

13th March 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been lovely to see so many of you this week at our Mother's Day Services at St. Andrew's Church. I know how excited the children have been to share their singing and poetry with you. I am sure that you will agree that they have excelled themselves this morning. It is good to take some time out to think about all the people who care for us, the inspiration they provide for us and the love we can share with others.

Children in Years 4-6 have been exploring Careers this week. Year 5 had a great morning at The Discovery Museum careers event meeting different employers and learning about different jobs. Sadly their visit was interrupted by a fire alarm which just added to the excitement. Years 4 and 6 had their second visit from Northern Gas. They explored green energy and careers along with net zero. Their sessions culminated in a tricky team 'escape room' challenge where they used their knowledge of net zero and team work skills to open the locked box to reveal their 'prize' along with a bit of a surprise!

Please could I ask that when you are collecting and dropping off your children by car that you park and wait showing consideration to our neighbours. While the School Street scheme has greatly increased the safety of the children next to school, I have received a number of calls from residents about drives being blocked and cars idling their engines on the main part of Trajan Walk. Thank you in advance for your support in keeping the village safe for all pedestrians.

If you haven't yet checked out our Book Fair it will be open after school in the Studio until Tuesday 17th March 2026. Please see later in the Flyer for further details.

Along with school uniform we have some other items including coats in our lost property. These items look relatively new. Please see the pictures of these items later in the flyer. If they belong to your child please call at the school office to collect them.

Well done to Year 3 and Year 1 (again!) with the best attendance this week: an amazing 100%.

Well done to Year 6 for the best attendance for this year: 98%.

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.

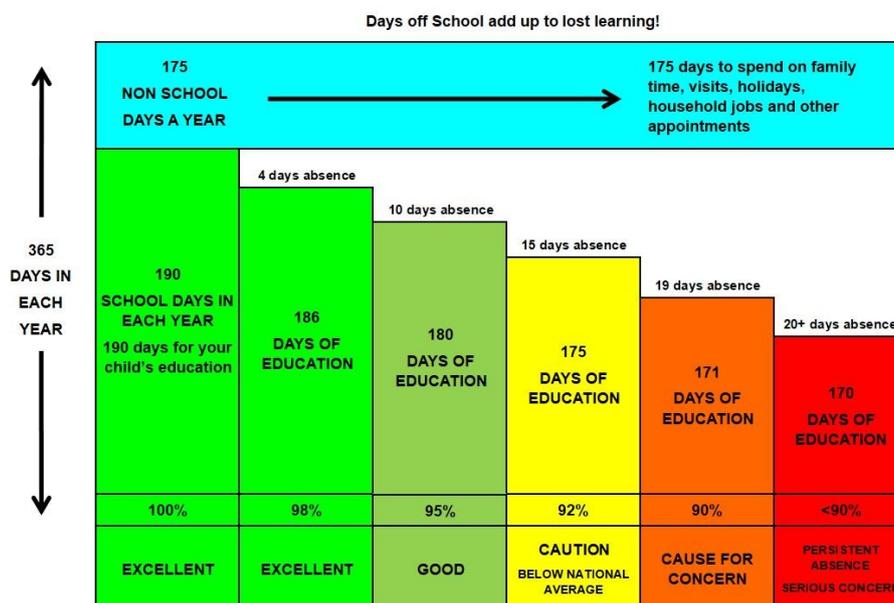


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Nursery (Hedgehogs)	98.1%	96.5%	Year 3 (Gibside)	100%	97.5%
Reception (Owls)	98.7%	97.4%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	98.2%	95.7%
Year 1 (Wallington)	100%	96.6%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	99%	97.6%
Year 2 (Cragside)	96.8%	97.2%	Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	96.4%	98%

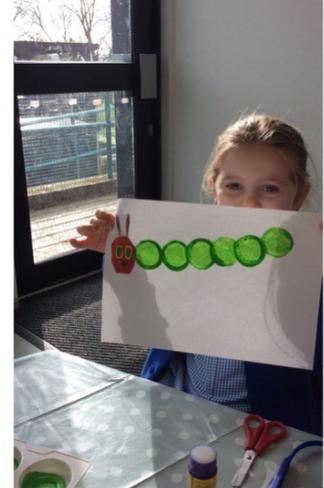
Please see the graphic below which shows the significant impact of absence over time .



'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14

Nursery have had another lovely week of watching our caterpillars grow and taking part in caterpillar and butterfly crafts. They are all so confident in explaining the life cycle of a butterfly now and they can't wait until the caterpillars begin to form their chrysalis.



PIC • COLLAGE

Seven Stories Visit with Reception.

Reception had a fantastic time at Seven Stories in Ouseburn, on Monday. We particularly loved completing The Sweet Escape workshop and loved all of the storytelling.

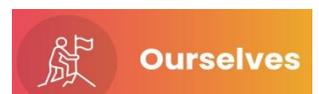
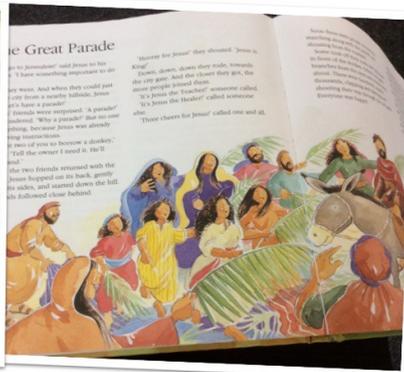


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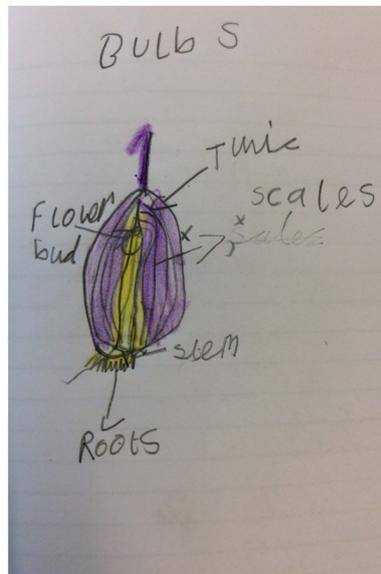
Hot Cross Buns with Year 1

This week in RE we were looking at some of the traditions and practices that Christians do over the Easter period. We discussed how a lot of us on Easter receive a chocolate egg and how this was symbolic of new life. Next we talked about how Christians sometimes eat hot cross buns as they symbolise the cross that Jesus was put on. We all got to smell and try some hot cross buns whilst listening to the Easter story.



All About Plants with Year 2.

This week in Science, Year 2 continued learning about plants. We compared and sorted a range of seeds and bulbs and talked about their purpose. We also examined an onion, drew our own diagrams, and labelled them to show its different parts. Finally, we planted cress seeds in eggshells so we can observe the process of germination.



PIC•COLLAGE

A Busy Week in Year 3.

This week in Year 3, the children have been busy preparing for Mother's Day. We looked at the Easter story and wrote a diary entry from Mary's perspective about the key days in Easter. We continued looking at our class book 'The Minpins' and wrote a non-chronological report about various creatures that live in the Forest of Sin.



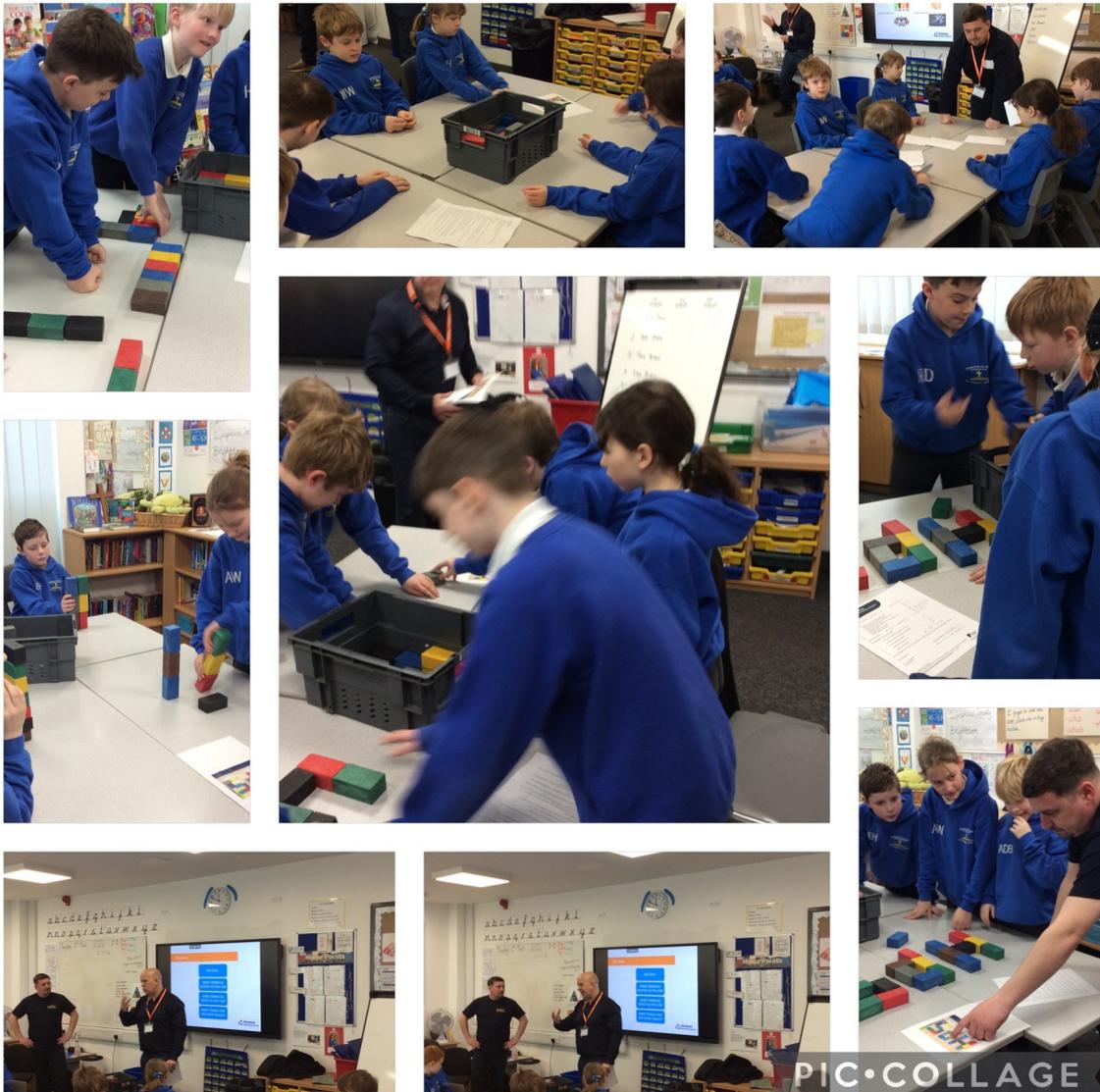
Net Zero and Escape Rooms with Year 4

Year 4 had a fabulous 'Escape Room' experience this week. Teamwork, communication and resilience were necessary to take this net-zero-inspired challenge. It was a fantastic finale to our focused work on careers last week.



Exploring Careers with Year 5.

Year 5 enjoyed an inspiring morning of careers learning with visitors from Marmax Products. We discovered how the company turns 100% recycled plastic into long-lasting outdoor furniture that won't rot, rust, or splinter—and is guaranteed for 25 years! Pupils explored different jobs within the business and discussed the skills, qualities, and qualifications needed for each role. It was exciting to learn how these products can be recycled again at the end of their life, helping protect our planet. A fantastic session that opened our eyes to future career possibilities!



An Escape Room Challenge with Year 6.

Year 6 had a great time on Wednesday afternoon completing an 'escape room' style activity. After listening to a presentation about renewable energy and green careers, the children used their knowledge to complete several different tasks. Upon completing each task, the children had to work out a code that could be used as a combination for a lock. Once all codes were discovered, the children could gain access to the box and see what was inside. Alex, the facilitator from Northern Gas, was very impressed with the team working skills and resilience shown by Year 6.



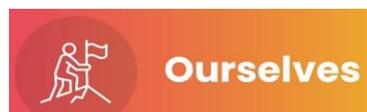
Early Years and Key Stage 1 Mother's Day Service



'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14

Key Stage 2 Mother's Day Service



'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14



Thank you to our
OPAL
Ambassadors for
going on a litter
pick with Mrs
Ziolkowski! And
thank you for giving
up your time to
meet with the
OPAL team and
share your
fabulous ideas.



PIC • CO

Others



Lost Property

We currently have a lot of lost property in school at the moment. Alongside school uniform we have the items pictured below. If any of these items belong to your child please can you call at the school office to claim them.

If they are still unclaimed at Easter they will be donated to a local charity shop.



Scholastic Book Fair: Thursday 12th March - Tuesday 17th March

We are excited to be hosting a Book Fair between Thursday 12th March and Tuesday 17th March. Every book that is purchased helps to fund free books for our school library and classrooms.

There are over 200 titles for you and your child to choose from, and with prices starting from only £2.99, there's sure to be a book for everyone. It's also a great opportunity to purchase a book as an Easter gift!

How it works:

- If you'd like more information about the books available, visit <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/bookcases>
- Your child will be given a copy of 'My Book Fair Wish List' and the opportunity to look around the book fair during school time.
- If you are able to, come and browse the book fair straight after school, in the Studio, on Monday 16th March or Tuesday 17th March.



SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS

Every book you buy earns
FREE BOOKS
for our school!

COME TO OUR BOOK FAIR

AND FIND YOUR NEXT FAVOURITE READ!

DOG MAN
BIG TIM BELIEVES

DIARY of a Wimpy Kid
PARTYPOOPER

POKÉMON
MEGA EVOLUTION
HANDBOOK

Capitular Kingdom

The Scarecrows Wedding

TOM GATES
PESKY PETS
PARTIES

DATE: 12/03 - 17/03

TIME: 3:15 - 3:30

LOCATION: In the Studio

GO ALL IN.



Engine off every stop!

We have had some concerns raised by local residents about car idling while waiting for school pick up in the afternoon. Please see below some information about the dangers of engine idling. We would request that you turn off your car engines while waiting to collect your child.

Did you know?

Idling wastes fuel and money as well as exposing you and the people around you to toxic fumes.

Children and the elderly are particularly vulnerable to the effects of air pollution.

Idling your engine unnecessarily is an offence and you could be fined.

2020 research from Transport Research Laboratory shows that idling for just 30 seconds produces twice as much pollution and wastes more fuel than switching off and restarting your engine.

Myth

I need to keep the engine running to keep the heater on.

If I'm parked on a yellow line, keeping my engine running means I won't get a fine.

Stopping and starting will wear out the engine?

Idling does not contribute very much to air pollution in the grand scheme of things.

Truth

If you switch the engine off when you park and keep the ignition on, the heater should stay warm for up to 30 minutes.

Traffic wardens can fine you if you are parked somewhere you shouldn't be, whether your engine is running or not.

This is no longer a problem with modern engines and by not idling you will use less fuel and reduce your fuel costs.

Research has shown that switching off engines when parked can reduce localised pollution levels.



NorthStandard
In partnership with

FESTIVAL OF THE GIRL NEWCASTLE

**Saturday
21 MARCH**
Sports Hall,
Newcastle University

**For 7-11 year old girls
and their families**



Activities and workshops range from:

Engineering to sports,
Aerospace to construction,
Shipping to science,
Mental health to sustainability,
Politics to friendships,
Forensics to activism and more.

Although aimed at girls everyone is welcome!

Tickets via QR code or website
www.festivalofthegirl.com

Pay-what-you-can and **SEND** options available





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 STREAMING SERVICES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Streaming services are platforms that allow users to watch cartoons, documentaries and movies online immediately (often referred to as SVoD: streaming videos on demand). Ofcom reported that children and young adults prefer streaming services to traditional TV. With two-thirds of UK households subscribing to at least one streaming service, parents must understand how to manage screen time, set age restrictions and ensure safe viewing.

COSTLY

Subscription services can be costly. As the main source of entertainment, most households have at least one streaming platform, and each platform has its own monthly subscription fee. Services are charging more for ad-free viewing, and better quality and resolution; however, there is a cheaper option with adverts. Due to price increases, Netflix and Disney+ reported a sharp increase in users subscribing to their ad-supported tier in 2025.

NEXT EPISODE

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Excessive screen time contributes to sedentary behaviour and can negatively impact physical and mental health. Ofcom found that 4- to 15-year-olds averaged 2.5 hours per day across all video-sharing platforms, not including gaming. The vast range of content available, combined with features such as autoplay, makes it easy for children to watch for extended periods of time.

ILLEGAL STREAMING

Sharing passwords or using modified Fire Sticks to access streaming content without permission is illegal. Most streaming services have now put measures in place to detect account sharing. When account sharing is identified, platforms will offer an opportunity to pay for an added member or will ask the user to verify who they are.

BINGE WATCHING

Features such as autoplay make it easy for viewers – especially young people – to continue watching episodes without a break. This can foster unhealthy and addictive patterns, such as consuming a vast amount of content in one sitting. With binge watching come a lack of social interaction, lack of physical exercise, and often late nights and sleep disruptions which impact their mental and physical wellbeing.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most streaming platforms allow users to set up a profile for each family member, with the option of putting specific restrictions in place. These include adding a profile lock or PIN, controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings. Nonetheless, these restrictions aren't foolproof. Content which is rated as suitable for an age group may still include themes, language, or images which children and families find inappropriate.



HARMFUL STEREOTYPES

Many platforms track viewing habits, time consumed, and preferences, and generate recommendations to encourage your child to keep watching. This results in your child being in a 'loop' whereby they think the 'recommended' shows would be something they would enjoy rather than thinking critically for themselves. This can shape their beliefs, values, and understanding of the world from a young age without even realising it.

Advice for Parents & Educators

SET UP INDIVIDUAL PROFILES AND ADD PINS

Almost all streaming services allow users to set up individual profiles where each family member can have age restrictions put in place for the content they can view. Adult profiles can be protected through the use of PIN. Keep this private. Use the options of putting specific restrictions in place such as controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings.

TALK ABOUT ALGORITHMS

Talk to your child about how streaming services track what they watch, and base adverts and recommended shows/movies on previous viewing. Encourage them to critically think about whether the recommendations are suitable and how they want to spend their time. Discuss stereotypes with your child and challenge them to think about what they watch and how this may influence their beliefs.

MONITOR AND TALK OFTEN

Discuss with your child what they are watching, find out which programmes are trending, and watch them yourself. Have a little look at their watch history to check the content of what they're watching. Some platforms have been known to recommend or autoplay older or graphic content after a child's movie has been played. While some tv shows or movies may have a suitable age rating, your child may still find the content scary, or it may explore themes you don't want to explore with your child yet.

SET TIME RESTRICTIONS

Many streaming services offer the opportunity to buy movies, or add additional features to your subscription such as sports channels, as well as play games. This can increase the amount of time young people spend sitting idly in front of the screen. Some platforms (e.g. Apple TV+) allow you to set screen time restrictions. If the streaming service doesn't allow you to set screen time limits, set a family rule and stick to it.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator, and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government, comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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See full reference list on our website

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Dates for your Diary - Spring Term



Friday 20th March 2026	Rocksteady Concert for Parents in School Hall at 10am
Monday 23rd March 2026	Year 6 SATS meeting for Parents in Year 6 classroom - 4.45pm-5.15pm
Thursday 2nd April 2026	Key Stage 2 Easter Service at St. Andrew's Church - 9.30am
Thursday 2nd April 2026	Year 2 visit to Alnwick Castle
Friday 3rd April 2026	GOOD FRIDAY - SCHOOL CLOSED
w/c Monday 5th April 2026	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Monday 4th May 2026	MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY - SCHOOL CLOSED
w/c Monday 11th May 2026	Key Stage 2 SATS Week
w/c Monday 25th May 2026	HALF TERM HOLIDAYS
w/c Monday 1st June 2026	Made in the North East Week
Monday 1st June 2026	Reception visit to Red Hemmel Farm
Monday 1st June 2026	Year 5 visit to Woodhorn Museum
Tuesday 2nd June 2026	Year 6 visit to Sunderland Maritime Centre
Wednesday 3rd June 2026	Year 1 visit to Newcastle Quayside

Dates for your Diary - Summer Term



Wednesday 10th June 2026	School Photographs (Class photos)
Tuesday 16th June 2026	Year 6 Diocesan Leavers Service at St. Nicholas' Cathedral
Wednesday 24th June 2026 - Sunday 28th June 2026	Year 6 Trip to France
Monday 29th June 2026	Sports Day
Friday 3rd July 2026	School Summer Fair
Monday 6th July 2026	Year 6 Visit to St. James' Park
Thursday 9th July 2026	Music and Drama Summer Showcase at 4.30pm in School Hall
Friday 10th July 2026	Rocksteady Concert for Parents in School Hall at 10am
Monday 13th July 2026	Moving Up Morning
Monday 13th July 2026	Heddon's Got Talent Finals (Children only)
Thursday 16th July 2026	Year 6 Leavers Assembly at 2pm in School Hall
w/c Monday 20th July 2026	SUMMER HOLIDAYS