



Autumn 1 Newsletter

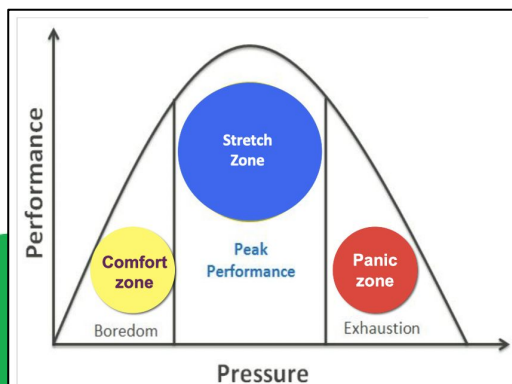
Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,
Happy new school year!

What a personal pleasure it is for me to be back in school with your lovely children and the fantastic staff we have here. I am delighted to say that I am back to work normally after the joy of two hospital stays and pneumonia.

The summer break is, for teaching staff, usually a time for reflection and rejuvenation as well as tiring in its own way as a parent myself. The holidays, plus that reluctant time off (!), has certainly made me feel even more gratitude for the fantastic job I have and focused my thinking in continuing to improve this wonderful school.

The year ahead looks very exciting as we consolidate what we do well and improve to be the very best we can be for your children. We always have at the heart of our provision a focus on the 'whole child', with exciting plans afoot for courageous advocacy (forging a better world), pastoral activities and building resilience and courage in tough times. Curriculum-wise, we are focusing on academic rigour and providing real depth and challenge for all. Lessons here *should* be difficult, getting to that 'stretch zone' where learning happens most deeply.



From the children's point of view, hopefully they will come home talking about neatness and presentation and taking pride in their writing, which will be a big 'push' over the next year.

We are not just focused on written presentation though: we are focusing on the presentation of the school site too! Hopefully over the coming weeks and months, you will notice changes from our new library, our evolving Early Years area (the contractors are rather behind schedule at the moment though...!) and other improvements across our fantastic outdoor learning provision.

Faith remains central to what we do. Our Christian welcome is unconditional, for all faiths and none, as we guide children to love themselves, love each other, and love the world, knowing that they are special, this school is special, but there is also a special wider world: that we are part of something greater than just ourselves.

Hopefully, my excitement for the year ahead is at least slightly infectious (!). It is a wonderful time to be part of the Warkworth CofE Primary community. On that note, to those of you who are new to the school, may I welcome you here; and to those of you who are in their ump-teenth year as you work through sending the whole family here, welcome back, and I hope you know the school is in very safe hands.

Jonathan Booth
Headteacher



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Strive together as one. *Philippians 1:27*
Acts of love and good works. *Hebrews 10:24*



School Vision and Values

This week, children across school have been reflecting on our vision and values. Created and honed over many years, they were simplified and 'tightened' with the help of the Vision Club last academic year. Just prior to my going off, we discussed this as a whole-school very frequently and the children's voices were essential in both tightening its focus as well as bringing me into the fold!

Our vision and values are at the heart of all we do and I felt the first newsletter back was a great opportunity to share why we do what we do with our families and what makes our school unique compared to others across the region and country!

We are immensely proud of our history as a village school whilst recognising that we now serve a wider, more varied community across central Northumberland.

Our vision and mission are inspired by St. Paul, who guided early Christians through a challenging world. He taught vulnerable individuals to love everyone, even those who did not love him back. We **strive together as one**, working as one whole school to better ourselves and the world through **acts of love and good works**.

Our values are **Love, Peace and Courage**, the most important of which is love. Everything we do is built around this vision, but particularly our curriculum – at its core is that we teach rigorous lessons with high expectations within a loving, nurturing environment. We believe that it is part of our social and Christian mission that all children are exposed to a broad, balanced and challenging body of deep knowledge.



Love is our guiding value, at the core of every interaction and our school rules. We have just three school rules, although we appreciate that they are not always easy to follow!

- Love yourself
- Love each other
- Love the world

Love at our school is unconditional, embracing all, regardless of their background or faith. We aspire for everyone to express this love throughout their lives. The rainbow heart represents all people.

St Paul taught early Christians that they must show **Peace** to all, symbolised by the dove of the Holy Spirit on our school badge, whilst also finding peace within ourselves.

In tough times, we need **Courage**, inspired by St. Paul's resilience even in prison (hence the picture above!). We need courage to drive us to show love and peace, no matter the challenges we face.

For further information, please read our school website, including our [vision page](#) and our [curriculum page](#).



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PE, Swimming and Water Safety

As you may already be aware, Mrs Frater has, amongst her myriad of other roles, the joy of leading PE. This makes sense given that her idea of a holiday is simply doing marathon-length runs in a different climate and that the Great North Run this coming weekend is more like a warm up for her other running commitments. She has a passion for PE and the power of sport which the children here will benefit from enormously.

Mrs Frater and I met shortly before I went off sick to review PE and agreed that, for the year ahead, we would look to provide something a little different to the primary school norm. Namely, Key Stage 1 children will begin swimming lessons to embed this fantastic life skill as early as possible, and children across Key Stage 2 will have a range of water safety activities (like kayaking), taking advantage of the opportunities in the area.

We are also looking at expanding the competitive sports offer and promoting the power of physical exercise to help body, mind and spirit.

Further details will follow for classes through a letter to KS1 families but I wanted to highlight this exciting change for the year ahead. If you have any links to sporting organisations that the school could utilise, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Library

Thank you to the many families who gave us books for our library which is beginning to come together in our entrance way! We have been overwhelmed with so many fantastic books. If anybody would like to contribute more, please let us know!

We are approaching a number of different organisations to help fundraise to improve the library this coming academic year so watch this space! Hopefully it can look as good as the examples below!



Parent, Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA)

In my first newsletter and in many conversations here and across Warkworth, I have spoken about closer engagement with the wider community and tapping into the expertise so many people in the area have. With this in mind, we would like to look at re-establishing a PTFA.

Myself and colleagues have worked with some fantastic PTFAs in the past that not only do the usual fundraising activities but also had a wealth of knowledge and experience within it, engaging families across the school community and that is what hopefully, over time, we could rebuild.

If this interests you, please leave your details with Mrs Gibson. The PTFA would be open to anyone linked to the school, not just parents and main carers!

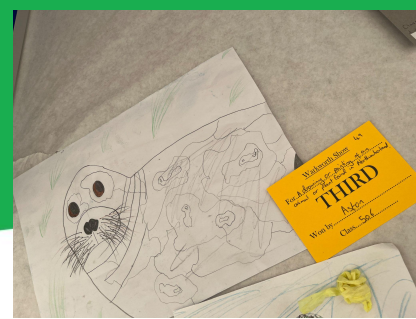
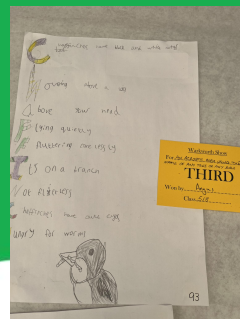
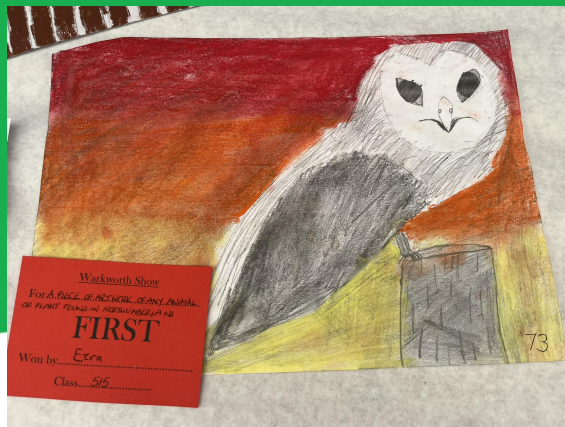


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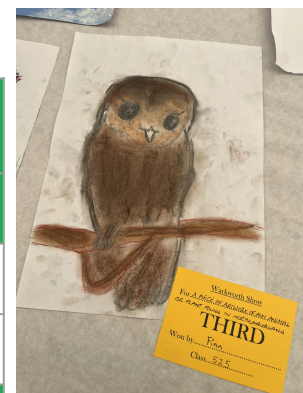
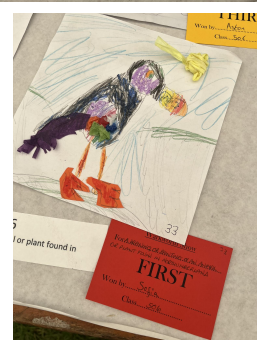
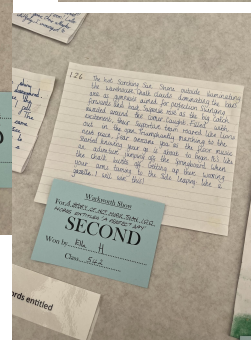
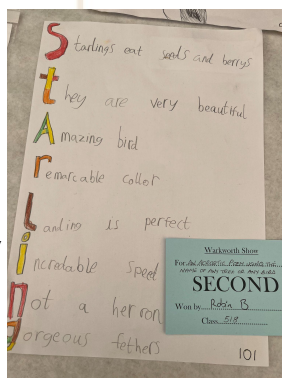
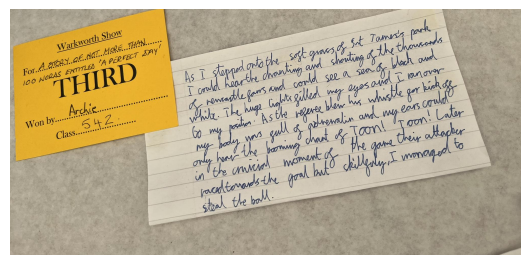


Warkworth Show

This year's Show was an absolute pleasure to attend - my very first which I went to with my daughter and mum, having a lovely time in the castle grounds, admiring the local crafts and also slightly enviously looking over the classic cars.

Better still, the Show Committee were absolutely delighted with the amount of school representation. We had over 100 entries! The children's work were, and I quote, "the stars of the show"!

Please enjoy an overview of work produced by our winners and thank you to everyone who contributed. We are already looking forward to next summer.



Warkworth Winners!

A piece of artwork of a plant or animal found in Northumberland

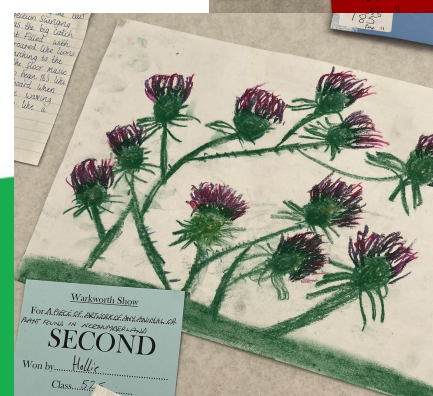
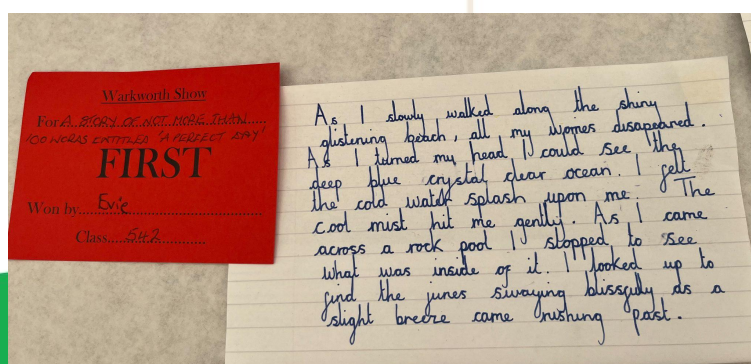
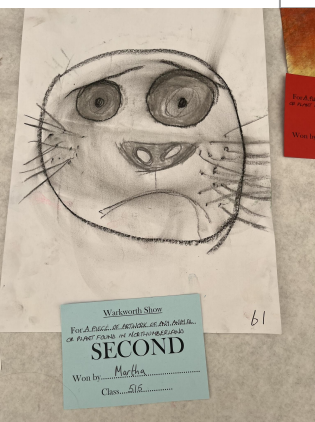
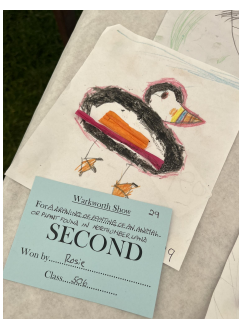
| | | |
|-------|--------|--------|
| Sofia | Rosie | Ezra |
| Aston | Martha | Hollie |

An acrostic poem

| | | | |
|-------|---------|--------|------|
| Angus | Robin B | Imogen | Finn |
|-------|---------|--------|------|

A story on 'A Perfect Day'

| | | |
|------|--------|--------|
| Evie | Archie | Ella H |
|------|--------|--------|



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Harvest Festival

It is that time of year again - Harvest is such a wonderful event in school - not just because it brings back memories of 'cauliflowers fluffy...' but because it is a chance for children to think about helping those in need. The School Council will soon be leading an initiative on this.

Of course, there will be services run by the children themselves! For Key Stage 1 and 2, this will be held at St Lawrence's and there will be activities afterwards at the church for families. Further details will follow.

| | | |
|---|--------------------|--------|
| Nursery & 2s (Please only attend one session) In school | Tues 24th October | 2pm |
| | Thurs 26th October | 2pm |
| Reception In school | Weds 25th October | 9am |
| Years 1-6 St Lawrence's | Tues 24th October | 2:15pm |

Lunch Time Clubs

Mrs Gibson has emailed families inviting children to lunchtime clubs beginning next week for this half-term. This is a trial; children will be asked what they think of them as part of a review ahead of Autumn 2.

Choir and School Council will run all year around - as discussed in our last newsletter, there are big plans afoot for both so watch this space!

Dates for the year ahead (including Nativities!)

It may seem very early to be discussing Christmas (!) but, as mentioned in the last newsletter, I am trying my hardest to collate as many dates as possible for families to help them with planning, time off etc. Each half-term, I will update the calendar at the end of the newsletter with dates. Term dates, training days etc. are all on there too.

I have put the Nativity dates on, with two performances per class, including after-school performances for KS1 and KS2, for your information. Further details will follow next term!



Parents' Evening and Open Classes

Consultations with parents will happen in week commencing Monday 16th October. Bookings will open on Arbor in the next couple of weeks. The meetings will be focused on how your child is settling in and early target setting.

In addition, prior to half-term, teachers will communicate when there will be an 'open class' which will be a lovely opportunity for parents, grandparents and other family members to get 'stuck in' with their children in a lesson! These will occur in November.



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The Local Community



Last night, I attended my first Warkworth Parish Council meeting as a guest. This is part of my efforts to rebuild as many local links as possible that over the years may have faded. I am very grateful to Cllr Ann Burke for inviting me and it was lovely to share our vision for the school with local councillors. There are plans to engage with the village more over the coming months and years.

I feel that building links with the village is actually even *more* important now that the majority of our families do not live in Warkworth. This is because, no matter where our families come from across Northumberland, we can be rooted within a community and share a common history.

However, we also want to build links beyond the village. If there is an organisation that the school can work with in the area, no matter the size, please do get in touch. I'm particularly interested in community groups in Amble as so many of our families live in the town.



Road Safety



As discussed in previous communications before I was off, road safety was a priority due to some serious incidents in the past. I do my best, meetings permitting, to come out once a day or have another member of staff do so, both to meet and greet and also to ensure that children and families are safe.

From our brief experiences this week, things appear safer but, especially when the cold days restart and families may resent walking through the wind, ice and snow (!), may I please respectfully request the following:

- Please do not park or wait on the yellow zig zag at any time (between 8am and 5pm). Waiting on these lines (even if your child takes 5 seconds to leave the car!) **is against the law**. This is for the safety of our school community (for instance, if we had to request an ambulance).
- Please park considerately with respect to our local community. This especially includes not blocking driveways.
- Please do not park near to the junction on Guilden Road leading into West Close & Lysader Court. This is causing undue congestion and safety issues.

At the Parish Council meeting, I spoke to Cllr Jeff Watson, Northumberland County Council councillor for the area. Whilst no zebra crossing is planned, sadly, there is potential for pencil-type bollards. I will keep in contact with local representatives about this matter.



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Flu Jabs and MMR

The flu vaccination programme will commence in Autumn term for almost all children in school (Reception and up). The provisionally confirmed date is 24/10/23.

In order for your child to receive the flu vaccination in school you will need to register at [this website](#) and use school code NB122301.

In addition, the Department for Education has asked all schools to remind families about the importance of MMR jabs:

The Department for Education urges schools to stress the importance of MMR vaccination, as measles is highly contagious and can lead to severe health issues, including hospitalization and even death. MMR vaccine, administered at 1 year and 3 years 4 months, prevents measles outbreaks, particularly in schools. Early years settings' support is appreciated in promoting vaccination. Parents should ensure their children's vaccines are up to date, and MMR vaccines can be obtained through their GP at any age.

Operation Encompass



For your information, the school is part of Operation Encompass. This is to support families experiencing domestic abuse. A notification is shared with the school to the Designated Safeguarding Leads if police attend a domestic incident where children are related to the adult parties present.

For further information on Operation Encompass, please see [this link](#) and for help and support please read [this government guidance](#).

Safeguarding

Mr Booth is our school's Designated Safeguarding Leader, with Mrs Gibson, Miss Milne and Miss Fife our Deputy Leaders. If you have concerns about a child, you may contact any one of us. If it is an emergency and a child is in immediate danger, please call the police.

Members of the public can also report concerns to Children's Social Care directly. If you have a concern about a child please contact one of the following:

- OneCall – 01670 536400
- Northumbria Police – 101 (in an emergency always dial 999)
- NSPCC Helpline – 0808 800 5000

There is also a secure online referral form available for you to explain your concern, if you are a member of the public.



With my very best wishes,

Jonathan Booth

jonathan.booth@warkworth.ncea.org.uk



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 # Strive Together As One

| September 2023 | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Week commencing 11th September | | Lunchtime Clubs for Y1-6 begin | |
| Wednesday | 13th September | Phonics Information for Reception parents | 3:30pm |
| Friday | 22nd September | Trident Soccer begins every Friday | |
| Friday | 29th September | Macmillan Coffee Day | Details to follow over Class Dojo. |
| October 2023 | | | |
| Friday | 6 th October | Bikeability Level 1 | |
| Monday – Thursday | 9 th – 12 th October | Bikeability Level 2 | |
| Wednesday | 11 th October | Sibling & Individual pupil photographs | |
| Week commencing 16th October | | Parents' Evening | Details to follow through Arbor. |
| Tuesday | 24th October | EYFS Harvest Craft and Songs Nursery and 2s | 2pm (Please only attend one session) |
| | | Y1-6 Harvest Festival St Lawrence's | 2:15pm (Walk down from 1:45pm) |
| Wednesday | 25th October | EYFS Harvest Craft and Songs Reception | 9am |
| Thursday | 26th October | EYFS Harvest Craft and Songs Nursery and 2s | 2pm (Please only attend one session) |
| Friday | 27 th October | Last day before half-term. | |



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|--|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| November 2023 | | | |
| Monday | 6 th November | Return to school for Autumn 2. | |
| December 2023 | | | |
| Tuesday | 12 th December | EYFS Nativity <i>In school</i> | 9:30am |
| Wednesday | 13 th December | Key Stage 1 Nativity x2 <i>In school</i> | 9am and after school |
| Thursday | 14 th December | EYFS Nativity | 9:30am |
| | | KS2 Nativity | 9:30am and after school |
| Wednesday | 20 th December | Christmas Fair | Details to follow in Autumn 2. |
| Friday | 22 nd December | Final day before Christmas holidays. | |
| January 2024 | | | |
| Monday | 8 th January | Teacher Training Day | School closed to all pupils |
| Tuesday | 9 th January | Return to school for Spring 1. | |
| February 2024 | | | |
| Friday | 16 th February | Last day before half-term. | |
| Monday | 26 th February | Return to school for Spring 2. | |
| March 2024 | | | |
| Week commencing 11 th March | | Parents' Evening | |
| Thursday | 28 th March | Final day before Easter holiday. | |



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|---------------------------|------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| April 2024 | | | |
| Monday | 15 th April | Return to school for Summer 1. | |
| May 2024 | | | |
| Monday | 6 th May | Bank Holiday. | School closed to all pupils |
| During the month | | Year 2 SATS | Details to follow |
| Week commencing 13th May | | Year 6 SATS | Details to follow |
| Friday | 24 th May | Final day before May half-term. | |
| June 2024 | | | |
| Monday | 3 rd June | Return to school for Summer 2. | |
| During the month | | Year 4 Multiplication Times Table Check | Details to follow |
| Week commencing 10th June | | Year 1 Phonics Screen | Details to follow |
| Week commencing 24th June | | End of year reports published. | |
| Friday | 28 th June | Teacher Training Day | School closed to all pupils |
| July 2024 | | | |
| Wednesday | 3 rd July | Sports Day and Summer Fair | |
| Friday | 19 th July | Colour run and final day. | |