

15th May 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

I would like to start the Flyer this week with a big well done to all of our Year 6 children. They have all tried their best and shown great determination and resilience in completing their Key Stage 2 SATs. We are so proud of you all.

I would also like to thank Mrs. Darby, Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Ziolkowski for organising our SATs Breakfast Club and The Swan in Heddon for hosting our post-SATs treat today.

This determination and resilience can also be seen in the Year 1 and Year 4 children who are currently working towards the Phonic Screening Check and Multiplication Tables Check respectively.

Aside from SATs the rest of the school has been really busy this week too as you can see in the class pages. Each class has been taking part in Mental Health Awareness week. This has included learning about good mental health as well as participating in some fun creative and mindful activities, including a whole school 'Wake up Shake up' this morning led by Mrs. Walker. This work is really important as it helps children to 'love themselves' which is a key part of our school vision.

Following half term classes will be taught the Relationships and Sex Education elements of the curriculum. Further information will be sent to you via School Gateway.

Our Parent Guide this week is all about online grooming. I am aware that this is something which causes significant concern for parents especially when children are engaging in online gaming. The guide has some useful information and tips to support you in keeping your child safe.

Rev. Rachel from St. Andrew's Church in Heddon is organising her annual bus trip to Bamburgh which takes place in the Summer holidays. Please see later in the flyer for more details.

Well done to Year 6 with the best attendance this week: 98.6%.

Well done to Year 6 for the best attendance for this year: 97.9%.

I hope that you enjoy reading this flyer and 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.

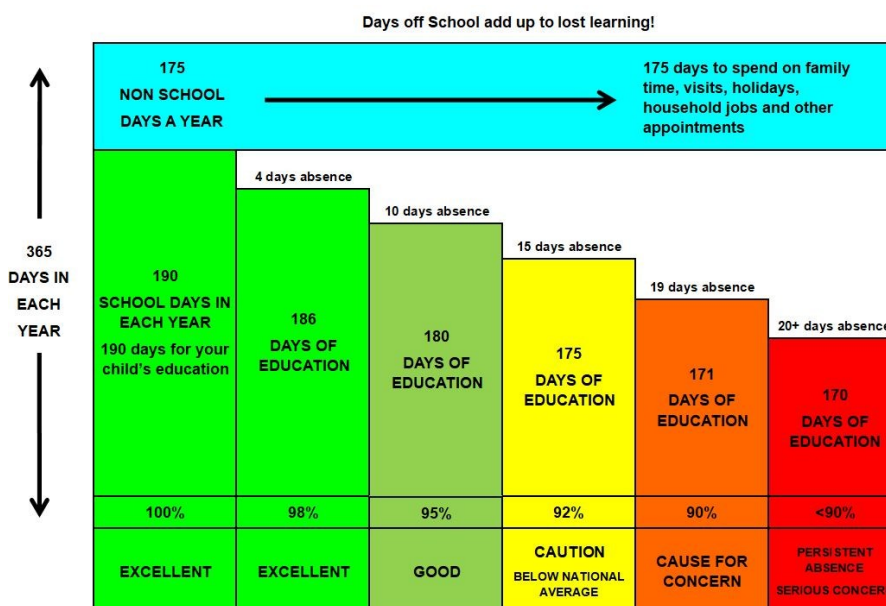


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Nursery (Hedgehogs)	98.5%	96.3%	Year 3 (Gibside)	98.4%	97.2%
Reception (Owls)	86.2%	95.6%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	94.7%	96%
Year 1 (Wallington)	96%	96.4%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	98.1%	96.9%
Year 2 (Cragside)	96.8%	97.4%	Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	98.6%	97.9%

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



'Let all that you do be done with love'

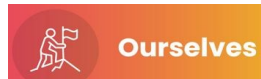
1 Corinthians 16:14



As part of 'Mental Health awareness week', the Hedgehogs have been embracing creativity and well-being through a range of hands-on, restorative activities linked to our topic 'Splish, splash, splosh'. The children have explored different artistic mediums to create water themed artwork and developed their designing and joining skills by making their own boats before testing how well they floated on water. What a wonderfully creative bunch!



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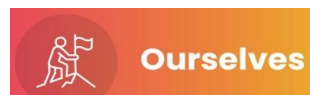


A Creative Week in Reception.

Reception have been showing lots of creativity this week, including colour mixing primary colours into secondary colours, drawing different textures, drawing bees and creating hives.

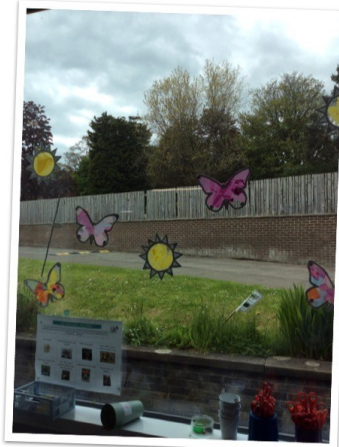
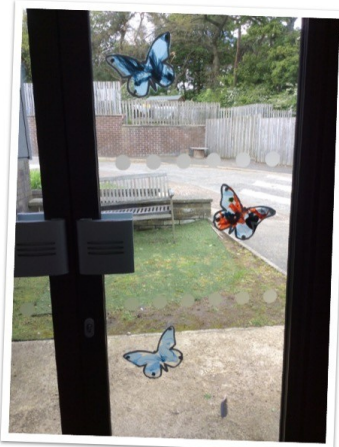


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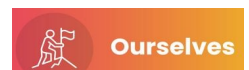


Mental Health Week in Year 1

This week in Year 1 as part of Mental Health week, we took some time out of our normal timetable to have some time relaxing by making crafts. In our class everybody made their own sun catchers to brighten up our classroom, they have turned out beautifully. Well done Year 1!



PIC•COLLAGE





This week in Art, we created our own textured papers in preparation for creating our seaside collages. We used a wide variety of tools and materials to experiment with different printing and painting techniques. We enjoyed exploring how different colours, patterns, and textures could be combined to create unique effects. Our textured papers will soon be used to design and create our seaside collages. Super work Year 2!



PIC·COLLAGE



Learning

A Busy Week in Year 3.

This week in Year 3, we created our tiles inspired by the Ancient Civilisations. We used air drying clay and carved our designs into the tile. Next week, we will paint the tiles, ready for them to go home at the end of term. We have also been developing our catching and throwing skills with Mr Smith in PE.



PIC•COLLAGE



Learning

Being Crafty in Year 4

This week, Year 4 have had a brilliant time being crafty to reinforce their learning in History; just look at these fabulous Caesar's Palace pictures!





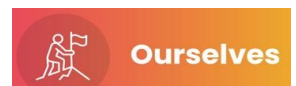
For Mental Health Week, year 4 classroom was transformed into our potion making den, where students of Key Stage 2 worked together to create their own perfect potion. Well done to Key Stage 2 for working together so well and helping each other for this activity. The children were happy throughout their mixing and left happy and regulated, ready for the rest of their day!



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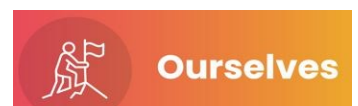
God's Eyes with Key Stage 2

This Children's Mental Health Week, we are embracing the art of slowing down by crafting "God's Eyes" with simple wooden sticks and woolen thread. This intentional, rhythmic weaving encourages children to slow down, offering them a quiet moment to focus entirely on the present. As they watch their patterns grow, they learn that creativity isn't just about the finished piece, but about the calm and joy found in the steady, patient process of making.



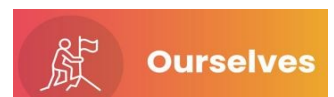
Well Done Year 6!

Year 6 children celebrated the end of SATs week with a visit to The Swan for their lunch. We enjoyed pizza or chicken nuggets and ice cream for dessert. The children have worked so hard this week and have approached the tests with great attitude. I hope they all have a well earned, restful weekend.



Watercolour Painting in Key Stage 2

As part of our Mental Health morning some of the children in Key Stage 2 chose to explore their creativity through some watercolour painting. They enjoyed sketching, colour mixing and watching their pictures emerge from the paper.





Well done to Key Stage 2 for having a fantastic time this afternoon following the Joe Wicks interactive workout. This was a brilliant activity for the children regarding mental health week, encouraging the children to regulate themselves and leave with a smile! Hope you have had a lovely mental health week!



West Northumberland Family Hubs

What's On this half term holiday - May 2026



Prudhoe Family Hub

Tuesday 26th May
Baby Stay and Play
(ages 0-18 months)
10-11am

Wed 27th May
SEND Safe Space
(All ages, additional needs and disabilities)
9.30-11.30am

Thursday 28th May
Family Stay and Play
(All ages)
10-11.30am

Friday 29th May
Family Stay & Play at Eastwoods Park
(All ages)
10-11.30am
at Eastwoods Park, NE42 5DX

Haltwhistle Family Hub

Tuesday 26th May
Go Outside & Play at Walltown Country Park
Greenhead, CA8 7HZ
(All ages) 1-3pm

Wed 27th May
SEND Safe Space
(All ages, additional needs and disabilities)
1-3pm

Thursday 28th May
Buggy Walk
(All ages welcome)
Meet at 1pm outside the Warm Welcome, Haltwhistle Methodist Church Hall, NE49 0AX

Hexham Family Hub

Tuesday 26th May
Calm Stay and Play
(All ages, additional needs and disabilities)
10-11am


Wed 27th May
Family Stay and Play
(All ages)
10-11am


Thursday 28th May
SEND Safe Space
(All ages, additional needs and disabilities)
9.30-11.30am

Find us on Facebook & Instagram
@WestFamilyHubs

Bellingham Family Hub

Thursday 28th May
Family Stay and Play at the Park
(All ages)
10.30-11.30am
at Bellingham Jubilee Play Park, NE48 2JS
(Weather dependant)

 **Become a Family Hub Member!**
Scan the QR code or visit
nland.cc/fhreg

 **Find us online!**
Scan the QR code or visit
nland.cc/familyhubs

Please get in touch for more information about our groups, sessions & digital offer

 Sign up for a group or session

 Online Notice Board



Parent Support & Skills Workshops and discussions helping parents and carers strengthen relationships and support their children's wellbeing.

Navigating Parenthood Information & ideas to help parents and carers navigate parenting older children & teens

Dad Pad The essential guide for new dads developed with the NHS

Dad Talk Online workshop for dads, during pregnancy and beyond

Healthy Relationships Support to reduce conflict and improve everyone's lives.

Togetherness Free digital programme providing tools to support parents/carers & young people at each developmental stage: <https://togetherness.co.uk> :access code - **HADRIAN**

Sleep Workshop Support & guidance available from trained sleep awareness practitioners

Early Learning & Play Fun and engaging sessions helping you support your children's learning and development through everyday activities.

Brilliant Babies Specially designed supportive groups for families with young babies

Terrific Toddlers Meet other families with toddlers at these social sessions with topical themes

Ready Steady School Encourage your little one's independent skills with these fun, friendly sessions

Early communicators For children between 15-36 months who are experiencing some difficulties with their understanding and/or use of language

Stay & Play Regular fun sessions, with no booking required

Additional Needs &/or Disabilities Supportive sessions for children and young people with additional needs, and their families, to connect, relax, and share experiences.

SEND Safe Space A welcoming, safe space where you can make the most of our Family Hub facilities.

Empowering Parents Supportive wellbeing group for parents/carers of children with additional needs and/or disabilities

SEND Family Chill Out Regular relaxed after school sessions

Calm Stay & Play Weekly calm & fun sessions, with no booking required

Baby Support & Early Parenting Friendly sessions for new and expectant parents to connect, learn, and explore their baby's growth and development together.

Building a Brain A bitesize online workshop exploring brain development

Preparation for Parenthood Develop a healthy lifestyle for you and your baby, support for expectant mums and dads.

Feeding Friends NHS partner support with breastfeeding and more

Starting Solids A guide to starting solid foods with your little one

Toilet Training Workshop Practical advice for parents and carers beginning the toilet training journey


Wellbeing Service Tailored support for Mums or Dads living in Northumberland who are expecting a baby or have a child under 2 years of age.

'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14



Summer Bus Trip to Bamburgh Tuesday 28th July



Book your place for a day out at the beach and
in the beautiful village of Bamburgh.

£10 per adult, | **£4** per child.

Once again, we have a small amount of funding
to help keep the cost of this trip as low as possible.

If you would like to come but the cost is difficult,
please do have a word with Rachel in confidence.

If you are able to help fund a place for a child,
additional donations are very welcome.

The coach will take us to Bamburgh, and you are free
to spend the day as you wish—whether that's the beach,
castle, church, museum, or simply enjoying
the cafés and village.

Rachel's house will be available throughout the day –
a place to be, relax and enjoy together if you'd like.
Lunch items will also be available there.



To book a place, please email
r.sheffer@newcastle.anglican.org



or WhatsApp Rachel
07916 681128



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 ONLINE GROOMING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online grooming is when someone builds a relationship with a child or young person online to gain their trust for the purpose of sexual abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, or criminal activity – such as county lines or financial scams. According to the NSPCC, police in the UK recorded over 7,000 offences involving sexual communication with a child in a single year – an increase of 89% since 2017/18.

STRANGERS USING FAKE IDENTITIES

Groomers often pose as children or teenagers online to build trust. They may create convincing fake profiles, share photos stolen from real people, or mimic the interests of the child. By pretending to be someone their age, they make conversations feel safe and reliable. Over time, they may ask for personal details, photos, or suggest meeting in person, exposing children to significant emotional and physical harm.

EXPLOITATION THROUGH GIFTS AND FLATTERY

To gain trust quickly, groomers often send gifts, gaming credits, or money. Alongside material offerings, they use excessive compliments, affection, and attention to create emotional dependency. These tactics make children feel valued and special, lowering their defences. Once trust is secured, groomers may escalate their requests, often asking for photos or private conversations, making the child feel pressured or indebted to continue.

GROUP CHATS AS HIDDEN PATHWAYS

Unmonitored group chats on platforms like WhatsApp or Discord provide a cover for groomers. They can watch how children interact, identify those who seem vulnerable, and then move conversations into private messaging. This transition makes detection difficult for trusted adults. The seemingly harmless group setting often masks the presence of predators, giving children a false sense of security.

THE RISE OF SEXTORTION

Sextortion involves pressuring children into sharing explicit content, then blackmailing them for more. Offenders may claim to have hacked a child's device, threaten to share images with friends or family, or demand money. Many victims remain silent out of fear and shame. This growing crime is particularly dangerous because children often feel trapped, believing there's no safe way to escape the situation.

GAMING PLATFORMS AS GROOMING GATEWAYS

Games like Roblox, Fortnite, or Call of Duty, which include live chat features, are frequent targets for groomers. Conversations often begin casually during gameplay and can become manipulative over time. Groomers may offer in-game gifts, credits, or exclusive add-ons to build rapport. Children using headsets or private chat features are especially at risk, as conversations are harder for adults to monitor.

CRIMINAL & RADICALISATION RISKS

Grooming is not always sexual. Some offenders manipulate children into criminal activities such as drug running or online fraud. Others attempt to radicalise young people with extreme ideologies. Groomers often use fear, money, shame, or promises of belonging to control their victims. These forms of exploitation can be just as harmful as sexual grooming, and often leave lasting psychological and social consequences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS REGULAR

Rather than having one "big talk" about online safety, weave conversations into everyday life. Ask questions about children's online friendships and interests. Share real-life examples to make discussions relatable and encourage honesty instead of secrecy. When children feel comfortable discussing their digital lives, they are far more likely to share concerns or admit when something feels wrong, reducing the chance of risky interactions going unnoticed.

CREATE A "TELL ME" CULTURE

Children often keep silent because they fear being punished or losing access to their devices. Reassure them that coming forward with concerns won't get them into trouble. Emphasise that you are there to help, not judge. Creating a safe, open environment encourages children to speak up if something feels wrong, and helps to ensure they don't suffer in silence when facing potential grooming risks.

UNDERSTAND THE PLATFORMS CHILDREN USE

Take time to learn about the apps, games, and social platforms children are on. Familiarise yourself with privacy settings, parental controls, and group chat features. Use resources like The National College guides or conduct quick searches to stay updated. By understanding how these platforms operate, you'll be better equipped to set boundaries, guide safe use, and notice any unusual or concerning online behaviour early.

STAY ALERT TO WARNING SIGNS

Be attentive to both behavioural and digital red flags. Sudden secrecy, mood swings, or new online contacts may signal a problem. Watch for unexplained gifts, new social media profiles, or changes in sleep patterns. Increased anxiety or reluctance to attend school can also be indicators. Regularly checking in and showing interest in those whom they communicate with online help prevent small issues from escalating into serious risks.

Meet Our Expert

Staffordshire Police is dedicated to keeping people safe and tackling crime across both the physical and digital world. The force continues to strengthen its digital investigation and safeguarding capabilities to protect children and vulnerable people online, working in partnership with local, regional and national organisations, schools, and the wider community.



See full reference list on our website

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Dates for your Diary - Spring Term



Thursday 21st May 2026	Year 6 tours of Ponteland High School (3.45pm-5.00pm) Tours will run every 10-15mins
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
Tuesday 2nd June 2026	Year 2 visit to the Discovery Museum
Wednesday 3rd June 2026	Year 1 visit to Newcastle Quayside
Wednesday 3rd June 2026	Year 3 visit to Prudhoe Castle
Thursday 4th June 2026	Nursery visit to Whitehouse Farm
Thursday 4th June 2026	Year 4 visit to the Stephenson Railway Museum
Friday 5th June 2026	Early Years Open Afternoon (for current parents) from 1.30pm-3.15pm
Wednesday 10th June 2026	School Photographs (Class photos)
Tuesday 16th June 2026	Year 6 Diocesan Leavers Service at St. Nicholas' Cathedral

Dates for your Diary - Summer Term



Wednesday 24th June 2026 - Sunday 28th June 2026	Year 6 Trip to France
Monday 29th June 2026	Sports Day
Thursday 2nd July 2026 and Friday 3rd July 2026	Year 6 Transition Days at Ponteland High School
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