

SPECIAL SHOUTOUT

23rd January 2026

Issue 9

A huge thank you to the members of staff who worked tirelessly planning for our Y5/6 skiing trip and supporting and caring for our pupils while they were away. On behalf of the children, parents and careers we would like to thank you for your care, commitment and dedication to making sure the children get this amazing opportunity!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

30.1.26 Year 5 trip to Beamish Museum *
4.2.26 Northumbria Police Workshops Y6
WB 9.2.26 Children's Mental Health Week
11.2.26 Valentine's Disco *
12.2.26 Reception Trip to Great North Museum*
12.2.26 10:30am & 2pm The Den Stay & Play *
13.2.26 Year 3 Discovery Museum *
13.2.256 House Points Winners Non-Uniform
**More Information to Follow*

Have Your Say

Our parents views and comments are extremely important to us. In our last bulletin we asked you to share your thoughts on your child's learning. Thank you to those who responded. Please see a detailed overview of responses at the end of this week's bulletin.



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



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.



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The Den

The children in 'The Den' have been busy, curious learners this week. We went on listening walks both indoors and outdoor, carefully tuning our ears to the sounds around us. We especially enjoyed listening to the animal sounds in our story Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear? Our favourite was the fluting flamingo! We practised balancing and strengthening our bodies by standing on one leg, just like a flamingo. The children also wondered why polar bears have white fur and enjoyed sharing their ideas. On Tasty Tuesday, we tickled our tastebuds by tasting freezing ice cream sprinkled with crunchy meringue crumbs. Next week, we will be exploring fire and heading off to dragon school.

Nursery

Nursery have developed an excellent understanding and recall of this week's story of the week, Shark in the Park. We have been learning the story through Talk 4 Writing actions in preparation for next week where we will innovate and adapt the story. Children have developed their fine motor skills this week with particular emphasis on scissor and cutting skills to create sharks or painting to make and use telescopes. For Tasty Tuesday we explored 'salty' foods as we made salty seaweed using kale accompanied with scrambled egg. Children were very resilient and willing to have a little try. Next week, we will be visited by our local Police Officer!



Reception

Reception have had an exciting two weeks exploring our new topic on space, where the children learned that they live on planet Earth. They have enjoyed beginning to read and write short words, growing in confidence with their early phonics skills. In PE, the children have been practising jumping safely from a height and landing on two feet. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and growing independence across all areas of learning. Check out their excellent star in Commando Joe!

Y1

This week Year 1 have enjoyed exploring their text 'The Three Little Pigs' and thinking about the structure of the story. In Maths, we have continued to develop our knowledge of numbers to 20, using a number line to help us. We have also been practicing estimating on number line - our teachers were very impressed! We were very lucky this week to work with Mr Brown in Computing who helped us to use a keyboard and begin to create some recipes for a superhero. In Geography, we have been learning about maps and thinking about the different maps we have seen and what they do. I wonder how many you could spot over the weekend?





Y2

In Year 2, we have been exploring lots of exciting learning across the curriculum. In Literacy, we have been enjoying poetry, focusing on the poem 'The Castle' and thinking about the language, rhythm, and imagination poets use. In maths, we have been practising dividing by 2 and multiplying by 2, using objects, pictures and number sentences to help us understand. We have also started our music lessons, where we are learning how to play the glockenspiel and keeping a steady beat. In history, we have been learning about Pocahontas, looking at tribal names and what it means to belong. In RE, we have been thinking about belonging too, and why it is important in different faiths and communities.

Y3

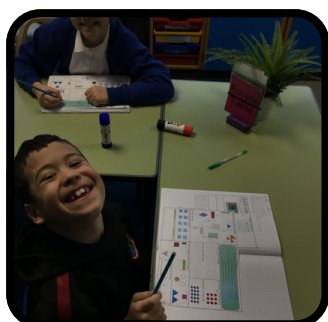
Year 3 have been working really hard on inventing their own Warning Tale in Literacy, using their class text 'Stone Age Boy' as inspiration.

They have enjoyed the first two Commando Joe sessions this half term, working as part of a team to achieve their goals. In Maths, we have been developing our multiplication skills and have started to multiply two-digit numbers by one-digit numbers, impressing all the staff. As part of our Science unit, Light, children carried out an experiment, exploring materials that are opaque and not opaque.



Y4

Year 4 have been smashing it this week! We have just started our new Maths topic of Fractions and we are really enjoying thinking about making fractions of slices of cake and pizza. In Literacy, Year 4 are still working on Warning Tales by creating exciting, incredible and mesmerising setting descriptions. We have been focusing on our power of three skills and have been applying these skilfully into our work. In History, we have been researching the Romans and what their impact has been on our lives today. Keep up the good work Year 4.



Y5

This week in Year 5, children have worked extremely hard during our Multiplication and Division Unit in Maths, exploring column multiplication up to 4 digits by 2 digits. In Literacy, children have carried out research on an interesting animal and completed their independent Non-Chronological Report. In PE, children are enjoying our new Cricket unit, taught by Dan from Northumberland Cricket. We would like to praise all the children who went skiing last week for their behaviour and efforts, as well as those children who stayed in school and worked very hard throughout the week.





Y6

Over the last couple of weeks, Year 6 children have been developing their mathematical knowledge of fractions, decimals and percentages. In English, we have been learning about World War Two and are now innovating our diary writing, moving from Anne Frank to a new perspective inspired by The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas. The children have worked hard to adapt their writing to suit a different character and viewpoint. In science, pupils have enjoyed practical experiments exploring how the heart pumps blood around the body. It has been a busy and engaging two weeks, with lots of enthusiasm shown across the curriculum.



WHAT ELSE DO WE OFFER?

Hedgehogs

Our Hedgehogs wraparound care continues to thrive, offering children a warm, welcoming start and end to each school day. Pupils love the calm, friendly atmosphere where they can relax and get ready to learn — and the breakfast waffles remain a big hit! This provision not only gives our families valuable flexibility with childcare, but also helps our learners feel settled, well-nourished and confident, setting them up for a positive and productive day of learning.



Clubs

KS1 Creative Club

This week in KS1 Creative Club, we showed off our creativity and imagination by recycling junk modelling into beautiful works of art. The children practised their cutting and sticking skills and had great fun turning everyday materials into something new.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

This week our school councillors have been thinking about Children's Mental Health week, which we will be celebrating as a school in February. Children shared their thoughts on current issues they face and on ways to promote positive mental health. We have thought about activities and sessions children might want to do as part of the week to encourage positive well-being and are looking forward to sharing updates with you in February.



SKIING 2026

Our skiing trip to Alpe d'Huez was a wonderful success, with all the children and staff enjoying an unforgettable experience on the slopes. Throughout the week, they built remarkable resilience—tackling new challenges, supporting one another and growing in confidence each day. It was inspiring to see how skilfully they navigated the mountain, improving their technique while embracing every moment with enthusiasm and joy. Their positive attitudes and determination made the trip truly special - a real once in a lifetime trip, filled with so many memories. Thank you so much to all in Year 5 & 6 that attended - we are already starting planning for next years trip!



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 next Spring Term date is below and we would love to welcome you into school to hear your feedback.

Tuesday 24th March @ 2:30pm



Thursday 29th January 2026

What to expect:

- ❶ Practical tips and advice from experienced staff
Guidance tailored to your child
- ❷ A bespoke toilet training plan created to meet your child's individual needs

This workshop is a great opportunity to ask questions, share experiences, and leave with a clear plan to support your child at home and school.

We look forward to welcoming you!



HAVE YOUR SAY... LEARNING & PROGRESS



WE ASKED

- The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.
- The information about what my child is learning is easy to understand.
- The information is useful to support my child's learning.



YOU REPLIED

- The general communication about what the children do daily/weekly is poor. There are virtually no updates posted on BlueSky for some classes.
- Inequality in amount of PE between classes.
- Examples of learning covered may help parents support at home.
- Seeing progress charts and not just at parents evening would be useful.
- In KS2 there is no suggested home work charts like there was in KS1, they would be useful to tie in learning at home.
- I would like to see books coming home again and more books being read in school rather than the reading plus.



WE LISTENED

- We understand how important it is for parents to know what children are learning so you can support that learning at home. In response, we've encouraged every class to aim to post at least one update per week on Bluesky. This will help create more consistency across classes while also keeping a healthy balance with teachers' workload. Updates are also provided through our fortnightly bulletin.
- We understand how important regular physical activity is for children's health, wellbeing, and enjoyment of school. All classes are timetabled for a minimum of two hours of PE each week, and we closely monitor this to ensure it is delivered consistently across the year.
- We agree that strong links between school and home make a real difference. At the start of each term, we provide curriculum overviews for every year group and termly homework grids to show what children will be learning and how this can be supported at home. These are shared with families via email and are also available at any time on the school website.
- We understand how reassuring it is for parents to know how their child is getting on throughout the year. While formal progress is shared at parents' evenings and in reports, class teachers are always happy to discuss your child's progress at any point during the academic year.
- We understand how important it is for children to develop a love of physical books as well as strong comprehension skills. Alongside Reading Plus, children are encouraged to take home physical books from our school and class library collections so they can enjoy reading away from screens.



Part of our Online Mental Health & Wellbeing Series



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What you need to know about...

AGE RATINGS



What are they?

'Age Ratings'

A game's age rating can be used by adults to make an informed choice as to whether or not a game is suitable for their child. The PEGI (Pan European Game Information) system rates games and, instead of indicating the level of ability required to physically play a game, it indicates the suitability of content for that age group. 3, 7, 12, 16 and 18 are the labels that can be awarded to games and a variety of content descriptors such as violence, bad language and fear are used to further clarify why the label was assigned.

16 & UP ONLY

12-15

Know the Risks

18+

Inappropriate content

The biggest and most obvious risk of not following the age rating system is that children may view or hear age-inappropriate content. Many games now include scenes of a violent or graphic nature which could be upsetting or considered too intense for younger players.

Peer pressure

Peer pressure has a large role to play in age ratings being overlooked. Children don't want to be the ones left behind and can put their parents under pressure to allow them to play a game beyond the recommended suitability, especially when all of their friends are playing it already.

Level of 'Kudos'

Playing a game with a label that is higher than their age can be viewed by some children as a challenge and to gain a good reputation amongst friends. Kudos is attributed to the child playing the age inappropriate game resulting in more children wanting to follow suit.

Free Platforms

In order for a game to be released on popular platforms, such as PlayStation and Xbox, game developers must pay for a PEGI rating. However, smaller development teams are sometimes reluctant to pay these fees and games are often released on other platforms, such as Steam, without any age restrictions.

FREE

Spot the Signs

Being vague

Be aware of children being vague around the content of what they want to play. If they are unwilling to supply you with information about what the game is about, this can be an indicator that you wouldn't allow them to purchase it if you knew.

Unofficial sites

There are plenty of indie games that can be bought using online stores that don't necessarily have age restrictions. If you notice your child using sites such as GOG or itch.io rather than official channels such as the Google Play Store, they might be accessing games that aren't officially rated but still aren't age appropriate.

Unfamiliar terminology

Your child might start using phrases or terminology that is new to them or mimicking actions that they have learnt from a game without realising their inappropriateness.

Wanting to be secluded

Be aware if suddenly your child wants the move the device that they play their games on into a more secluded area of the house away from adults. It is a good idea for your child to play online games in shared area where you can see the screen.

Be aware of spending

Setting up accounts with online stores require bank account details. Keeping an eye on your bank balance means that you will be able to tell if there has been a new purchase and can provide you with an opportunity to ask about what new game they've purchased.

Safety Tips

Do your research

If you've noticed a new game that your child has downloaded then use quality resources to make sure that your knowledge is up to date. Online websites, such as National Online Safety, can provide you with the information you need.

Review parental controls

Review your parental controls on the stores where you buy games from. Most sites allow parents to set passwords to block games with certain age restrictions from being downloaded.

Encourage open dialogue

Encourage open dialogue with your child. You don't want to be in position where they won't talk to you if something has made them feel uncomfortable in a game because they are worried they will get in trouble for playing the game in the first place.

Discuss ratings

Talk to your child about why the game has been awarded a certain label. Debate the positives and negatives of playing a game and decide on some ground rules together.

Our Expert

Heather Cardwell



Heather Cardwell is a practising Online Safety Lead and senior school leader who is passionate about safeguarding online and educating children around online risks. She has over 10+ years as a Computing Lead and has successfully developed and implemented a whole school approach to online safety in schools, delivering online safety training to both school staff and parents and helping to roll-out a bespoke online safety policy across her local network of education settings.