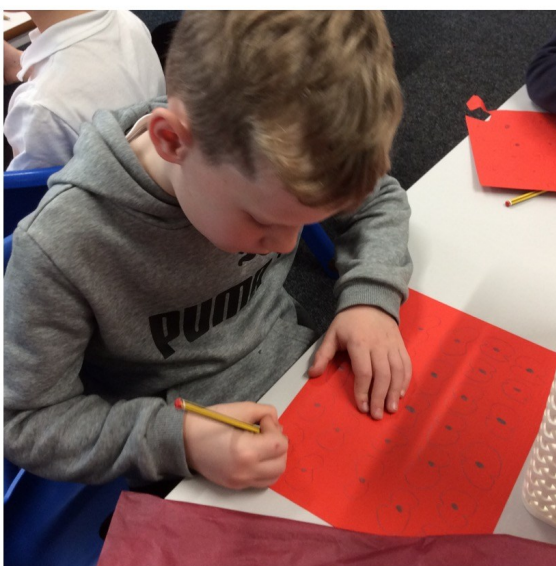
What a lovely week we have had after the half-term holidays. This week in Maths we were recapping our previous learning from before the holidays and were using our knowledge to answer addition problems. Then we have begun to learn how to subtract, we started this by learning how to find a missing part. We used a part-whole model and using cubes we had to add the number of cubes it would take to get us from one part to the whole and that would give us our missing part. Well done Year 1!



Learning

Remembrance with Year 2!

In Year 2, our history enquiry question this half term is 'Why is Remembrance Day important?' We have been learning about the armistice and what happens on Remembrance Day each year. This week we have been busy creating lots of poppies to make our own wreath. We will be taking our wreath to the war memorial in Heddon next week.



PIC•COLLAGE

Others



Learning

A Busy Week in Year 3!

Year 3 have had a busy start to the term. On Tuesday we started our new Geography topic 'Where in the World are we?' in which we looked at countries in the northern and southern hemisphere and identified the equator. On Wednesday morning, we had a visitor from Northern Gas who spoke to us all about power sources and renewable energy. We did an experiment by filling plastic bottles with fruit, yeast and water and the put a balloon over the top. Over the next day, the balloon started to inflate as the gas was created. We did not have ukulele this week but instead started our 'linkage's and leverages' DT project which the class really enjoyed. Finally we finished the week off by starting our new science topic 'Light', where the children looked around the class to identify the different sources of light.



Exploring Perimeter in Year 4

Year 4 have been exploring perimeter this week. A deep understanding of this concept is vital when problem solving about shapes and measures so, to build these strong foundations, we practically demonstrated perimeter as the distance around the edge of a shape. I cannot wait to see how far this rich understanding will take us!



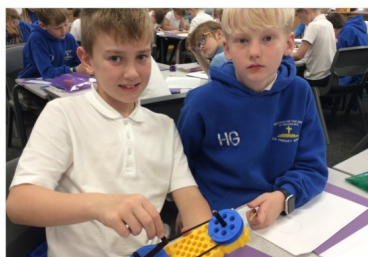
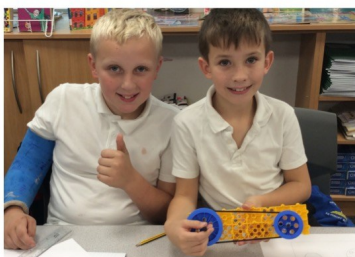
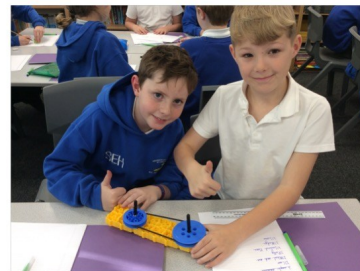
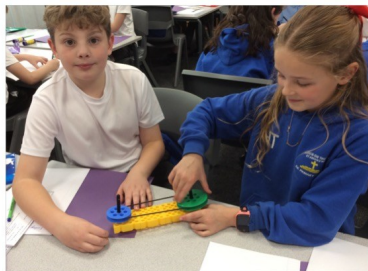
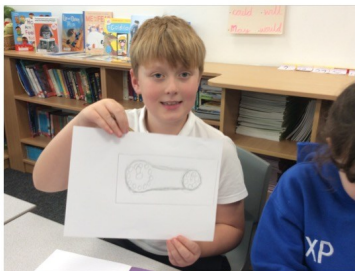
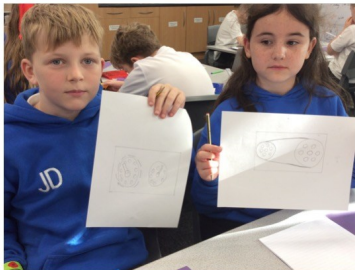
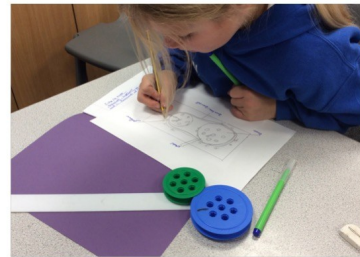
PIC•COLLAGE



Learning

Exploring Pulleys with Year 5

This week in Design and Technology, Year 5 explored the six simple machines, focusing on pulleys. We looked at how pulleys are used in everyday machines like cranes, cars, and bikes, and discussed how they make work easier. The children were fascinated to see a two-wheel pulley system in action and labelled its parts — driver, follower, spindle, belt, and motor spindle. A great start to our new topic on mechanical systems!



Learning

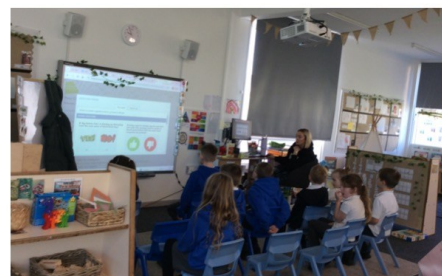


Net zero Project - We had a visit from Northern Gas Network today to learn about Global Warming and how we can work to make changes for a better more sustainable future.

"We can do it, we must do it. It is within our power to do it. Then there might be a future for our planet." (David Attenborough)



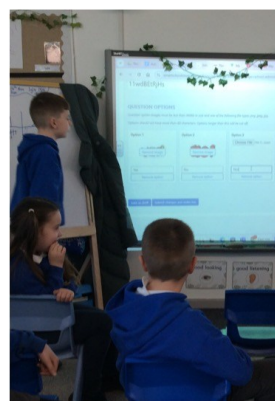
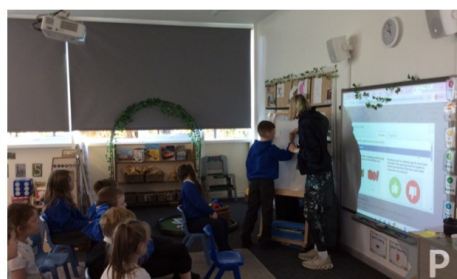
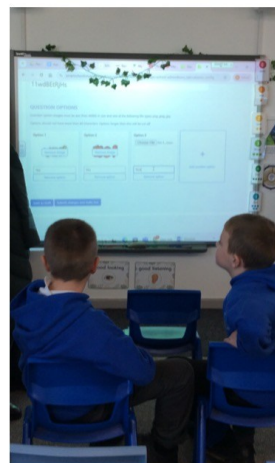
PIC•COLLAGE



We have recently started a new way of doing our school council meetings.

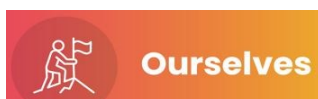
Last week, we had interesting debates about social media. Today we had another Smart school council meeting.

We discussed which question we would like to debate on Wednesday during our assembly.



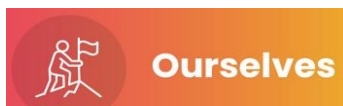
PIC•COLLAGE

This article was written by Alex and Poppy.



Training our New Sports Leaders

A big well done and thank you to the Year 6 sport leaders who took part in a morning of training this week. Their behaviour was exemplary, and it was great to see some new ideas that we could use in our own PE sessions and play times.



Our New Sports Leaders First Session

A great PE session on Thursday, delivered by our Sport Leaders. After their training on Thursday, the sports leaders demonstrated some new games and activities to their classmates, all designed to get us moving more. In small groups, they played the new games competitively.



Reception Places in Schools September 2026 - Admissions Portal Open

If your child is due to start school in Reception class in Northumberland in September 2026 and you live in the county, you will need to apply for a place at your preferred first or primary schools via the Council's Admissions Portal **between 1st November 2025 and 15th January 2026**.

The link to the Admissions Portal is here [Admissions Portal](#)
Guidance on how to use the portal is available here:

[Guidance on How to Use Admissions Portal for Reception Places](#)

Further information about applying the online is available here:

[School Admissions Leaflet 2026-27](#)

Information on school admissions policies, the admission process and details of individual high and secondary schools and the Admissions Handbook are available here: [School information handbooks | Northumberland County Council](#)

We advise that you read the Admissions Handbook carefully before applying on the portal, but if you have any further questions on admissions then please contact the Admissions Team via the email provided above.

Please note that if your application for a place for your child is submitted **after 15th January 2026** it will be classified as late and will not be considered until all other on-time applications have been allocated – this may jeopardise your child's chances of securing a place at your preferred school or schools.

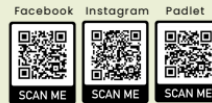
If you live in Newcastle you have to apply via the Newcastle City Council admission portal which can be found here: <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/apply-school-place/applying-reception-places>

Please note that attendance at the school Nursery does not automatically guarantee a place in Reception.

WEST NORTHUMBERLAND FAMILY HUBS

What's on for Prudhoe Families

All Sessions
Free to
Attend



Early Learning & Play  Parents Early Education Partnership

Playful, supportive sessions for young children and their families to learn, connect, and enjoy activities together.

STAY & PLAY

Ages 0-5 Years | Mondays 1:30-2:30pm | Richard Coates CE Primary School, Ponteland, NE20 9QB

Ages 0-18 months | Tuesdays 10-11am | Prudhoe Family Hub

Ages 0-5 Years | Wednesdays 10-11:30am | Albemarle (For Military Families Only)

Ages 0-5 years | Thursdays 10-11:30am | Prudhoe Family Hub

Ages 0-5 Years | Fridays 1-2pm | Prudhoe Family Hub

EARLY COMMUNICATORS Booking Required!

Ages 15-36 months | Tuesdays (4 weeks from 4 November) | Virtual Session

Ages 15-36 months | Wednesdays (6 weeks from 5 November) | Prudhoe Family Hub

Additional Needs &/or Disabilities (AND)

Supportive sessions for children and young people with additional needs, and their families, to connect, relax, and share experiences.

CALM STAY & PLAY

Ages 0-5 years | Tuesdays 1-2pm | Prudhoe Family Hub

AND CHILL OUT

Ages 4-14 years | Tuesdays (Fortnightly from 4 November) 3:30-4:30pm | Prudhoe Family Hub

AUTISM FAMILY SUPPORT DROP-IN

Ages 0-19 years | Thursday 13th November 10am-12pm | Hexham Family Hub

EMPOWERING PARENTS Booking Required!

Coming Soon, Please Contact Your Local Family Hub For Details

Parent Support & Skills

Workshops and discussions helping parents and carers strengthen relationships and support their children's wellbeing.

SLEEP WORKSHOP Booking Required!

For Parents/Carers with Children Aged 4-25 | Tuesday 25 November 4:30-6:30pm | Virtual Session

For Parents/Carers with Children Aged 4-25 | Wednesday 17 December | 10am-12pm | Virtual Session

Baby Support & Early Parenting

Friendly sessions for new and expectant parents to connect, learn, and explore their baby's growth and development together.

PEEP BABIES Booking Required!

Ages 0-6 months | Thursdays (6 weeks from 6 November) | Prudhoe Family Hub

Ages 6-12 months | Prudhoe Family Hub | Contact Your Family Hub

HENRY PREPARATION FOR PARENTHOOD Booking Required!

For Expectant Parents | Tuesdays (4 Weeks from 4 November) 3:30-4:30pm | Hexham Family Hub

BUILDING A BRAIN Booking Required!

Expectant Parents and Families with Young Children | Wednesday 19th November 6pm | Virtual Session

Get in touch with Prudhoe Family Hub:
📞 01661 839350 | ✉️ westfamilyhubs@northumberland.gov.uk

Book your Midwife or Health Visitor appointment at the Family Hub:
📞 Health Visitor: 0300 373 2488 | Midwife: 0300 811 8118

WEST NORTHUMBERLAND FAMILY HUBS

We are here for everyone. Feel free to call in at any time when we are open, a member of the team will be able to help or signpost to another service. We look forward to seeing you soon, you will receive a warm welcome.





DadPad

Family Hubs in Northumberland have teamed up with DadPad, which is an essential guide for new dads, developed with the NHS. The resource will support you and your partner to give your baby the best possible start in life.



DadTalk

Free online workshop for dads - during pregnancy and beyond! Topics include the importance of 'Dad', the rollercoaster of change, coping with crying, changing, sleeping and feeding, where to get more help and support and celebrating fathers.



Feeding Friends

Whether you're getting started with breastfeeding or starting solids and everything else in between, the Infant Feeding team provide emotional support, both antenatal and postnatal.



Healthy Relationships

Arguments are part of every healthy relationship but when they become frequent, intense and poorly resolved, they have a negative impact on you and your family. The Family Hub offers courses to support you and your family.



HENRY

Provides tips and support for parents and carers. Explore how to provide a healthy, happy and supportive environment for the whole family. One-off workshops also available - Starting Solids, Fussy Eaters, Understanding Behaviour and many more.



Togetherness (FREE online courses)

These courses are designed to help you understand your child's feelings, as well as focus on your own feelings, as you go through life as a family. You will also learn to understand the changes in your child's development and how to make the most out of each relationship.



Wellbeing Service

As part of the Family Hub offer, personalised support is now available to new and expecting mothers, fathers, and significant others (up until the child is two) who are experiencing mental health issues.



Digital Services

Healthy Relationships, Solihull, DadPad and DadTalk

We are here to ensure that support services are accessible to families across Northumberland, and we offer a range of support including a wide digital offer.

Contact your Family Hub for dates and times.



Partner Services

Autism drop-ins, Relax Kids and Charge Up

We offer services in partnership with other organisations.

Contact your Family Hub for dates and times.



Sleep Awareness

Worried or have and questions regarding your child and sleep? Speak to one of our sleep awareness trained practitioners for guidance and support.

Contact your Family Hub for further information.



Universal Services

AND Chill Out, Peep Stay & Play, Family Panel

We want every family in our communities across Northumberland to enjoy the benefits of our Family Hubs. We offer a wide range of free activities for parents-to-be, babies, children and young people.



Wider Support

Navigating Parenthood

A successful and mutually supportive course that helps with information and ideas that have been found to help parents navigate parenting older children and teens. A great approach to take the heat out of parenting and help keep mums and dads calm and in control, without shouting, screaming or worse!



Find us on Facebook, and Instagram -

  @WestFamilyHubs



Request information for services, or to become a member with West Family Hubs.

'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14

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 POKÉMON TCG POCKET

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Pokémon TCG Pocket is a mobile version of the hugely popular Pokémon Trading Card Game, downloaded over 100 million times on Android and iOS. Players collect cards, battle others online, and open packs of cards – known as booster packs – to expand their decks. While the core game can be fun and helps develop tactical and numeracy skills, its design encourages spending and can feed addictive behaviours – making it important for adults to understand the risks.

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
3

ADDICTIVE PACK OPENING

Booster packs rely on probability to provide rare or powerful cards. The excitement of opening them – and the dopamine rush when finding a sought-after card – can become addictive. Unlike purely cosmetic loot boxes, the cards here are integral to competitive gameplay, adding extra pressure for serious gamers to collect more.

QUICK BUT ABSORBING

Card battles last around five to six minutes, making it easy to fit in "just one more game". This quick format, combined with the drive to win, can lead to prolonged play sessions and increased screen time without noticing. With limited-time Ranked Match seasons constantly being refreshed – an opportunity to accumulate points and earn profile emblems – players may find themselves drawn into this game mechanic repeatedly.

PREMIUM PASS PRESSURE

A monthly subscription gives players access to exclusive missions, rewards, and an extra daily booster pack. Missions and rewards are replaced each month, providing an incentive to stay subscribed. While some premium rewards are exclusive, others are available through free play – making the pass more about faster progression and obtaining cosmetic items than true necessity.

ENDLESS PACK LOOPS

New themed sets of cards are released each month, ranging from around 85 to over 370 cards per expansion. This constant cycle encourages players to keep opening packs in an effort to complete collections or improve their battle decks, potentially promoting unhealthy spending habits. With the introduction of limited-time booster packs, some players may feel increased pressure to collect these cards while they're still available.

COST OF BOOSTER PACKS

Although free to play, with set rewards and two free booster packs given daily, players can exchange Poké Gold if they wish to open more, and a small amount of Poké Gold is rewarded for free as the player levels up. Poké Gold is also sold in bundles that are often just short of what players need to open extra packs, encouraging them to buy additional bundles.

COMPETITIVE ONLINE PLAY

Interactions in Pokémon TCG Pocket are relatively safe – there's no messaging between players, friend requests require player approval, no real names are used, and card trading is restricted to fair trades between friends. On the other hand, the competitive nature of online play can still cause frustration, over-investment, and isolation if children spend too much time focused on the game.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR SPENDING HABITS

Set clear boundaries around in-game purchases. Treat Poké Gold as an occasional reward rather than routine reward, helping children develop healthier attitudes towards digital spend.

SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Talk about the unpredictable nature of booster packs and prepare children for disappointment when duplicates appear or rare cards don't surface. Understanding probability can help minimise disappointment – use the game's built-in offering rates guides to find out more about it.

PLAY TOGETHER

Card battles can help children learn tactics, problem-solving, and rule-following, as well as numeracy skills. Playing alongside them is a great way to share in their enjoyment, while also modelling balanced play and keeping an eye on how much they're investing in the game.

TEACH FAIRNESS

Losing a battle can be discouraging, especially when money has been spent on collecting the cards to build a deck. Support children in recognising the importance of fairness, learning from both wins and losses, and making considered choices when trading cards.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and children's book author with over 15 years of experience. Specialising in technology and gaming, he has written extensively on how digital platforms affect young people and has been playing games for more than three decades.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®



@wake_up_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 29.10.2025

Dates for your Diary - Autumn Term 1



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
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

Dates for your Diary - Autumn Term 2



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