

9th January 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are pleased to welcome all the children back to school this week following the Christmas break. They have all returned full of enthusiasm and keen to get on with their learning this term despite all the cold and very wintry weather we have had. Hopefully we have seen the last of the snow for this winter!

It is also our pleasure to welcome our new Nursery children who started school for the first time this week as well as our other new starters across the school. They have all settled in so well. I would also like to thank the other children who have made them all feel so welcomed into our school family. For parents of all our new starters you may wish to check out our 'Welcome Videos' for your child's class. They are available to view on our YouTube channel and provide key information and expectations for each class. They can be found by [clicking here](#).

We are aware that your child may have received a smart device for Christmas and have therefore provided a 'top 10 tips for online safety' parents guide to help you support your child to use them safely. Please check this out later in the Flyer.

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: 97.8%.

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

Mr. A. Wheatley,
Headteacher



Attendance Matters



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

Northumberland
County Council

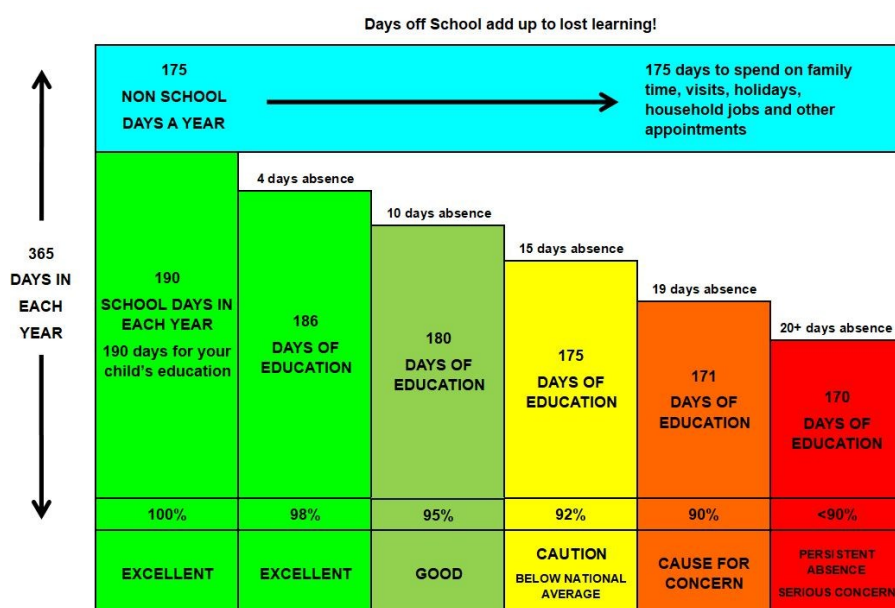


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Nursery (Hedgehogs)	91.4%	96.1%	Year 3 (Gibside)	97.2%	96.8%
Reception (Owls)	96.7%	96.6%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	94.7%	96.5%
Year 1 (Wallington)	93.6%	94.7%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	97.4%	97.5%
Year 2 (Craggside)	98.1%	96.9%	Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	100%	97.8%

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



It has been so lovely not only welcoming our Hedgehogs back after Christmas, but also getting to know our new children in Nursery! You have all settled so well and you should be very proud of yourselves!



PIC•COLLAGE



Ourselves

Others



Music in Reception

Reception used claves for the first time this week in Music - they really enjoyed following the rhythms that Mrs Milner made and we are really looking forward to using them again.



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Learning

Understanding Teen Numbers in Year 1

This week in Maths we have been focusing on place value to 20. As part of this we have been practising counting to 20 and building up our number recognition for all the teen numbers. On Wednesday we used dienes to make the different teen numbers using tens and ones. Then we played a game of bingo where we had to match the representations on the board with the correct number and if we had it circled we could cross it off. Everyone had great fun doing this, what a lovely first week back we have had.



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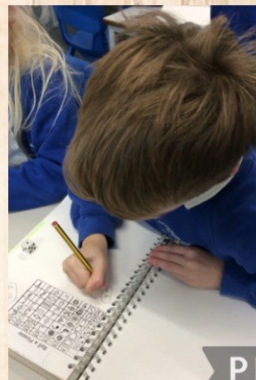
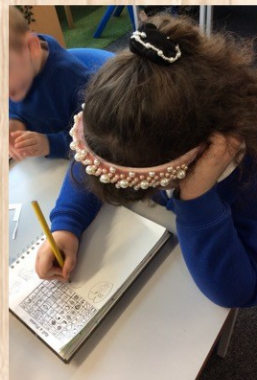
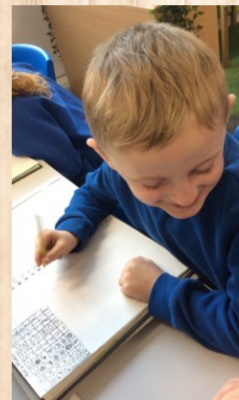
Learning



In Year 2 we have started our new art unit which focuses on portraits. This week we have been looking at the artist Pablo Picasso and some of the abstract portraits he painted. We then sketched our own portraits in his style by using a roll a Picasso sheet.



We had to roll dice to see what number it landed on to see what we would have to sketch for each of the features of a face. We definitely had some strange portraits! Super sketching Year 2!



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Learning

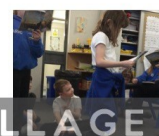
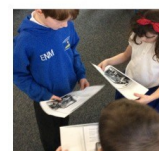
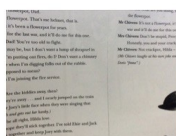
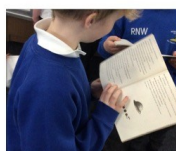
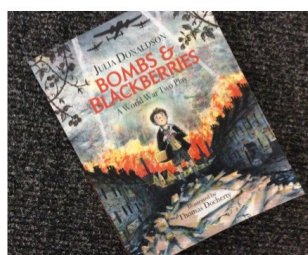
A Busy Start to Term in Year 3.

It has been a great start to the term in Year 3. We had our rugby taster session on Monday which we really enjoyed and practiced passing with the ball, making sure we watch the direction and speed of the passes. We also started our poetry unit. We have been looking at haikus, acrostic poems and personification as well as writing our own. We are using our best presentation for a poetry exhibition that you will be invited to after the February half term.



Playscripts and Drama in Year 4!

Year 4 have started to explore a play - Bombs and Blackberries by Julia Donaldson - in our English lessons. After exploring some of the characters and ensuring we understood the features of a playscript, we jumped in to acting out a scene! While some of us chose not to perform to an audience, we were all able to use our voices, faces and bodies to communicate the action.



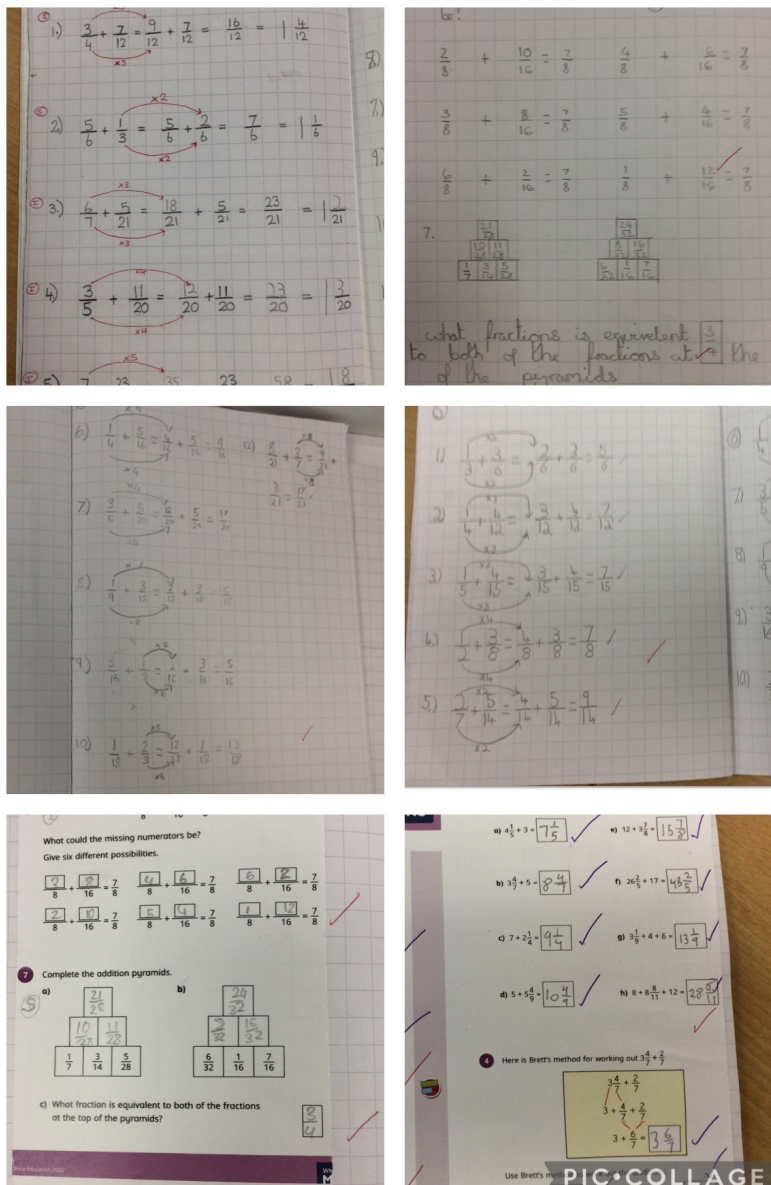
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Learning

Fantastic Fractions with Year 5!

This week in Year 5 Maths, we focused on adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator, making sure pupils understood how to work accurately with numerators while keeping denominators the same. We then practiced adding fractions that total less than one whole, using visual models to support understanding. Later in the week, Year 5 children explored adding fractions where the total is greater than one, learning how these can be represented as mixed numbers. Finally, children applied their learning by adding fractions to mixed numbers, confidently using their knowledge to solve a range of problems.



The collage displays various student work samples:

- Handwritten calculations for adding fractions with common denominators, such as $\frac{3}{4} + \frac{7}{12} = \frac{9}{12} + \frac{7}{12} = \frac{16}{12} = 1\frac{4}{12}$.
- Visual models showing fraction addition using area models.
- Completed addition pyramids, such as one with top numbers 21 and 25, and bottom numbers 1, 3, 4, 5, 28.
- Handwritten notes and calculations for mixed numbers and equivalent fractions.

Algebra with Year 6

The Year 6 children started their new algebra unit with a fantastic attitude in Maths this week. Our Monday morning assembly focused on the value of persistence, and this has been a vital attribute when tackling tricky formulae. We will continue the unit next week, focusing on solving one and two step equations. A great start to the term, Year 6.



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 ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and revisit topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.

2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING

Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved and/or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.

3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE

Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.

4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS

When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.

5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT

With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.

6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING

Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.

7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.

8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.

9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.

10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CEOP can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on our website



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#WakeUp
Wednesday

The
National
College

Dates for your Diary - Spring Term



Thursday 15th January 2026	Year 6 France Meeting
Wednesday 21st January 2026	Year 4 at Christingle Service at St. Nicholas' Cathedral
Monday 9th February 2026	Pele Trust 'Let's Dance' Festival
w/c Monday 16th February 2026	HALF TERM HOLIDAYS
Monday 23rd February 2026	TRAINING DAY
Friday 13th March 2026	Choir at Ryton Festival
Friday 3rd April 2026	GOOD FRIDAY - SCHOOL CLOSED
w/c Monday 5th April 2026	EASTER HOLIDAYS