



Autumn 2 Newsletter

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well.

The nights are getting longer and the 'big coat' has been dusted off and is in daily usage. I am sure many of you are becoming used to waking up in darkness and seeing little daylight throughout your day! However, it also means that Christmas is fast approaching which, for any of us who either work with children, or have our own (or, best of all, both!) is such a special time of year.

As some of you will be aware, I have not been in the building as much as I had hoped this past term. However, I am delighted to be 'back' properly and look forward to seeing you out and about, come rain or shine!

The school has continued to go from strength to strength. I am delighted that the vital improvements to EYFS have (finally!) been completed. We continue to evolve our library space as we seek external funding support. We have also had architects in to look at expansion ahead of the school being fully one-form entry next academic year.

Here's to a fantastic next few weeks and to a lovely Christmas that will be here before we know it!

Jonathan Booth
Headteacher



Staffing Updates

It is with mixed emotions that we say goodbye to Miss Younger from our Nursery team. She has been an integral part of EYFS, preparing our littlest souls for their first taste of schooling and playing a pivotal role in the continued improvement of our Early Years unit.

We are absolutely devastated that she is leaving us but we are delighted for her personally, both that she is working elsewhere in the trust (so we'll definitely be able to stay in touch!) and also that she will have a significantly shorter commute to work. We wish her all the very best.

We also would like to formally wish congratulations to our Cover Supervisor, Miss Wilkie, who will be expecting her first child very early next year! Not only is she pregnant, but she is also completing her teacher training qualification (which she will finish just in time!!).

You will not have seen much of Miss Wilkie recently as she is currently in her third week of four elsewhere in the trust completing her alternate school placement as part of her teacher training. We will be delighted to get her back in just over a week's time.

May I extend my personal thanks to Miss Baston for stepping up into Miss Wilkie's role so capably during her absence.



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Acts of love and good works. *Hebrews 10:24*



Students in school

We are always delighted to welcome students, both to share our good practice to help develop the next generation of professionals, as well as to have an extra pair of hands!

- Year 4 are currently being supported once a week by Miss Morgan who is looking to be a teacher in the future.
- Children across school will work with Courtney Dunn, a social work student, from Week 3 of this term until Christmas. She will be largely working with KS2 children but she will get a chance to visit all classes.
- Starting in January, we will welcome a trainee Early Years teacher, who will spend four weeks in Reception and some time across KS1 and 2 working alongside teachers.

Remembrance

This week, we have been thinking about upcoming Remembrance Sunday. Mrs Coils led a special Worship on why we wear poppies and why we choose to remember the sacrifice of so many. We know how close we are to a number of Armed Forces bases and how we serve a range of Services Children - something we are immensely proud of.

Donations to the British Legion are welcome received in the office and I look forward to attending the special Remembrance Service at St Lawrence's this coming Sunday.



Bishop of Newcastle



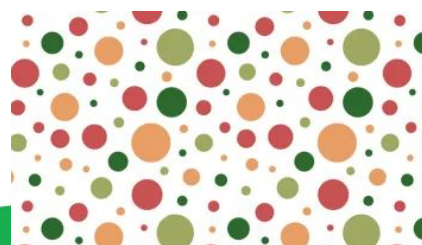
Thank you very much to Rev Helen for arranging a flying visit of the new Bishop of Newcastle, Helen-Ann, on Friday 1st December! As Helen-Ann is visiting the benefice to bless the new building at Shilbottle, she has agreed to pop into school to see our fantastic children. It will be a proud moment to 'show off' the amazing work the children and staff here do.



Children in Need - Friday 17th November

As is tradition, we are delighted to participate in BBC Children in Need, raising money for so many fantastic causes across the country. This year's theme is **BE SPOTACULAR!** Children are invited to wear either one item that's spotty alongside the rest of their uniform or come head to toe in spots! Optional donations are welcome via Arbor.

Children will participate in a range of activities on the day and we have a special spotty-themed Celebration Worship on Friday to mark the occasion.



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Christmas Plans!



It's the most wonderful time of the year...! You will receive plenty of information about upcoming Christmas events, many of which (like the Nativities) have been in the calendar at the end of the newsletter since the first newsletter of the academic year. Here are some highlights:

Warkworth Village Christmas Lights Switch On Saturday 25th November

Families are warmly invited to attend the Christmas Lights switch on at 4:30pm in the village. There are a range of fun Christmas activities planned - it will be an exciting time! I will be delighted to attend with my own family so I hope to see you there!

Bring a Bottle Non-Uniform Day Wednesday 6th December

Ahead of our Christmas Fair, we are asking families to bring in bottles (whatever the content, so long as it can be drunk!) that we can raffle them at the Fair.

Christmas Jumper Day Wednesday 13th December

Christmas Jumper Day will be on the same day as our Christmas Dinner day. Donations will be gratefully received via Arbor for Save the Children.



Nativities

Week commencing 11th December

Nativities are scheduled in the penultimate week. Details will follow via Mrs Gibson about booking places.

Christmas Fair

Wednesday 20th December - 1pm to 3pm

Details will follow via Class Dojo but we look forward to a range of stalls and activities. We will be raising funds towards our school library expansion.



Pantomime!

An absolute favourite Christmas tradition of mine is a panto (oh no it isn't... oh yes it is...). Not only are they good fun, but I believe strongly in giving children early exposure to a theatre environment - a pantomime can be a lovely introduction to the performing arts.

I am delighted to announce that children in Years 1 to 6 will get to see a performance of Dick Whittington at Blyth Phoenix Theatre on Thursday 7th December.

Further details will follow in a letter over the next few days.



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Read Write Inc. Phonics



Early Reading

Our school is passionate about reading, particularly reading for our youngest children, recognising that the ability to read is at the foundation of the entire curriculum. It is impossible to overstate its importance!

I want to draw your attention to some fantastic phonics news as well as make further suggestions about how you can help your children read at home.

In the last week of term, despite many tired souls (children and adults alike!), we had a special visit from multiple phonics experts to audit our early reading provision. The children and staff were amazing and our provision was praised significantly. This is backed up by some phenomenally high phonics results - numbers on screen that represent the fact children make such fantastic progress in school. We all know that such progress is predicated on home support and we all are immensely grateful for the reading and encouragement you give your children.

One recommended 'next step' from our visitors was to encourage families to utilise the 'Virtual Classroom' resources that are available for many children across Reception to Year 2, and for some children further up the school. Alongside reading the RWI book bags, these easily available, short videos can help children tackle some tricky sounds. If you have any questions at all, do not hesitate to contact your class teacher!

Residentials

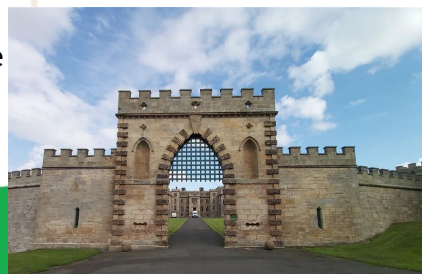
Residentials are something that we take immense pride in at the school. They are opportunities for children to do things beyond day-to-day lessons, to grow as individuals and as a group, to push themselves to try new things and develop their independence. We see it as a central part of the school offer to our children.

This year, we will continue to go beyond what most primary schools do by offering multiple residentials. Year 4 will go to Ford Castle, an actual medieval castle, whilst Years 5 and 6 will go to Thurston in the Lake District (on the shores of Coniston). Both are for two nights.

However, we know that residentials are expensive and that the cost of living crisis continues to hit all families. We are delighted to say that we will be subsidising the (very considerable) transport costs significantly from our Sports Premium allocation. In addition, as part of our Year 6 transition, we will be offering an on-site residential at the end of the academic year for our Year 6s entirely free of charge.

Also to help families, we will spread out the cost of the residentials further than the actual trip itself, so that families can pay in smaller installments. Families classified as Pupil Premium will have places paid for by the school.

Further details will follow in the coming weeks confirming dates and costs.





Clubs

As you are aware, we trialled a new form of lunchtime club in response to some parent queries about not always being able to participate in after-school clubs and the need for a wider range of activities. Across Autumn 1, 86 children attended clubs - that's almost 70%! That does not include the many late additions either, with some clubs absolutely bursting due to word of mouth spreading!

Teachers gave up their lunchtimes for this and we agreed that not all staff will run a club year-round. We also identified that, whilst it was good to gauge numbers through Arbor, this was not necessary in the end, so we will invite children to attend without them having to ask you to sign them up!

To the right are the clubs running this half-term. We will launch them in an upcoming Worship.



Harvest Festival

Thank you to so many families for attending the school's Harvest Festival. I was so disappointed to not be able to attend. However, I received many compliments from multiple sources about the singing, performing and reading!

Friendship Club Years 4-6 Mrs Morris	A club for Years 4-6 to enable them to become 'Friendship Leaders', working with our younger children. All children from across Y1-3 are welcome to dip in and out for indoor craft as well, so long as there's space in the classroom.
Coding Club Years 2-6 Mr Booth	This club will continue from last term. Thank you to Mr Teasdale for stepping in during my absence!
Disney Club Years 1-2 Miss Fife	A very popular club from last term! This will continue but for our younger years.
Reading Club Years 1-6 Miss Milne	A chance for peer reading, sharing books children enjoy, completing Accelerated Reader quizzes for older years and becoming Library Champions.
School Choir Years 1-6 Mrs Coils	This will continue from last term. Newcomers are welcome to join!



We Scare Hunger Campaign

Thank you to our wonderful School Council, Mrs Frater and everyone who participated in the school's We Scare Hunger campaign. Launched just before half-term, the idea was to put a twist on trick-or-treat by inviting individuals to donate to Amble Food Bank.

We are still welcoming donations of tins, packets, and toiletries ahead of a visit from the Food Bank next Wednesday.

As always, the commitment to helping our locality is at the heart of what we do at Warkworth and it makes me so proud to see this continued fantastic work.





Higher Education Visits

Years 5 and 6 will be visited by representatives from Oxford University on Thursday 16th November. They will talk to the children about higher education in general and will touch on Oxford also. Parents across the year group are invited for the end of the afternoon - please confirm via Arbor if you wish to come.

In addition, we will be inviting representatives from King's College, University of Cambridge to come into school in Spring and we are looking at establishing closer links with our nearby universities too.



Raising aspirations and having these conversations about higher education at an early stage is a personal passion of mine and something I am delighted to be introducing to the school.

Careers

Do you or anyone in your family have a job role you are really proud of? Would you be willing to speak to our children about your career? We want to hear from you! We are looking to launch some work on careers development across school in the New Year. Please do not hesitate to contact me or the office directly if you are at all interested!



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.

**Keeping
Children
Safe** 



With my very best wishes,

Jonathan Booth

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Strive Together As One

November 2023

Monday	6 th November	Return to school for Autumn 2.	
Tuesday	14th November	Years 3 and 4 visit to Great North Museum	
Thursday	16th November	Oxford University talk for Years 5/6	Parents invited for afternoon.
Friday	17th November	Children in Need Day - optional donations via Arbor.	All children invited to wear spots.
Saturday	25th November	Christmas Tree Light Switch On, Warkworth Village	4:30pm
Monday	27th November	Years 1 and 2 Northumberland Zoo Visit	

December 2023

Friday	1st December	Bishop of Newcastle visiting school.	Morning
Wednesday	6th December	Non-uniform day for all school.	Families invited to 'bring a bottle' for the Christmas Fair.
Thursday	7th December	Pantomime for Years 1-6	Afternoon
Tuesday	12th December	EYFS Nativity <i>In school</i>	9:30am
Wednesday	13th December	Key Stage 1 Nativity x2 <i>In school</i>	9am and after school
		Christmas Dinner Day	For all children.
Thursday	14th 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.	



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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	Years 5 and 6 visit from King's College, University of Cambridge.	See earlier section in newsletter.
		Last day before half-term.	
Monday	26 th February	Return to school for Spring 2.	
March 2024			
Week commencing 11th March		Parents' Evening	
Thursday	28 th March	Final day before Easter holiday.	
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.	



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June 2024			
Monday	3 rd June	Return to school for Summer 2.	
Monday and Tuesday	3 rd and 4 th June	Year 5&6 STEM Days at Duke's Secondary School	
During the month		Year 4 Multiplication Times Table Check	Details to follow
Week commencing 10 th June		Year 1 Phonics Screen	Details to follow
Week commencing 24 th 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.	