

23rd January 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

Despite the wet and windy weather this week there have been lots of things going on in school this week.

Year 4 represented our school at the Diocesan Christingle Service at St. Nicholas' Cathedral in Newcastle. We joined with schools from across the diocese to sing and worship together. The children also got to make their own 'eco' Christingle as part of the service. They were excellent ambassadors for our school.

Some of our Year 3 children also got to take part in a Gymnastics event at Newburn Activity Centre with other schools from the Pele Trust. They threw themselves into all the activities with enthusiasm and thoroughly enjoyed the event.

I would also like to thank all the parents and carers who have willingly given up their time to come and speak to our Reception children about the jobs that they do. I know that the children enjoyed listening and asking questions and were inspired by their visitors as they can be often seen roleplaying what they have learnt in the classroom!

Reception were also lucky to have a professional ballerina visit this week to help them with their dancing in PE!

Many thanks to all the people who have been voting for us at Tesco with their blue tokens. Your support is much appreciated.

As you can see from page 2 of the Flyer, attendance at school is really important in helping your child succeed. We would therefore ask that routine medical or dental appointments are made out of school time where possible.

While it is a long way in advance Mrs. Milner has advised that our Summer Music and Drama Showcase will be taking place on Thursday 9th July 2026. The theme this year is 'A night at the Musicals'. Further details to follow.

Well done to Year 1 and Year 3 with the best attendance this week: 99.2%

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



'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14

Attendance Matters



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

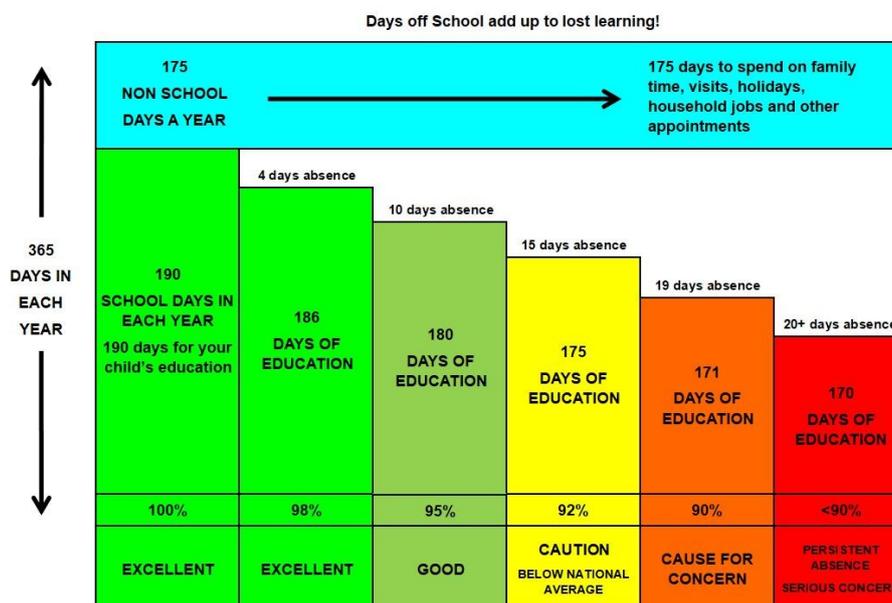


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Nursery (Hedgehogs)	97.6%	96.1%	Year 3 (Gibside)	99.2%	96.8%
Reception (Owls)	98.7%	96.6%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	86.9%	96.5%
Year 1 (Wallington)	99.2%	94.7%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	98.7%	97.5%
Year 2 (Cragside)	98.1%	96.9%	Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	97.9%	97.8%

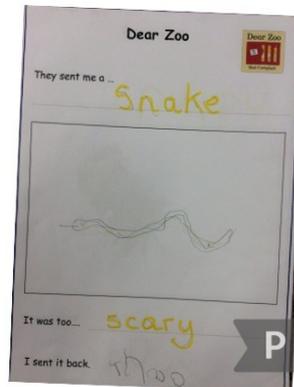
Please see the graphic below which shows the significant impact of absence over time .



'Let all that you do be done with love'



Wow, what a busy week we have had in Nursery! We have been learning about length and height. You all enjoyed developing your cutting skills by cutting out blocks and putting them in the correct order, as well as sorting long objects and short objects. You have also been creating your own pages from our story 'Dear Zoo', they look amazing! Well done, Hedgehogs!



PIC·COLLAGE

## A Busy Week in Reception

Reception have had a brilliant, and very busy, week. We've been lucky enough to have visits from an anaesthetist, physiotherapist and a professional ballerina! Miss Natasha shared some of her expertise with us and we loved dancing with her. Our medical visitors were so generous with their time and allowed to explore their specialist equipment.



## Investigating Properties with Year 1

In Science we have been looking at different types of materials and exploring their different properties. This week we were investigating which materials were waterproof and which were absorbent. We all watched closely as we dipped different objects into the water to see if they were waterproof and then we all watched again to see if they would absorb some water that had been dropped onto the tables. Everyone did a great job of investigating and gave great predictions.



PIC•COLLAGE



Learning



In science we have been investigating the best material to make a raincoat from. We tested different materials to find which were waterproof. Good work Year 2 😊



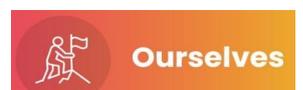
### A Sporty Week in Year 3.

This week in year 3, we have been working hard on our Irish dancing. We have developed a great understanding of the history and costumes around it and have been improving our dance skills. Some members of the class were also lucky enough to attend a gymnastic afternoon at Newburn Activity Centre.



## Christingles at the Cathedral with Year 4.

Year 4 were lucky enough to take part in an act of worship at Newcastle Cathedral; we created our own 'eco- Christingles'. We worked as a group to decorate the Christingles and then lit them as part of a service reflecting on light.



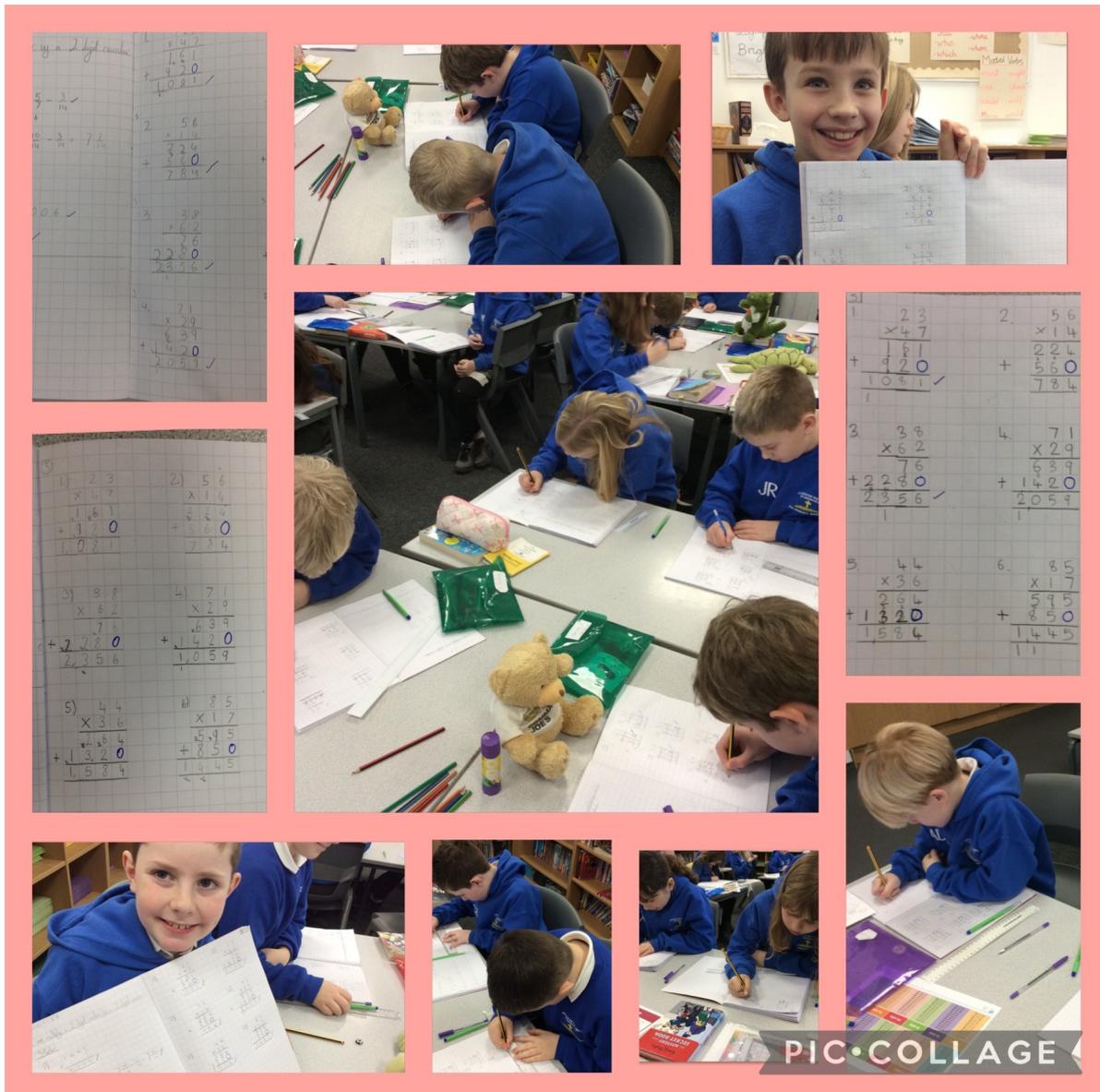
Ourselves



Learning

## Marvellous Maths with Year 5!

This week in Maths, we worked hard on completing our assessments that focused on prior learning of fractions, addition, subtraction, and place value. Everyone showed great focus and determination while tackling a range of challenging questions. We also started learning long multiplication and explored the steps needed to solve bigger problems. It was great to see many children already finding success and growing in confidence with this new skill.



## Exploring Blood with Year 6!

This week in Year 6 we have been exploring the different components of our blood, as part of our circulatory system unit in Science. We looked at the important role that each component plays in keeping our body healthy and functioning. Next week in Science, we will look at how the lifestyle choices we make can impact our heart, in both positive and negative ways.



Mr Bell asked us to talk about the golden ticket competition. On Thursday 5th March, there will be 9 golden tickets available to win if you have a school dinner. We have decided to put the tickets on the bottom of the trays.



**WORLD BOOK DAY**

 PELE TRUST  
5TH MARCH

**Main Course**

"Mr Twit's Bird Pie"  
Chicken & Vegetable Pie Served with "Wiggly Worm Batons" & "Bruce Bogtrotter's Mash".

"The Lambton Worm's Curly Pasta"  
Fusilli Pasta, Served in a "Dragons Blood" Sauce with Garlic Bread & Salad.

The "Stick Man" Spud  
Jacket Potato with Cheese & Beans  
Topped with a GF Stickman  
Geordie Banger

The Bear Ate Your Sandwich  
Selection with Salad & Nachos

**Dessert**

Golden Ticket GF Chocolate Brownie  
*Find the hidden Golden Tickets & Win a Prize!!*

The Watermelon Seed Wedges



The prizes are: bring in your favourite toy, jump the lunch queue, have juice instead of water with your lunch and choose a prize and invite a friend to join you. There is 1 ultimate prize of a non uniform day for your whole class.

PIC•COLLAGE

By Alex and Poppy.



Ourselves



Others

## Tesco Stronger Starts Programme

Thank you so much to everyone who has helped support the school by voting for us with their blue tokens at Tesco. It is lovely to see pictures of our children voting for us while out shopping! We will be using any funding that we receive from this initiative to provide more new equipment for the children to use during OPAL play.

Please see the poster below for more details about the scheme and how to vote.

We have some exciting new equipment coming as a result of previous fundraising. We hope that this will be available for the children to use in the coming weeks.



## Super Fundraising!

I would like to thank James in Year 5 for his very kind donation of £76 towards OPAL play. Each year James, his family and friends have a fundraising event in their local community. This year they made and sold homemade cakes and biscuits, handmade pottery and Christmas decorations. They raised an amazing £457. This was split between 6 charities including his generous donation to support OPAL Play in school. Well done James!



# FREE RUGBY DEVELOPMENT

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
PONTELAND RFC**



**20th FEB 2026**

**PRIMARY AGES (TAG)  
9.30 - 11.30am**

**SECONDARY AGES  
12.00 - 2.00pm**



**Ponteland RFC, Callerton Lane, NE20 9EG**

**<https://all-stars-sport.classforkids.io/cms/camps>**

Please click on the image to the right to be taken to the All Stars Sport website which has more details and a booking form.



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](https://nationalcollege.com).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children.

### A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME

Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is self-rated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with PEGI-rated games. With millions of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.

### MATURE CONTENT

With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-certifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. While Roblox has tools to restrict access based on age settings, these systems are not always perfect. Younger players are likely to encounter content you may deem unsuitable.

### IN-GAME SPENDING

Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.

### RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.

### COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS

Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In response, Roblox has announced changes to how chat works. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to restrict chat access between adults and children they do not know.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.

### CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT

Although Roblox is introducing tighter age-based chat restrictions, some parents and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely for younger children. Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other supervised platforms.

### PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE

Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its self-rating nature.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



The National College

See full reference list on our website



@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: 21.01.2026

## Dates for your Diary - Spring Term



Monday 26th January 2026	Police Dogs visiting Reception
Monday 2nd February 2026	Fire Engine visiting Reception
w/c Monday 9th February 2026	Children's Mental Health Week
Monday 9th February 2026	Pele Trust 'Let's Dance' Festival
Tuesday 10th February 2026	Parents Evening
Wednesday 11th February 2026	Year 5 at Ponteland High School for Careers Event
Thursday 12th February 2026	Parents Evening
<b>w/c Monday 16th February 2026</b>	<b>HALF TERM HOLIDAYS</b>
<b>Monday 23rd February 2026</b>	<b>TRAINING DAY</b>
Friday 13th March 2026	Choir at Ryton Festival
<b>Friday 3rd April 2026</b>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY - SCHOOL CLOSED</b>
<b>w/c Monday 5th April 2026</b>	<b>EASTER HOLIDAYS</b>