

SPECIAL SHOUTOUT

27th February 2026

Issue 11

This week we launched Commando Joe's Play at a lunchtime! This provision provides Commando Joe style games and activities each day on the yard led by our wonderful Year 5 pupil volunteers. A huge thank you to all the staff and children who were involved in setting up Commando Joe's play. We are so proud of the effort and commitment shown by all involved.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WB 2.3.26 STEM/Careers Week
3.3.26 International Women's Day Assembly
3.3.26 Parents Consultations - B classes
4.3.26 Parents Consultations - A classes
5.3.26 World Book Day
10.3.26 3:30pm Skiing Meeting 2027
20.3.26 Red Nose Day*
24.3.26 2:30pm Parent Forum
**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 and progress in school.

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



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.





The Den

Our youngest learners have loved finding out about the Lunar New Year. The children have had a wonderful time celebrating together. We have danced with colourful ribbons, explored and tasted delicious Asian foods and practised using chopsticks to help develop our fine motor skills. Some of our children also shared their experiences of visiting the festival in Newcastle with their families. We were thrilled to hear their exciting tales and to see the beautiful dragon puppets they brought in to show their friends. We also found time to exchange red envelopes to wish our friends good luck and happiness for the year ahead. It has been a joyful celebration full of music, movement and new cultural experiences. Next week, we will begin our exploration of the miniature world beneath our feet and the wonders of nature all around us.

Nursery

Nursery have enjoyed their week back to school by immersing themselves in the traditional tale 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We have compared the height of our peers as well as planted individual beanstalks. We continue to focus on our fine motor skills, participating in lots of drawing, writing and cutting activities, we practised cutting spirals to create a giant classroom beanstalk. We were amazed by the arrival of our new visitors in reception (chick eggs), starting with only one egg hatching, we now have 6 chicks! We are doing daily visits to Reception to see how the chicks are developing.

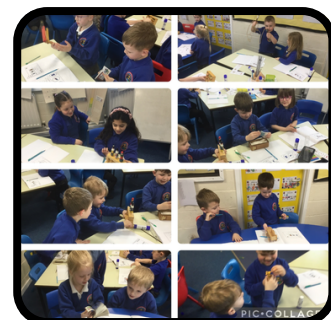


Reception

Reception has had a wonderful first week back and have even gained some visitors! We are very lucky to have some chicks that have hatched and are loving their new home in reception. We have thrived during our story 'The little Red Hen', the children are loving the actions, why don't you ask them to perform them at home? In Math's we have focused on 'More than and less than' using STEM sentences. Look out for chick updates on Bluesky.

Y1

What a fantastic first week back in Year 1. In Literacy, we have been learning our new text 'How to Catch a Big Bad Wolf'. We have loved learning about instructions and acting out our text. In Maths, we have been continuing to learn to add and subtract numbers to 20. In History, we have been exploring toys from the past. We have thought about the materials they were made from and the differences between toys in the present and past. Next week, we have a very exciting week with Careers Week and World Book Day.



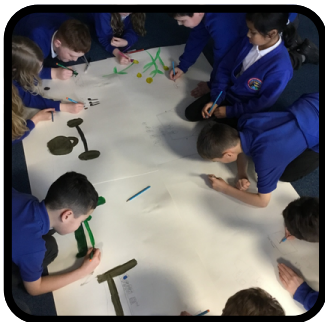


Y2

Year 2 have been enjoying sorting and exploring 3D shapes in Maths, using their knowledge to group and describe different objects. In Literacy, we have been busy planning and inventing our own stories as we prepare for our upcoming hot write. In History, we have been learning all about the life of Pocahontas and the impact she had. The children have also been very excited about reading at home with their parents — we have loved seeing all your wonderful photos. We are looking forward to starting our cycling sessions next week!

Y3

Year 3 have had a wonderful first week back after half term and have jumped straight into their learning with enthusiasm and readiness. They have continued to work hard on their new non-chronological reports in Literacy and are making great progress with their unit on measurement in Maths. Before the break, the children enjoyed an exciting visit to the Discovery Museum, where they took part in a light-themed workshop linked to their Science learning. All of the children behaved fantastically throughout the trip; their manners, engagement and positive attitudes were exemplary. It was a pleasure to take them, and their excellent behaviour meant they were able to get the very most out of this valuable learning experience.



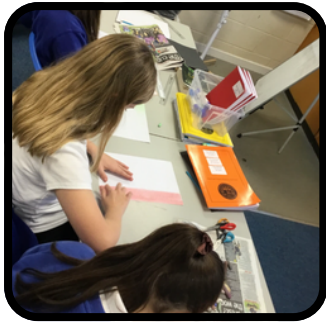
Y4

In Year 4, we have returned from half term with a bang! We are continuing with our Journey Tale in Literacy. In Maths, we have finished our unit on Fractions and are linking our previous learning to the new unit of Decimals. We are continuing with our work in History, studying the Romans, preparing us for our trips next week to Segedunum. Please continue to use Times Table Rock Stars to support multiplication learning at home.

Y5

Children in Year 5 have made a fantastic start to their cycling sessions, showing brilliant resilience and effort during the rides. In Literacy, children have started their Wishing Tale unit, exploring different wishes and analysing a range of texts, including the King of the Horses. In Maths, children have continued their Fractions unit, comparing and ordering Improper Fractions using their knowledge of finding a common numerator or denominator. Children are continuing their Industrial Revolution unit in History, using their learnt knowledge from our trip to Beamish to help understand what life was like during these times.





Y6

Year 6 have had a fantastic first week back and have settled brilliantly into their learning. In Literacy, we have continued developing our explanation texts, focusing on how a river is formed and using precise technical vocabulary to describe each stage of the process. In Maths, we have completed some important revision on telling the time and are now beginning our new unit on translation. In Science, we have started a new topic on light, exploring how it travels and how we see objects. It has been a focused and productive week and we are proud of the effort the children have shown.

WHAT ELSE DO WE OFFER?



Hedhogs

At Hedhogs, the children have been having a wonderful time enjoying outdoor play with their friends. They have loved spending time outside, playing games, staying active and making the most of the fresh air together. It's been fantastic to see their teamwork, laughter and friendships continue to grow during these sessions!



Clubs

We're excited to share that our fantastic range of after-school clubs restart next week! There's something for everyone, with a variety of fun, creative and active clubs on offer. We can't wait to see the children getting involved, learning new skills and enjoying time with friends after school.

If you haven't signed up yet, please contact to school office to discuss spaces and availability.

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



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAP STREAK

97

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.



SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🌟 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.



SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.



SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.



ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.



INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.



Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.



ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.



BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.



USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.



Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>



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