

21st November 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

The cold and snowy weather this week has been the first real blast of Winter but it has not stopped the children's learning. They have made the most of the snow and ice to explore Autumnal changes and contrast this to other times in the year. It was lovely to see Nursery outside using the ice and snow to learn through exploration and play.

The more eagle eyed amongst you may have spotted Reception out and about in the village learning all about the different types of homes in Heddon. They had a great time and returned with lots of rosy cheeks! Many thanks to the parents who accompanied the children on their walk.

I would like to remind you that next Friday (28th November) is the Village Christmas Fair at the Knott Hall. The school choir is singing to open this event. This has become a bit of a Christmas tradition and always signals to me the beginning of the preparations for the Christmas season. The children are singing at 5.45pm and we would love to see you there to support them and join in some singing!

This week you will have received further information about the 'smartphone free childhood' initiative. We know that going smartphone free can make a real difference to your child's learning, physical and mental wellbeing. To date only a small number of parents have signed up to the Parent Pact and we would like to see this number increase. The initiative can only work effectively when significant numbers of people work together. Together we can make a difference!

Well done to Year 2 with the best attendance this week: 99.2%!

Well done to Year 2 and Year 6 for the best attendance for this year: 98.6%.

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

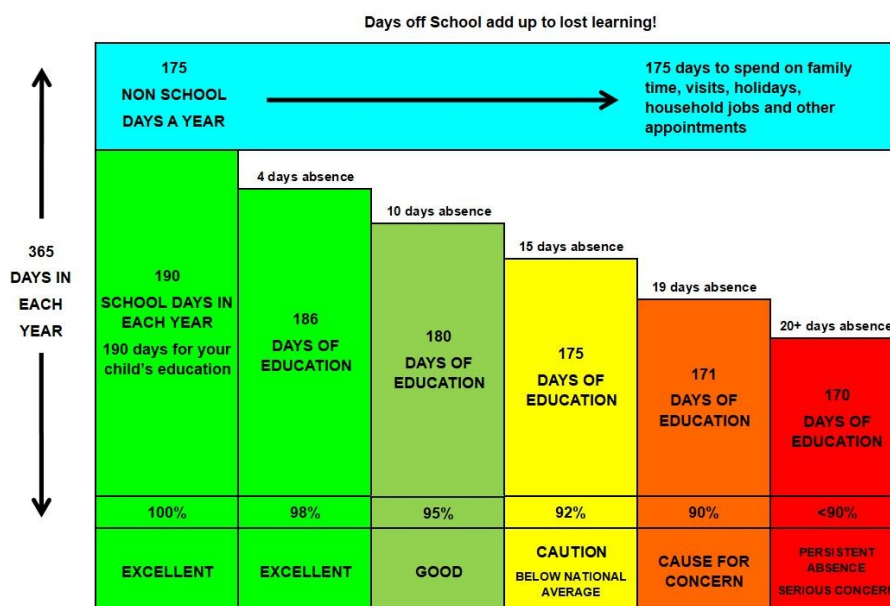


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Nursery (Hedgehogs)	98.7%	97.6%	Year 3 (Gibside)	95.2%	97.1%
Reception (Owls)	96.1%	97.3%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	97.3%	97.1%
Year 1 (Wallington)	99.2%	95.9%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	97.4%	98.2%
Year 2 (Craggside)	96.1%	98.6%	Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	96.8%	98.6%

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 loved making the most of the cold weather this week. Everyone wrapped up warm with their hats scarves and wellies, before heading out to explore. They had so much fun!



PIC•COLLAGE

House Spotting in Heddon with Reception

Reception had a great time walking around Heddon on Monday - it was a crisp, bright afternoon; perfect for spotting different types of houses. Many thanks to the parents who accompanied us.



PIC•COLLAGE



Learning

Story time (in French) with Year 1!

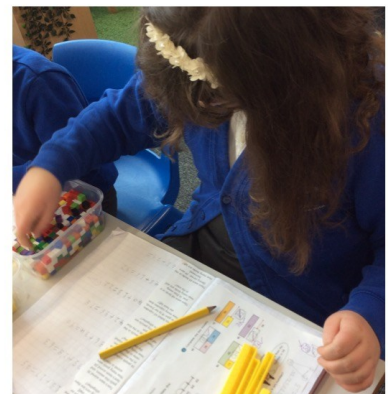
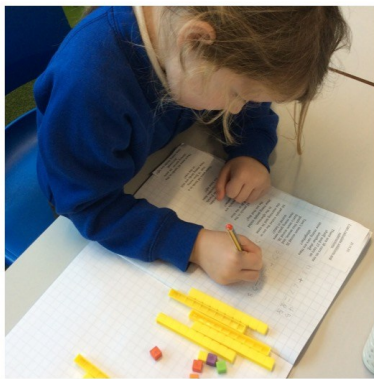
Today in Year 1 we have started to have our special weekly story time with Madame Humes. It is special because Madame Humes reads us a story in French! Today she read the story of the Three Little Pigs and even though it was in a brand new language that we haven't used before we all managed to understand what was happening. We even managed to join in and say a few French words. We can't wait for our story time next time!



Learning

Addition and Subtraction in Year 2.

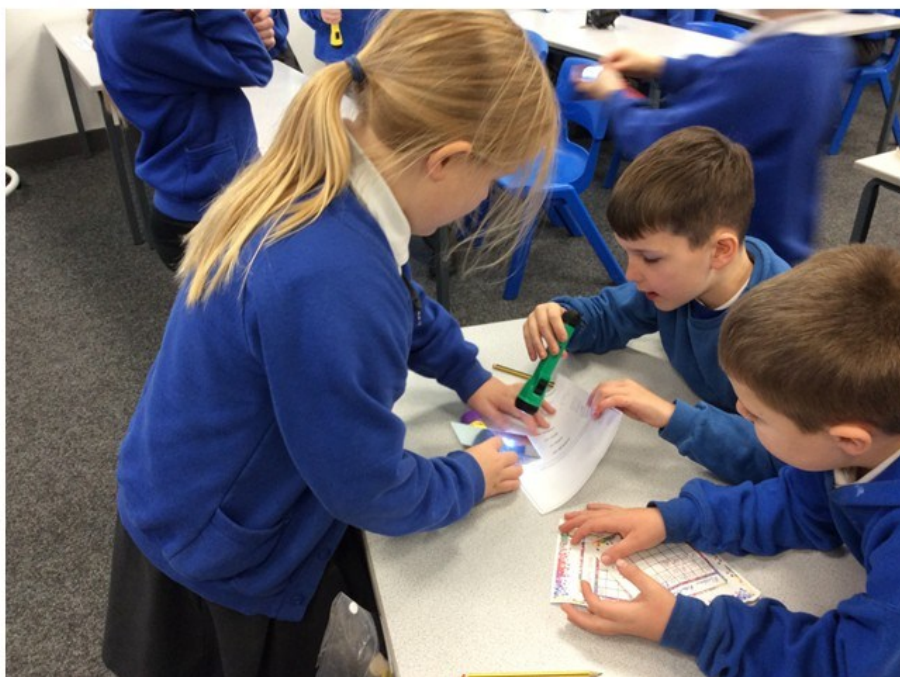
In Year 2 we have continued to look at addition and subtraction in Maths. We have been using base 10 to support us with our calculations, especially when we are working across a 10 so we need to exchange 10 to calculate the answer. We have also challenged ourselves to answer word problems. Super work!



PIC•COLLAGE

A Busy Week in Year 3.

This week in Year 3, we have been working hard across all our subjects, especially in geography where we have been learning about an eight-point compass and how to use it to direct someone. This builds upon our knowledge of the equator and tropics that we have been learning about this term. We have been writing newspaper reports on the disappearance of the princes from our book 'Alfie Onion'. The class have come up with some fantastic ideas!



Winter Orienteering with Year 4

Year 4's orienteering session had an extra sprinkle of excitement this week! The challenge of using a map to locate control points around the school grounds was increased by a visit from Jack Frost. We are becoming so much more confident in our map reading AND we had so much fun, too!



PIC•COLLAGE

Others



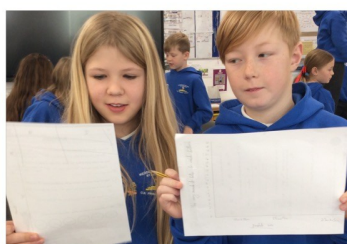
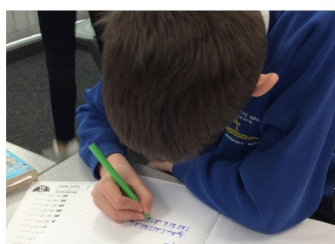
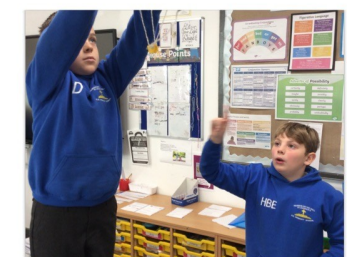
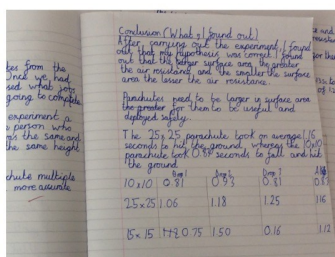
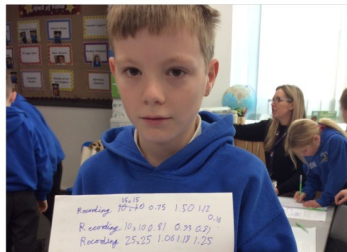
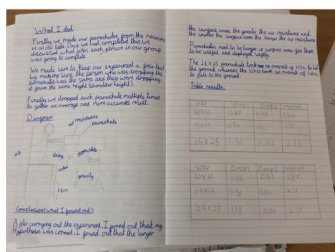
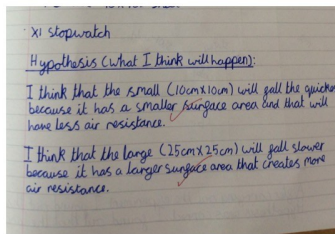
Learning

Life



Experimenting with Parachutes in Year 5

Our Year 5 scientists had an exciting time investigating how the surface area of a parachute affects air resistance. They designed and built their own parachutes using different-sized materials, then tested how long it would take for their parachute to fall. Everyone loved watching their creations glide to the ground. It was a fun, hands-on way to explore forces and discover what makes a parachute most effective. We also have gained some invaluable skills when creating a detailed Scientific write-up.



Writing in Character with Year 6

In Year 6 this week we have been writing in the role of a character, as either Ebenezer Scrooge or his nephew, Fred. We have explored the type of vocabulary our character may use in their writing, in addition to the level of formality that we should aim for. The children produced some fantastic persuasive letters. Well done!





THE PARENT PACT

**Want to wait to give your child a smartphone
but don't want them to be the odd one out?**

You're not alone!

There's a growing movement of parents across Britain who are choosing to wait to give their children smartphones, and it's simple to get involved.

The Parent Pact is a way to join together with other families in your school to agree to delay getting your child a smartphone until at least 14 (when they're a bit older and more able to deal with everything the online world brings).

It's all about strength in numbers – if your child knows that other kids in their class won't be getting a smartphone for a few years either, the peer pressure dissolves. Over 100,000 families have signed already, and it's growing fast.

It takes 30 seconds to sign the Parent Pact – and you can see how many others in your child's class, school and county have signed on the live leaderboards.



Sign the PARENT PACT

Or find out more on our website

SMARTPHONEFREECHILDHOOD.ORG

[@SMARTPHONEFREECHILDHOOD](https://twitter.com/SMARTPHONEFREECHILDHOOD)

Heddon Christmas Market

Please see the poster below about the Heddon Christmas Market. As usual our school choir will be singing before the Market opens. You are welcome to join us at the Knott Hall. It is always a lovely way to begin the Christmas season!



**HEDDON
CHRISTMAS MARKET**

What's on?

 **MUSIC**


St Andrews School Choir

 **FOOD**

Festive fare to warm a winter's evening

- Hog Roast
- Hot Chocolate
- Mulled Wine
- Festive Treats

 **SHOPPING**

- Arts
- Crafts
- Food
- Gifts

Heddon Village Knott Memorial Hall

28thnd November 2025

6.00pm – 9.00 pm

Come and join us for an evening of festive fun and treats



Free Entry

For details contact D Blackett 07770666744 or dblackett@aol.com

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 TRACKING DEVICES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STALKING AND HARASSMENT

Because of their tiny size and unassuming appearance, tracking devices can easily be hidden in bags or clothing. They've been used to monitor individuals without their knowledge, with a lawsuit in the US labelling AirTags "the weapon of choice of stalkers and abusers". In the UK, use of tracking devices in coercive control and stalking cases reportedly rose by 317 percent between 2018 and 2023.

TOOLS FOR BULLYING

Tracking devices could allow bullies to follow or locate their targets even outside of school. This makes it difficult for children to find refuge, potentially extending the trauma of bullying into spaces – like home – that should feel safe and secure.

FALSE ACCUSATIONS

Because tracking devices are linked to user accounts, they could be misused to 'prove' ownership of someone else's possessions. Someone could, for example, plant a tracker on another person's belongings to falsely claim them as their own.

INVASION OF PRIVACY

These devices are designed to share location data with the user via other people's phones, which can unintentionally broadcast someone's movements without their consent. This makes them vulnerable to being monitored by strangers without realising.

DIFFICULT TO DETECT

Many tracking devices are designed to be discreet, but that also means they're easy to hide. Without proactive checking or the right tech to detect them, children and young people might not realise they're being tracked.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH FOR WARNING SIGNS

If a child's peers always seem to know their location – whether in person or hinted at online – it could be worth checking for tracking devices. Some, like AirTags, will eventually make a noise if separated from their owner. Listen out for a chirping sound.

CHECK LIKELY HIDING SPOTS

Common places where trackers may be planted include jacket linings, bag seams, pockets, or under bike seats. If you find one, take a photo of the serial number before disposing of it – this could help police trace the account it's linked to.

USE DETECTION APPS

Apple devices running iOS 14.5 or later will notify users of unknown AirTags nearby. Android users can install Apple's 'Tracker Detect' or the third-party app 'AirGuard' to scan for tracking devices from various manufacturers.

HAVE THE CONVERSATION

Talk to your child about what tracking devices are, what signs to look out for, and how they might be misused. Emphasise the legal consequences of using them to prank, harass, or monitor someone.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a seasoned technology journalist with bylines in Wired, TechRadar, The Guardian, The Evening Standard, The Telegraph, and The New Statesman. He specialises in consumer tech, online safety, and emerging risks in the digital landscape.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

Dates for your Diary - Autumn Term



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 9th 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
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