

SPECIAL SHOUTOUT

9th January 2026

Issue 8

A huge well done and congratulations to Mr Henderson (EYFS Teaching Assistant) who has been working with us alongside completing his EYE apprenticeship. This week he had his final assessment and has been awarded a pass with distinction marking the end of his course, however fortunately for us not an end to his time at Hadrian Park.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

10.1.26 Y5/6 Skiing Trip
13.1.26 Y5/6 Chance to Shine Cricket Sessions start *
13.1.26 Pantomime visiting school
22.1.26 Connect Mental Health Services meeting School Council
23.1.26 9:15am Parent Forum Spring Term 1
30.1.26 Year 5 trip to Beamish Museum *
4.2.26 Northumbria Police Workshops Y6
11.2.26 Valentine's Disco *

**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 your child's learning.

<https://forms.office.com/e/anz0YdKnAC>



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
(Maternity)



Mrs Thompson
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Miss McEwen
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Mrs Cox
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 are delighted with how well our youngest learners have settled back into the Den after the Christmas break. It has been a joy to welcome some new Bunnies and Bear Cubs and we are so impressed with how confidently they have settled into their new routines and surroundings.

Our learning journey has been inspired by the winter weather and the snow, sparking lots of excitement and curiosity. We have loved sharing the story Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?, listening carefully to the different animal sounds and joining in together. The children have been wonderfully creative, curious and full of awe and wonder as they explored ice through hands-on play, making magical winter discoveries and igniting lots of conversation.

Nursery

Nursery have thoroughly enjoyed returning back to school and telling their friends all about their wonderful Christmas'. We have introduced a new story which we will be reading this week and next week called 'Think Big', all about Humpty Dumpty and what he would like to grow up to be. We are exploring different job roles, role playing being a musician, builder and a hairdresser. Next week we will explore the role of other jobs including an Artist, Scientist and a Police Detective.



Reception

Reception have had a wonderful first week back after the Holidays! They have been amazing settling back into our daily routines. In Literacy we have explored the book, 'Whatever Next', which is a space themed book. The children have thoroughly enjoyed working in the provision based on our space topic. Some of the children braved the snow to build a snowman. We have discussed the importance of keeping warm in the snow and we celebrated 2026 with a New Year countdown.

Y1

The children have settled back into school beautifully in their first week and have loved sharing their exciting experiences from the Christmas holidays. We have also made a great start to our learning, beginning Talk for Writing in Literacy where we will begin to become story tellers, writing our own exciting stories. This will give us the chance to apply our growing phonics knowledge. In Maths we have been continuing our number work by exploring place value to 20. We are excited to see what learning the rest of the Spring Term brings.





Y2

This week in Year 2, we are diving into our exciting new text, *The Castle*, which will spark our imaginations and inspire some fantastic discussions and writing in the coming weeks. In Maths, we are moving on to multiplying and dividing, building on our understanding of numbers and learning strategies to solve problems confidently. In Science, our focus is on plants—we'll explore what they need to grow, identify different parts and even investigate how they change over time. It's going to be a topic full of curiosity and discovery!

Y3

Year 3 have settled back in brilliantly after what sounds like an amazing festive break for all our families! In Literacy, the children have jumped straight back into continuing their writing based on a warning tale. They have revisited key features such as fronted adverbials, conjunctions and expanded noun phrases. They have been busy changing characters, settings, and descriptions to make the stories their own. In Maths, the class has moved on to the next phase of multiplication and division, focusing on multiplying and dividing two-digit numbers. We're so proud of their enthusiasm and can't wait to see all the fantastic learning that lies ahead this term!



Y4

Year 4 have returned to school with their lovely smiles! We are excited to start our 'Warning Tale' writing unit in Literacy, as we have been thinking about lots of different types of warnings we might come across in daily life. In Maths, we are finishing our unit of 'Multiplication and Division' and moving into new learning of 'Area'. In our Guided Reading lessons, we have started reading 'Dead Man's Cove' by Lauren St John and can't wait to find out more about the story. We hope you all had a lovely, well-earned break and are ready for an exciting, busy half-term back.



Y5

This week in maths Year 5 have been exploring volume of 3D shapes. Children have used cubes to construct their own shapes as well as using their times table knowledge to work out the volume of 3D shapes. In Literacy, we have begun a new topic around non chronological reports. The text we have begun using as our model is entitled "Jaguars." We have spent time considering an author's aims when they are writing a non chronological report and have played some Yes/No games to develop investigation skills. Outside of maths and literacy, we have been enjoying the snow with our own snowman competition!





Y6

We have welcomed the children back after their festive break and they have settled in well. In Literacy, we have started an exciting unit on diary writing inspired by Anne Frank. In Maths, we are continuing our work on fractions, decimals and percentages. Our Science topic focuses on animals including humans, exploring how our bodies function. In PE, we are continuing with gymnastics and are thrilled to have a special visitor delivering cricket sessions to the children.



WHAT ELSE DO WE OFFER?

Hedgehogs

Our Hedgehogs wraparound care continues to be a great success, providing a welcoming and supportive start and end to the school day. Children are really enjoying the relaxed atmosphere to socialise, settle in and get ready for learning - and the breakfast waffles have been a particular favourite! This provision not only supports families with flexible childcare, but also helps our learners to feel calm, nourished and ready to engage, boosting wellbeing, confidence and learning throughout the day.



Clubs

Our after-school clubs offer continues to thrive, offering children a fantastic range of opportunities from creative arts and crafts to energetic sports and active play. These clubs provide pupils with a chance to discover new interests, develop skills and enjoy spending time with friends in a fun, supportive environment. These clubs not only enrich learning beyond the classroom but also help build confidence, teamwork, and a real love of trying something new.

GETTING INVOLVED

Parent Forum

Our parent forum is a great way to have your voice heard and shape developments to our school in the future. Thank you to those parents who joined us for our meetings so far. Our Spring Term dates are below and we would love to welcome you into school to hear your feedback.

Friday 23rd January @ 9:15am
Tuesday 24th March @ 2:30pm



SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our school council team will continue to meet weekly with Miss Fletcher during the Spring Term. This week the school council discussed priorities for 2026 and their thoughts on how we can improve daily life at our school. All school council representatives will be leading a session in their classrooms next week to gather pupils' thoughts on what they enjoy about our school and what could be even better. This will shape our work this half term.

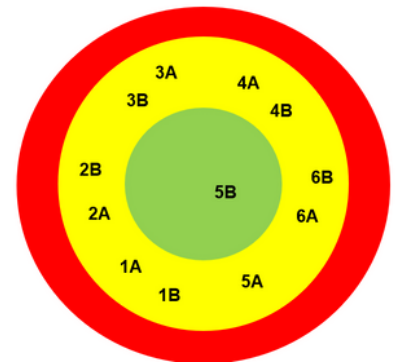


ATTENDANCE

As a school we continue to prioritise attendance. Each week we have been celebrating class attendance in our assemblies. The class with the best attendance for the week claims the attendance trophy. The school council have been discussing rewards and support around attendance so you may see and hear about some of these initiatives over the coming weeks.

Our school attendance for the Autumn Term was **94.5% which is in the amber section.**

At Hadrian Park Primary School our attendance target is 96%. We will regular monitor attendance and make contact with parents of pupils whose attendance falls below our school target.



Autumn Term Attendance

GREEN Pupils with attendance from 96% to 100%
AMBER Pupils with attendance from 90% to 95.9%
RED Pupils with attendance Below 90%

SCHOOL UPDATES

We are delighted to share that Miss Loizou (Year 3 Class Teacher & LKS2 Phase Leader) is expecting a baby. Please join us in congratulating her on this wonderful news. Her maternity leave is planned to commence after Easter.

Some of you may already be aware that Miss West (School Business Manager) is also expecting a baby, with her maternity leave due to begin in February. Please join us in wishing all the best during this time. Mrs Morrison (School Business Manager), who was on maternity leave and due to return in January will not be returning to us at Hadrian Park after securing a role in our MAT (Centurion Trust) central team.

Mrs Cox (Year 3 HTLA) will now be known as Miss Jones in all correspondence and communication.



SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH UPSETTING CONTENT

A Guide for Parents and Carers

Raising children in the digital age seems to be getting tougher, with the world currently experiencing so many uncertainties. From climate change to military conflicts around the globe, right now children across the globe can scarcely go online without being exposed to unsettling stories, images and ideas. Reassuring a concerned child can be difficult, especially when bad news feels omnipresent. We've put together some advice to help you in discussing upsetting events with young ones.

1 FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS

There are many ways that children are exposed to upsetting content in the media, both online and offline. Before swamping your child with information, find out what they know already. Show them you're interested in what they have to say, practice active listening and try to gauge how much your child has been impacted by what they've seen.

2 RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE

Starting a conversation about upsetting content probably isn't the best idea when your child is studying for an exam or about to go to bed. Choose a time when they're relaxed and open to talking, to make sure you have their full attention. Remember, these conversations can become emotional, so choose somewhere your child feels safe and comfortable.

3 KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE

With younger children, try and keep the conversation more general and avoid leading questions and complex detail. You can go slightly deeper into the specifics with young teenagers but keep monitoring their emotional response. With older teens, you can be more open about the realities and consequences of what's happening – but again, do stay aware of their emotional state.

4 EMPHASISE HOPE

Upsetting content can make anyone feel angry, scared, sad or overwhelmed. Try to find stories of hope, generosity and strength related to the content you're discussing. Children often feel reassured when they know they can do something to help, so encourage your child's sense of control through activities which make them feel they're positively impacting the events they're concerned about.

5 MONITOR REACTIONS

All children react differently, of course, and young people might not directly say that they're scared, angry, anxious, confused or uncomfortable. Emotional reactions are natural when discussing upsetting topics, so take note of your child's body language and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings in a non-judgmental space and try to stay mindful of how they might be feeling.

6 CONSIDER YOUR OWN EMOTIONS

It's not only young people who find upsetting news difficult to process: adults also have to deal with strong emotions in moments of stress. Children develop coping strategies by mirroring those around them, so staying on top of how you appear to be regulating your emotion on the outside is important for supporting your child through worrying times.

7 SET LIMITS

Managing screen-time and content can be difficult even in normal circumstances, but especially in unusual or stressful periods (at the start of the pandemic, for example). It's virtually impossible to keep children away from upsetting content completely, but it's important to try to limit exposure by using parental controls, talking about the dangers of harmful content and enforcing screen-time limits.

8 TAKE THINGS SLOWLY

Try not to overwhelm your child with information all at once: instead, take the discussion one step at a time. You could make the first conversation a simple introduction to a potentially upsetting subject and then wait until your child is ready to talk again. Opening the door to the conversation and demonstrating that your child can talk to you about this type of issue is a vital first step.

9 ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS

Online, troubling images, posts, videos and stories are shared across multiple platforms, many of which your child might access. Even if the content is actually inappropriate, encourage your child to discuss what they saw instead of being angry at them for seeing it. Children are still learning that not everything online is accurate – you want to be their ultimate source of information, not their device.

10 FIND A BALANCE

There's often a tremendous compulsion to stay right up to date with events. Our phones frequently send us push notifications urging us to read the latest article or view the most recent video on social media. It's essential to remind your child that it's healthy to take regular breaks, and to focus on positive events instead of 'doomscrolling' and risking becoming overwhelmed by bad news.

11 BUILD RESILIENCE

News has never been more accessible. While our instinct may be to shield children from upsetting stories, it's important that they're equipped with the tools to manage this content when they are exposed to it. Talk about upsetting content more generally with your child and emphasise that they can always tell you or a trusted adult if something they see makes them feel uneasy.

12 IDENTIFY HELP

It's hugely important that children know where to find support if they encounter upsetting content online. Encourage them to open up to an adult that they trust, and make sure they're aware of who their trusted adults are. It is essential that children understand that they're not alone, and that help is available if and when they need it.

Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is the director of FaceUp South Africa, which is a reporting system that is currently being used by schools and companies to fight bullying around the world. FaceUp helps give a voice to bystanders by encouraging them to speak up and get the help they not only want but need.



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