

SPECIAL SHOUTOUT

8th May 2026

Issue 15

A huge thank you to everyone within our school community who have supported our OPAL provision by providing donations. We have also recently invested in new items using money raised for school funds at both the Christmas and Easter Fair. The children are thoroughly enjoying exploring our new equipment.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WB 11.5.26 - Year 6 SATs Week
15.5.26 - Wear Green to show support for Mental Health Day
18.5.26 - Nursery Rising Sun walk*
19.5.26 - EYFS SEND Coffee Morning *
21.5.26 - Northumbria Police Workshops KS2
WB 25.5.26 - HALF TERM HOLIDAYS - SCHOOL CLOSED
1.6.26 - Pupils return to school for Summer Term 2
**More Information to Follow*

Have Your Say

Our parents views and comments are extremely important to us. Please follow the link below to share your thoughts on our Curriculum and how this is communicated to parents.

<https://forms.office.com/e/vcn3Ue4WyT>



Designated Safeguarding Team



Miss Gibson
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Miss Martin
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead
(Maternity)



Miss Fletcher
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Mrs Miller
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Mrs Thompson
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Miss McEwen
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Miss Jones
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Miss Jones Mr Jefferson Miss Heppell
Mental health first aiders

Our Connect advisor Peter is available for discussions with parents on a fortnightly basis. He will be available on the yard or gates outside of school to speak to parents and answer any mental health related queries or concerns.





The Den

We've been having so much fun in 'The Den', exploring, playing and growing together in our garden! Our youngest learners have absolutely loved the beautiful sunshine over the past two weeks. Along the way, we've been learning how to stay safe in the sun by wearing our sun hats, putting on sun cream and keeping hydrated. We even made our own yummy ice lollies to help us stay nice and cool! Our farm-themed learning has been full of excitement too. We've been talking about the different animals that live on the farm and learning the names of their babies. One of our favourite activities was shearing our very own "Baa Baa Black Sheep" - it was so much fun filling three bags full!

Nursery

It has been a fortnight of the traditional tale, 'Three Little Pigs' in Nursery. This week we have introduced the story and explored the concept of materials, looking at what different things are made out of and exploring the feel of different materials. Children have attempted building straw and stick houses in small world as well as constructing using recyclable materials. For tasty Tuesday this week, we discussed how pasta comes in different shapes and sizes before tasting tomato fusilli pasta. The pasta was a huge hit!



Reception

What an exciting week Reception has had! We started our week with an introduction to our new story, 'The Gruffalo'. The children enjoyed engaging in provision linked to the story and independently writing a description about the Gruffalo. In Maths this week we have recapped doubles and shared equal parts based on their size or colour. Reception has also enjoyed a wonderful trip to our local Rising Sun Country Park to develop a further understanding of our topic 'Minibeasts', get a closer look in the pond to observe local wildlife and make a yummy 'Gruffalo crumble'.

Y1

This week in Year 1, we have started learning about narratives in Literacy and the children have really enjoyed our new text. We are focusing on grammar features such as proper nouns, exclamation marks and the -ing suffix. In Maths, we have been learning about multiplication and division. The children have been practising counting in 10s, 5s and 2s. In Science, we have continued learning about plants and identified objects that are plants and not plants. We are continuing to practice our 'Special Friends, Fred Talk, Read the Word' in Phonics and would love to show you how amazing we are at home!





Y2

This week, Year 2 have really enjoyed their reading for pleasure time in the library, where they have engaged enthusiastically with a range of texts. As part of our Literacy learning, the children have been writing short-burst sentences during Talk for Writing sessions, linking closely to our focus text 'The Day the Crayons Quit'. In maths, we have started our new unit on fractions, where pupils have begun to explore equal parts and develop their understanding through practical activities. The children have shown great enthusiasm across all areas of learning.

Y3

Year 3 have had a brilliant 2 weeks. The children enjoyed our trip to Beamish, learning about how life has changed over the past 100 years. Their behaviour was impeccable and everyone asked lots of questions and enjoyed exploring. In Maths, we have been recognising, adding, subtracting money and in Literacy the children produced some excellent persuasive pieces of writing. Staff have been really impressed with the progress children have made with cycling in such a short space of time, we can't wait for next week!



Y4

Year 4 have been writing diary entries in Literacy inspired by the tale of 'Beowulf and Grendel'. We loved writing our own descriptions so we could really get into character and our class adults have been really impressed with our use of emotive language and how engaged we have been with the text. In Maths, we have finished our unit on time and have moved on to Money. It would be great if you could continue to ask us time related questions at home as well as ones about money - such as how much items cost - when you are shopping or estimating what the total might be. We are also continuing to prepare for the Multiplication Check which takes place next month and are encouraged to access TT Rockstars, MC Grammar Times Tables and bbc Supermovers times tables at home.

Y5

Children in Year 5 are absolutely loving their Literacy unit on 'Treasure Island'. Children are reading the book and producing some wonderful, action-packed writing after each chapter. In Maths, children have started their 'Properties of Shape' unit, exploring how to use a protractor and measure angles accurately. In Science, children in Year 5 are exploring different forces and how air and water resistance impact this. There has been some incredible investigations complete using the slo-mo camera on an iPad.



Y6

We have been incredibly impressed with the hard work and effort the children have shown over the past two weeks as they prepare for their SATs - they truly could not have worked any harder. As always, we are extremely proud of their positive attitudes and determination, which is key to helping them feel confident and ready. The children have also thoroughly enjoyed working with our visiting music teacher, learning about music notation and developing their skills in playing and following music as part of a group. As we approach SATs week, please ensure your child gets plenty of rest and sleep this weekend, as this is vital in helping them feel calm and focused. We are really looking forward to welcoming the children each morning next week and starting the day together in a positive way. And of course, we're very excited for the well-deserved bacon sandwiches too!



WHAT ELSE DO WE OFFER?



Hedgehogs

We continue to offer a wraparound childcare service through our 'Hedgehogs' provision which children can access both before and after school. Recently, we have been using a wide range of junk modelling materials to design and create our own imaginative creations. The children have enjoyed exploring different textures and shapes while developing their creativity, problem-solving skills and teamwork. It has been wonderful to see their ideas come to life using recycled materials.



Girls Football

Over the last three Tuesdays, the girls played their first matches together as a team, winning 3 and losing 2 league games. Their teamwork, effort and confidence improved each week and we look forward to future matches and continuing to develop together. Well done girls!

Clubs

We continue to offer a wonderful range of extra-curriculum clubs for children to enjoy. The choice includes, crafts, art, outdoor activities and sports - there really is something for everyone! These clubs compliment our school day fantastically, offering children an opportunity to try new activities and build social skills. Please contact the school office for further information and to see which clubs have space to sign up!



SCHOOL COUNCIL

London 2026

During the first week back of the term our school council representatives from Year 3 - Year 6 went on a trip to London. Our London residential trip was a huge success! Pupils had an unforgettable experience exploring the capital and bringing their role as school councillor to life. Highlights included a hands-on visit to the Science Museum, a fascinating tour of the Houses of Parliament where pupils learned about democracy and British Values, and got to take part in a Q&A with a baroness and a ride on the London Eye. The trip was topped off with a magical evening at the Lyceum Theatre to watch 'The Lion King'. Pupils were excellent ambassadors for our school throughout the visit, showing curiosity, teamwork and exemplary behaviour. They even posed some challenging and thoughtful questions to Baroness Gardner during our Q&A, we certainly have some leaders of the future amongst the group. We are incredibly proud of them and would like to thank all staff for their support in making the trip so memorable.



GETTING INVOLVED



Parent Forum

Our Parent Forum is a valued way for parents and carers to have their voices heard and to help shape the future developments of our school. This group is specifically designed to support parents in contributing to whole-school improvements and changes, ensuring that parental perspectives help inform our ongoing development.

We are always welcoming of parental suggestions and strive to listen to and implement ideas wherever possible.

In addition to the Parent Forum, we also provide regular opportunities for communication with parents where there are worries, concerns or where you would like updates on your child's learning and progress. We are committed to maintaining open and supportive communication with families throughout the year.

Our final Summer Term date for our Parent Forum is **Thursday 2nd July 5pm**, and we would love to welcome you into school to hear your feedback and work together in supporting our school community.



Top Tips for...

MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

Buy Milk

GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



DEVICE BOX

The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday