

5th December 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

Today has been a day full of excitement and Christmas cheer as the children have helped get school ready for our annual Christmas Fair. They were really excited to run their stalls and to have a look around all the rest of the fair. I'd like to offer a special thanks to the Friends of Heddon School, and particularly to Heidi, for all the time spent organising our Fair. This is a popular event and it is great to see it was so well supported again this year.

Aside from this the children have been particularly busy this week with their learning. From practising fine motor skills in Nursery to creating animations in Year 4 to working together to design and sew Advent calendars in Year 6, they have approached activities with their customary enthusiasm and excitement.

We are aware that the run up to Christmas can be particularly difficult for some of our children to cope with. Please see the article from Mrs. O'Reilly about 'after school burnout' and some top tips to dealing with this later in the Flyer. The Toby Henderson Trust have also produced a booklet of Christmas tips for neurodivergent families. This can be found by [clicking here](#).

I would like to remind you that the School Street Scheme is now in force and ask that you do not drive down Trajan Walk to school during the specified hours. Could I also ask that when attending our school and church events in the coming weeks that you park safely and show consideration to our neighbours. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

If either you or someone you know would like to join our School team we have a Lunchtime Supervisor vacancy. Details are available on North East Jobs or by [clicking here](#).

Well done to Year 1 with the best attendance this week: an amazing 100%

Well done to Year 5 and Year 6 for the best attendance for this year: 98.1%.

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

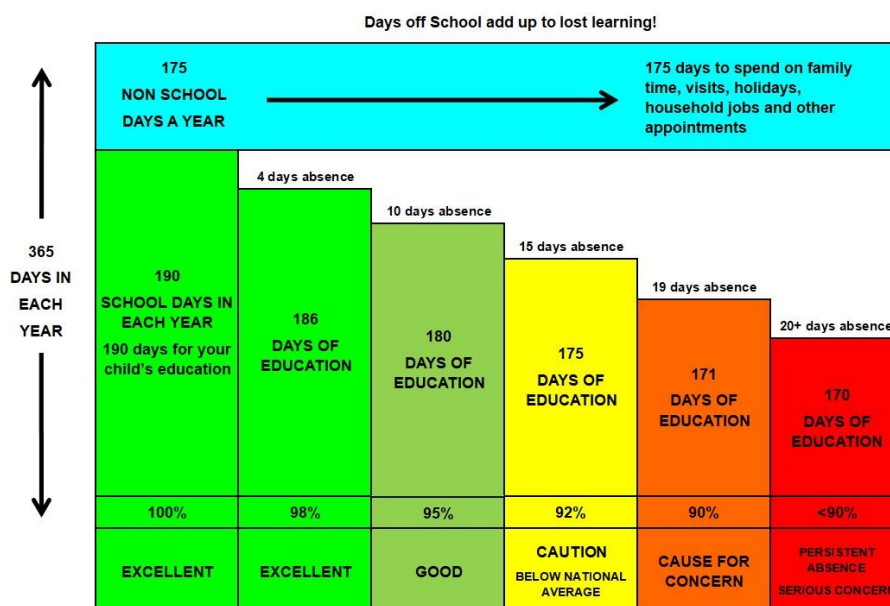


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

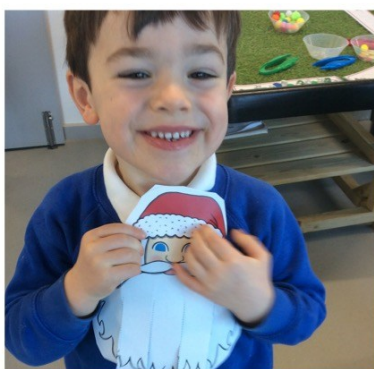
Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Nursery (Hedgehogs)	94.7%	96.5%	Year 3 (Gibside)	98%	96.9%
Reception (Owls)	97.4%	96.9%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	98.2%	97%
Year 1 (Wallington)	100%	96.3%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	98.7%	98.1%
Year 2 (Craggside)	93.2%	97.8%	Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	96.4%	98.1%

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



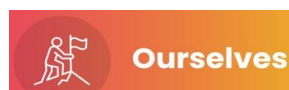
'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14



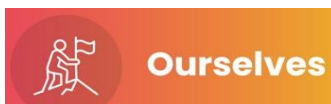
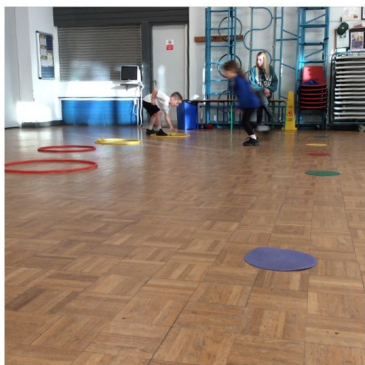
What a busy week!
 The Hedgehogs have
 been developing their
 fine motor skills by
 painting Christmas
 lights and cutting
 Santa's beard. They
 have also been
 developing their
 subitising skills by
 matching Christmas
 objects to the correct
 number block, and
 consolidating their
 knowledge of
 repeating patterns.

PIC•COLLAGE



An Exciting Week in Reception

Reception have had an exciting week! We had great fun in PE with Mr. Walker doing bean bag relays. We also had a special advent surprise, as instead of a traditional calendar there were 24 parcels under the tree to be opened each day. Each one contains a book which we have enjoyed sharing together. We have been so lucky to have a new story each day!



Getting Ready for Christmas with Key Stage 1.

In Key Stage 1, we've been busy rehearsing for our Nativity, 'I'm Gonna Shine!' We've worked really hard to remember our cues and lines, and we can't wait to shine for our grown-ups during the performances!



PIC•COLLAGE

A Christmas Competition in Key Stage 1!

In Key Stage 1, we held a drawing competition to create Nativity scenes for our program. One winning design will be chosen for the front cover, and runners-up will appear on the back page. The selected drawings will be revealed when we hand out the programs at our Nativity performances.



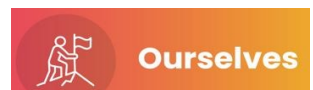
PIC•COLLAGE

Life



A Busy Week in Year 3.

It's been a busy week in Year 3 with the start of December! We have celebrated the festive season by decorating our tree and classroom. We have also had fun playing maths games and experimenting with playdough in science!



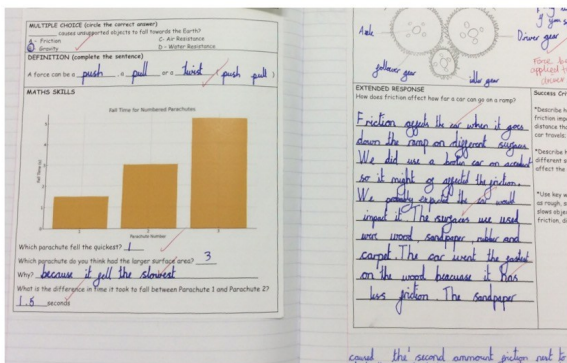
Amazing Animators in Year 4!

Year 4 are thoroughly enjoying our unit of work on animation within our computing sessions. We have created a series of frames with two separate moving features, a background and even some sound effects. Watch out, Pixar & Aardman!



All about Forces in Year 5

Year 5 have been busy learning all about forces, including friction, air resistance and gravity. We've now completed our science assessment, where we used Maths, diagrams and clear explanations to show what we've learned. The children really enjoyed putting their knowledge into action and seeing how these forces work in real life!

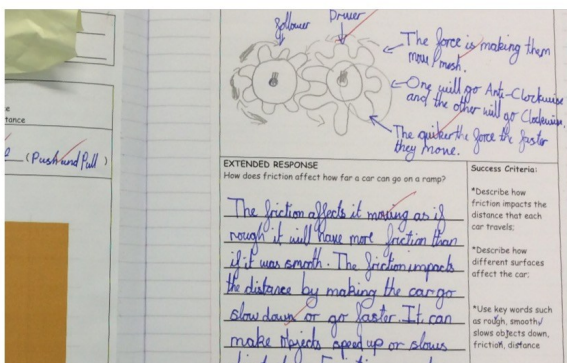


I think that the small (100g) will fall faster because it has a smaller surface area and that will have less air resistance. I think that the large (250g) will fall slower because it has a larger surface area, that creates more air resistance.

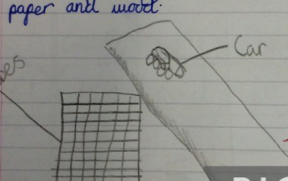
What I did:
Firstly, we made our parachutes from the resources for our table. Once we had completed this we discussed what jobs each person in our group was going to complete. We made sure to keep our experiment a fair test by making sure the person who was dropping the parachute was the same and they were dropping it from the same height (shoulder height). Finally, we dropped each parachute multiple times to gather an average and more accurate result.

air resistance.
What I did:
Firstly, we made our parachutes from the resources for our table. Once we had completed this we discussed what jobs each person in our group was going to complete. We made sure to keep our experiment a fair test by making sure the person who was dropping the parachute was the same and they were dropping it from the same height (shoulder height).

Conclusion (What I found out)
After carrying out the experiment, I found out that my hypothesis was wrong. Because the 100g sheet had too much weight on which made it heavier. I found out that the largest the surface area the slower it fell, except for the middle sheet that had too much weight. Parachutes need to be larger in surface area for them to be useful and deployed safely. The 25x25 parachute took on average



I'm going to create a ramp for a car. To make this a fair test I am going to keep the car and the height of the ramp the same. I will release the car about 5 to 10 times and measure the distance using a ruler. I will make sure to change the ramps surface each time. Carpet, rubber, sand paper and wood.





Learning

Designing and Making Advent Calendars with Year 6

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Year 6, with the children starting to create their own felt advent calendars. Working in our DT lessons with Mrs. Ziolkowski, the children used their running stitch, back stitch and appliqué skills when assembling their design. I look forward to seeing their finished products next week!



Learning

OPAL Play Update

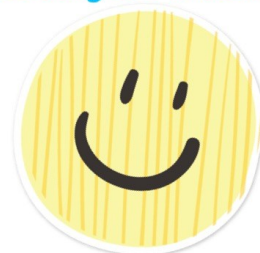
Thank you to Year 6 for taking the pictures and writing this article.

Our new Ezy Rollers were bought using the money raised from our recent 'Break the Rules' Day.

NEW EZY ROLLERS

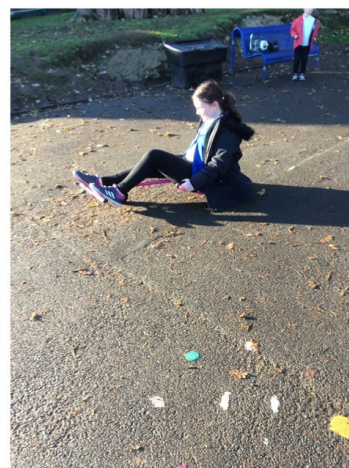


Everyone loves these new wheelies and are so happy that the school got them.



The new ezy rollers are a new addition to the OPAL play equipment. These popular toys have made the environment for play much brighter and more fun for the children.

The quick and easy way to move around the playground with a wiggle of the legs you can zoom across the yard.



PIC•COLLAGE



Ourselves

Life



Smartphone Free Childhood Update

I am pleased to let you know that 18% of our parents have signed the Smartphone Free Childhood pact meaning we are now ranked 3rd out of the participating Northumberland schools. I would like to remind you that being 'smartphone free' does not mean being either 'phone free' or 'screen free'.

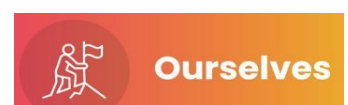
I have been particularly shocked this week by the figures from OFCOM about the increasing (and often unsupervised) use of social media by children under 5.

I know that Santa may be thinking about bringing smartphones for some children, however, I would like to gently remind him that the elves can provide some alternatives. Please check out the guide by clicking [here](#).



Thank you to everyone who took the time today at our Christmas Fair to look at our 'Smartphone Free' display and to talk with Mrs. Walker about it.

Christmas is a great time for making IRL memories which will last a lifetime!



Five Tips to support After School Burnout

Many of the conversations we are having with families within the community right now are highlighting the impact school burnout can have on family life. Some psychologists refer to this feeling / behaviour as 'after- school restraint collapse' and it is not unusual. It happens because your child has been busy managing their emotions all day as they navigate the complexities of school life, and when they get home, it's their safe space to let it all out! Please have a read of this useful article and hopefully it will provide some reassurance and comfort that these feelings and behaviours are valid, and some top tips about how to manage these outbursts. To view the five tips article please click on the image below.



Five tips to support the after-school 'meltdown'





LOVE RUGBY SERIES

A nationwide series of **girls-only** festivals, joining up girls aged 8-11 new to rugby with those already playing for a fun, friendly and positive experience

Key Information

- 40+ festivals taking place from November to June
- Girls in U9-U11s (Year 4-6)
- All abilities welcome
- Coaching workshops and game play

Kick-off Events

Date	Location	Time
13/12/25	Kingston Park Stadium – Home of Newcastle Red Bulls	10am-12pm

Want to join in?

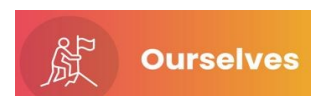
1. Find an event you are interested in
2. Sign up using the link below
3. Keep an eye out for upcoming events on findrugby.com



Sign-up to your local event here !



I am sure that you have seen the Council busy working at the end of Trajan Walk this week. They have been installing some new road signs to provide information and timings for the School Street Scheme. I would also like to remind you that there are restrictions for parking on the yellow zig-zags outside of school too. Thank you for your help in supporting these measures as it reduces traffic around the school and make the approaches safer for children and parents to walk to school.



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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND DEVICES

Electrical safety is a vital topic for parents and educators, especially with the growing use of devices like smartphones, laptops, and power banks. Electrical fires are a major risk and are the cause of many deaths and injuries each year. There are reportedly nearly 20,000 accidental fires of electrical origin each year in the UK. This guide offers practical advice to help families and schools prevent electrical hazards, and promote safety when using everyday devices.

1 CHECK FOR OVERHEATING

Devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones can overheat if used for long periods or when charging. Ensure that children don't use devices on soft surfaces like beds or sofas, which can block ventilation. If a device becomes unusually hot, turn it off and unplug it. Overheating can lead to fire hazards if left unchecked.

2 INSTALL RESIDUAL CURRENT DEVICES

Ensure that homes and schools are equipped with Residual Current Devices (RCDs). These devices cut off the power if an electrical fault occurs, preventing electric shocks and reducing the risk of fires. RCDs should be tested regularly to ensure they are working properly. More information about RCDs is available from Electrical Safety First.

3 AVOID OVERLOADING SOCKETS

Plugging too many devices into one socket can overload the electrical system and cause a fire. In schools and homes, ensure extension leads are not overloaded and never 'daisy chain' multiple extension cords together. Educate children on the dangers of connecting too many devices to a single outlet.

4 POWER BANKS: SAFE USE

Power banks are a handy way to charge devices, but they can also pose a risk if misused. Ensure power banks are of high quality and comply with UK safety standards. Teach children never to leave power banks charging unattended, and to avoid placing them under pillows or bedding where they may overheat.

5 REGULAR DEVICE INSPECTIONS

Regularly check devices for signs of wear and tear. Frayed charging cables, cracked device casings, or devices that are slow to charge may indicate electrical problems. If any issues are noticed, stop using the device until it can be repaired or replaced by a qualified technician. This proactive approach helps prevent fires caused by faulty devices.

6 UNPLUG DEVICES WHEN NOT IN USE

Encourage children and pupils to unplug devices when not in use, particularly overnight. Devices left plugged in unnecessarily can overheat or become fire hazards, especially if left charging unattended for long periods. Simple habits like unplugging can prevent serious incidents.

7 USE GENUINE CHARGERS

Always use chargers supplied by the manufacturer or from a reputable retailer. Faulty or counterfeit chargers can cause devices to overheat, short-circuit, or even catch fire. Teach children the importance of avoiding poor-quality chargers, and regularly inspect charging cables for signs of wear or damage. More tips on safe charging can be found at Electrical Safety First.

8 WATER & ELECTRICITY DON'T MIX

Teach children that water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Devices should never be used near sinks, bathtubs, or swimming pools. Parents and educators should ensure that any electrical appliances near water sources have proper waterproof casings and are plugged into RCD-protected outlets.

9 KEEP DEVICES VENTILATED

Devices need proper ventilation to avoid overheating. Avoid stacking items on top of plugged-in devices like laptops or gaming consoles, and make sure there is enough space around devices to allow for airflow. Proper ventilation helps prevent dangerous heat build-up, reducing the risk of fires.

10 SUPERVISE YOUNG CHILDREN

Younger children may not understand the dangers of electricity, so it's important to supervise them when they are using devices. Keep electrical cords out of reach and always remind children never to put objects into electrical outlets.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings as well as many other industries to help them maintain a safe working environment.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

See full reference list on our website



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Dates for your Diary - Autumn Term



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
Friday 12th December 2025	Rocksteady Concert for Parents in School Hall at 10am
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