

12th June 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been another busy week in school this week. As you can see from the Flyer the children have been engaged in a wide variety of activities in their classes. I have really enjoyed spending time in the classrooms with them this week and seeing the excitement and enthusiasm they have for their learning.

Very well done this week to our Year 1 and Year 4 children who have been working hard on their Phonic Screening Check and Multiplication Tables Check. We have been impressed with your attitude and resilience.

Well done to our Year 4 Orienteering Team who had a great time this week at the Pele Trust Orienteering event at Belsay Primary School. They worked well together, communicated clearly and showed great resilience. They came fourth overall and were great representatives of our school.

On Tuesday next week Year 6 will be joining with other Church of England schools from across the area for the Diocesan Leavers' Service at St. Nicholas' Cathedral in Newcastle. We would also ask that Year 6 children wear / bring their blue school hoodie for the service rather than their leavers hoodie.

I have also been made aware that WhatsApp have introduced a 'parent managed' account for children using this app. As I am aware that a number of children in school are using this app, there are a number of benefits to setting this up to protect your child online. Please see later in the flyer for more details.

Our Summer Fair is coming up soon on Friday 3rd July 2026. If you have any donations for the tombola or prizes for the raffle please could you hand them in at the School Office. Thank you for your help with this.

Next week is Drowning Awareness Week. Water safety and what to do in an emergency is really important particularly in the summer holidays when children are out and about near rivers and the sea. For more details please see the leaflet later in the Flyer.

Well done to Year 2 for the best attendance this week: 98.4%.

Well done to Year 2 for the best attendance for this year: 97.4%.

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.

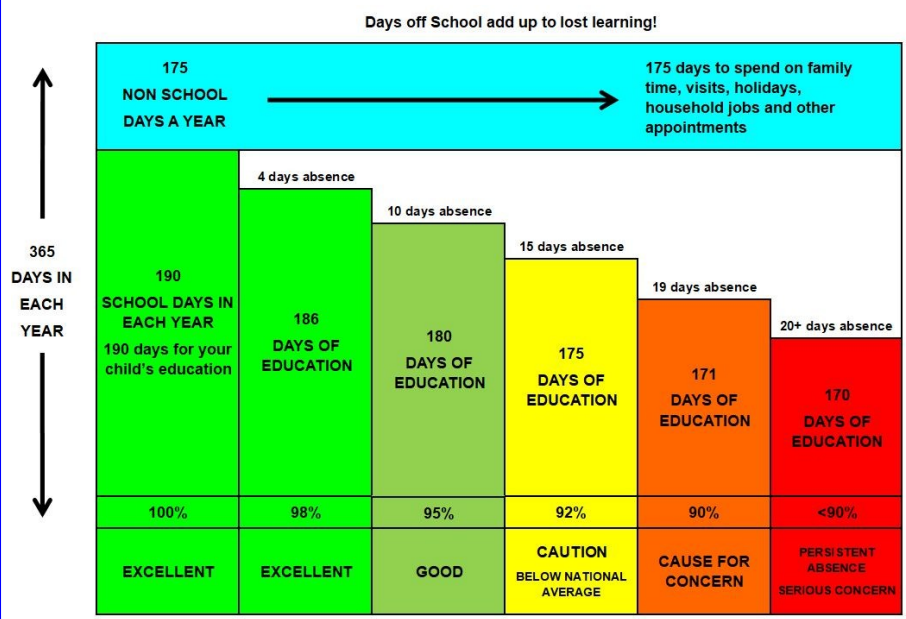


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

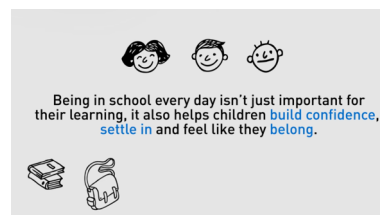
Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Nursery (Hedgehogs)	92.4%	95.8%	Year 3 (Gibside)	97.6%	97%
Reception (Owls)	97.7%	95.7%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	97.8%	96.1%
Year 1 (Wallington)	95.2%	95.5%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	93.5%	96.4%
Year 2 (Cragside)	98.4%	97.4%	Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	93.6%	97.2%

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



Please check out the new video about the benefits of good attendance by clicking the image below.



'Let all that you do be done with love'



As part of our new topic, 'Tell me a story', the Hedgehogs were left a few clues in our classroom. We found porridge, a broken chair and 3 different sized bowls in our home corner. The children correctly guessed that our new story is 'Goldilocks and the three bears'. We have had a lovely week making wanted posters, retelling the story and developing our subitising skills.



PIC•COLLAGE

A Busy Week in Reception.

Reception have loved finding out about our new topic, 'Let's Go and Explore'. We have particularly enjoyed writing about The Hundred Decker Bus (our new class text), ordering measurements, cutting out bus parts and even beginning to create our Fathers' Day card. On Thursday, when it was particularly wet, we enjoyed parachute games in the hall - what a great week, Owls - well done!



PIC•COLLAGE



Marshmallow Sculptures with Year 1

This week in art we started our new unit of sculptures. We looked at the artist Eva Rothschild and the work that she has created we then tried to see if we could make sculptures out of marshmallows and cocktail sticks! Everyone tried super hard and really rose to the challenge.



YEAR 1 HAD FUN BECOMING ABSTRACT
SCULPTORS INSPIRED BY THE ARTIST EVA
ROTHSCHILD.



PIC-COLLAGES



Wheels and Axles with Year 2.

This week in Year 2, we started our new Design Technology unit on wheels and axles. We explored what wheels and axles are and discovered how they help objects to move. We then took on the challenge of creating our own wheel and axle models.



Skeletons and Bones with Year 3.

In Science we have been learning about our skeletons. We thought about why animals have a skeleton and had great fun with our skeleton model learning the names of some of the bones!



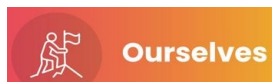
Year 4 Math-Magicians!

This week Year 4's have sat their Multiplication Tables Check and have made us so very proud!

A well deserved trip to the park and a sneaky ice-cream was just what they needed after working their socks off. We are really proud of your dedication, progress and resilience, Year 4.

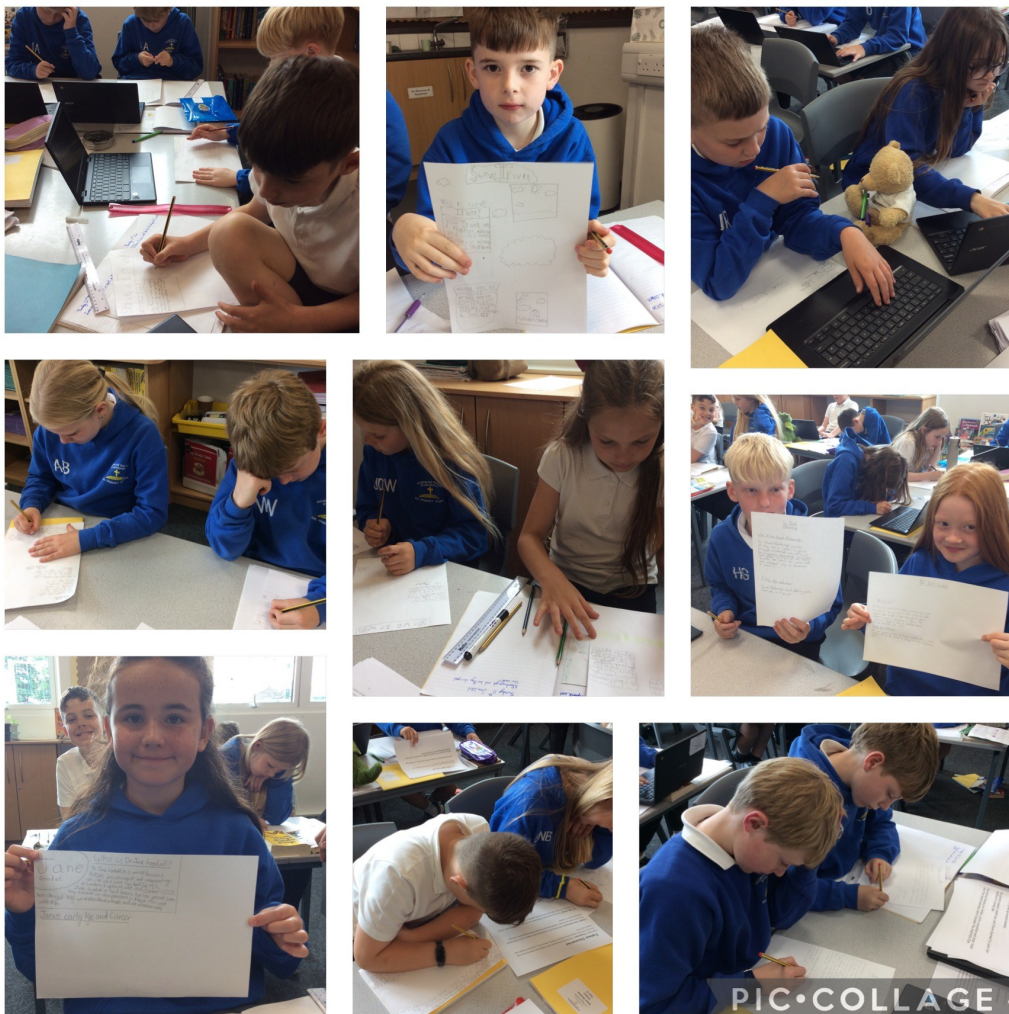


PIC•COLLAGE



Inspiring Naturalists with Year 5.

This week, our fantastic Year 5 researched some of the world's most inspiring naturalists as part of an exciting new science project! From Jane Goodall and Wangari Maathai to David Attenborough and Steve Irwin, the children explored the lives and achievements of these remarkable environmental champions, discovering how they have worked tirelessly to protect our planet and its wildlife. Children designed eye-catching posters and informative leaflets, showcasing fascinating wildlife discoveries, conservation successes, and environmental breakthroughs. The results were truly impressive, demonstrating both their growing scientific knowledge and their passion for the natural world.



A Colourful Week in Year 6.

A colourful week in Year 6, with the children now all in their leavers hoodies. This week, we have been refining our narrative writing skills, focusing on how we can use particular features for maximum impact. We have looked at changing verbs and adjectives in our writing, in addition to using relative clauses, fronted adverbials and a range of sentence starters to ensure our piece of writing is cohesive. Today, we recapped how to correctly punctuate speech, and use it effectively to advance the action in our writing. Well done Year 6 for your continued hard work.



Online Safety Update

WhatsApp - New Parental Management Controls

With the exception of YouTube, WhatsApp has always been one of the most popular messaging apps, including for children under 13. This has always been a concern for a lot of different reasons, but out of the blue it seems that Meta have now created a parent-managed service which is a really positive step.

Similar to other parent-managed accounts, a parent will pair their device/account to the child's device/account which then gives a lot of flexibility such as:

- No 'view once' messages.
- No location sharing.
- Messages and group invites from unknown contacts sent to the parent for approval.
- Parent notifications, such as new contact added.

Link: [WhatsApp parent-managed accounts - explained.](#)

Link: [How to set up a parent-managed account.](#)

A snapshot of the online lives of children with additional needs



Last week Internet Matters released a new, and revealing report showing that children with additional needs experience the best and worst of online life.

[Click here](#) to read the report.

For advice for parents please [click here](#).



Drowning Prevention Week

Next week is drowning prevention week. Following the tragic events which took place over the Bank Holiday weekend with a number of young people drowning in the North East water safety is more important than ever.

As you will be aware a child can drown in as little as 5cm of water. Therefore, it is really important that children learn not only how to swim but how to stay safe around water when out and about, particularly during the summer holidays.



ALWAYS FOLLOW THE WATER SAFETY CODE

 ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY UK

Whenever you are around water:

STOP AND THINK
Take time to assess your surroundings.
Look for the dangers and always research local signs and advice.

STAY TOGETHER
When around water always go with friends or family.
Swim at a lifeguarded venue.

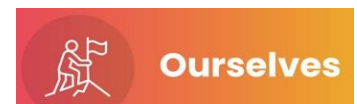
In an emergency:

CALL 999
If you are at the coast, call 999 and ask for the Coastguard.
Don't enter the water to rescue.

FLOAT
Fall in or become tired - stay calm, float on your back and call for help.
Throw something that floats to somebody that has fallen in.

Enjoy Water **Safely**

Learn basic lifesaving and CPR skills.
Visit www.rlss.org.uk



OPAL Play Donations Wanted

Please drop off at the school
office by **10th July**



Figures & Small World Toys

Seeking toy cars, dolls,
dinosaurs, Peppa Pig
figures, and plastic
animals.



Creative & Imaginative Resources

We require dolls' clothes,
musical instruments, and
fairy garden resources.



Outdoor & Role Play Equipment

Needed: sand toys, toy
push chairs, camping
tables/chairs, and
picnic blankets.

Others



Domestic abuse is everyone's business

You are not alone



Northumberland Integrated Domestic Abuse Support Service

- DASSN for adults (Harbour) – 01670 820199
- Children & Young People Counselling & Outreach (Acorns) - 0191 3498366
- Changing Behaviour (Harbour) - 03000 202525
- DA in Rural Areas (NDAS) – 01434 60 80 30
- DA Counselling (Cygnus Support) – 01670 853977

Visit: nland.uk/DomesticAbuse

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 relatable. 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.



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: 18.03.2026

Dates for your Diary - Summer Term



Tuesday 16th June 2026	Year 6 Diocesan Leavers' Service at St. Nicholas' Cathedral
Wednesday 17th June 2026	Year 4 Team at Golf Tournament
Wednesday 17th June 2026	Special Football World Cup Lunch Menu for school lunch
Friday 19th June 2026	Year 4 visit to Stephenson Railway Museum
Friday 19th June 2026	Dance City Workshops for Year 5 and Year 6
Wednesday 24th June 2026 - Sunday 28th June 2026	Year 6 Trip to France
Wednesday 24th June 2026	Year 1 visit to RNLI at Cullercoats
Friday 26th June 2026	Archery Session for Year 5
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
Wednesday 8th July 2026	Swimming Gala (Team to be chosen) (No Year 4 Swimming this week)

Dates for your Diary - Summer Term



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