



NCEA Warkworth Primary School

Summer 2 Newsletter



Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I am sure many of you have felt this week, it is with some significant surprise that I realised we are in the sixth month of the year! Plus, we are almost at the end of the academic year. How quickly time flies! I hope you all had a pleasant half-term and bank holiday weekend and that the weather reflects the time of year we are in!

As we look back over a highly successful year, it is hard to pick over the highlights: from going to a pantomime, to the Bishop of Newcastle's visit, the Christmas Fair, residentials for Y4-6, our choir performing in the village, kayaking, the Nativity performances, Easter Egg competition, the Cancer Run raising so much money, the recent Spelling Bee, the Music Showcase, Lent Kindness Challenge, the huge success of lunchtime clubs, and many more that I will remember as soon as I send out this newsletter!

However, it is more of the day-to-day normality that makes me most proud of the work we have done this year across this wonderful school and our lovely children. The conversations I have with the pupils each day, the many successes that staff in school gleefully share with one another, the time the child who never puts their hand up has the confidence to do so, when someone comes to show me their 'best ever' work, to the sound of singing voices each morning and the sight of even our youngest children cleaning their plates and showing excellent table manners.

In Autumn 1's newsletter, I shared with you the school's priorities for the year ahead, focusing on increasing resilience to challenge, further improving academic outcomes, giving children experiences that put them out of their comfort zones, and really improving our writing and general presentation of work. I am delighted to say that we have made huge progress on these!

In Worship this week, we thought about the Biblical message of 'life in all its fullness' which is part of our school vision. We thought about what this meant: yes, the big enjoyments like special treats and events, but also the little ones, and even the daily trials and tribulations that are part of everyday life (and always will be when they become adults!).

We talked about how the hard times are part of life in all its fullness, that 'striving' as part of our vision to 'strive together as one' means working through difficulties. As always, these messages are easy to give but just as hard for me as an adult to put into action! However, we in school will continue to do our best to model to the children the sort of people we want to mould.

It has been a pleasure to serve as headteacher for my first full year and look forward to 2024-25! As usual, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Jonathan Booth
Headteacher

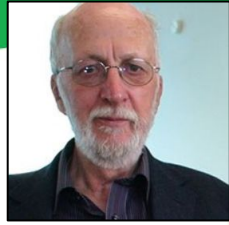


Strive together as one
Philippians 1:27

Acts of love and good works
Hebrews 10:24



Retirement of Chair of Governors



It is with both joy and sadness that we announce a major retirement at the end of the year: that of the school's Chair of Governors, Professor John Hobrough. Since 2013, he has tirelessly campaigned for the school in every regard, being central to the school's expansion, conversion to a primary school ahead of other schools in the area, its building work, and been an everlasting support and challenge for leaders of this school. He has been Chair of Governors during the reign of 10 different governmental Education Secretaries (although just the three headteachers!).

For those of you who live in the village, you will know that John's professional and volunteering successes are many, and that our school is one part of his lifelong passion for education. Being a governor is a fairly thankless task in the background and one that does not attract much attention or praise, but John's dedication and impact to this school is difficult to overstate. We look forward to marking the occasion on Sports Day and the Summer Fair.

A new cook!



With one departure comes wonderful news of a successful appointment. Stepping into Mrs Lee's metaphorically large shoes as Assistant Cook is Ms Hayley Anderson. She has been in post for a few weeks now and has settled in very well, with children and staff both delighted to have her in our kitchen!

Staffing for next year

Whilst I would love to be able to confirm staffing and classes for next year at this point, sadly that is not possible just yet. The formal resignation for teachers at this time of year has only just passed meaning that the budget cannot be set until this month and thus staffing decisions be made.

As soon as I am able, I will write to each year group to inform families about who their new teacher will be in 2024/25. Thank you for your patience!



Extension building!

The school is on track to begin significant building work in May 2025 ahead of September. As many of you will know, sometimes from bitter experience (!), these processes take a huge amount of time and involve many spinning plates. This is even more so the case in today's climate of ever-rising prices and diminished budgets.

However, it looks likely that a new classroom, built onto the edges of the current Year 1 and 2 classrooms, will be purpose built. I will keep you updated as to how things are going and any potential disruption ahead but it is certainly an exciting time ahead!



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Children's Cancer Run

Well done to the children, families and staff who participated at the Children's Cancer Run last month at Newcastle Racecourse! Despite the long queues to get in, it was a tremendous success with over 30 school runners receiving medals (and house points!).

The school raised **over £3,000** which is an incredible achievement, especially for the size of our school. We know that this goes to an incredibly worthwhile cause, supporting the children and families affected by cancer in our region.

Please find a small selection of pictures from the day. May I extend a particular shout out to Henry W's dad who braved the run in a Newcastle United top, despite being a fervent Sunderland fan, as part of his fundraising efforts where friends would make extra donations for the humiliation involved! As a football fan myself, it would take a very large amount of money to put me in a Manchester United shirt...!



£1,000 Target

£3,042 Raised so far by 185 Donors



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It's National Careers Week!

Everyone Is Awesome and Careers

As is now an annual tradition, the school will proudly begin Everyone Is Awesome, this time not just over a week but over a fortnight, starting 17th June, which is focused on inclusivity and particularly highlighting Special Educational Needs both in our school and across the world. It was the genius idea of a child with autism at the school who wanted the other children in school to understand why and how he was different and celebrate it.

Mrs Coils will send out further information over Class Dojo in due course but we are particularly interested in welcoming any parents of children with additional needs who would be happy to speak to children.

In addition, we will coincide this with Careers Week (albeit not a week but across the fortnight!). I have a handful of very lovely family members who offered to visit the school and Mrs Gibson or I have been/will be in touch very soon. The idea is that we link the idea of diversity with the diversity within the world of work where the multitude of different skills people have leads to many fascinating and varied jobs!

Years 4 and 5 will get a particularly special Careers Event of visiting Newcastle University to find out about the sciences, humanities and architecture, as well as a Campus Tour. We are delighted that we were successful in applying for a grant to help pay the majority of the coach cost.



Uniform

Our uniform supplier is Seghal & Sons and it may be that time of year that you need to stock up – please [click here](#) for the website. Both with economical and ecological matters in mind (!), please do remember that we have plenty of pre-loved uniform selections in school. Please do also bear in mind that Years 5 and 6 will continue to wear a blazer and tie next year.



Bags in school for September and PE kit

May I please make a gentle request that, from September, families avoid oversized bags and utilise the excellent, affordable and compact, bookbags available from our supplier.

The issue with large bags is how much space they take up on hooks! Plus, with families continuing to be supportive of coming to school in PE kits, other than a library/phonics book and, on occasion homework, there's very little that children need to physically bring in!

Lastly, speaking of PE kit, the policy is for all black (other than the t-shirt of course), without branding (**and named inside!**). This makes it affordable for all families and avoids any risk of children pestering for particular items!!

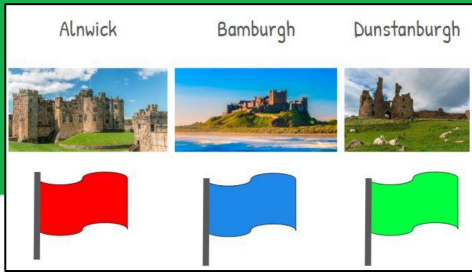
In terms of t-shirts, there are the usual green ones available from the supplier but we would **warmly invite families to send children in plain t-shirts** of the colour of their house (red, green or blue). These are available for [just £2 from Asda](#) and elsewhere.



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Houses News! Spelling Bee Competition

On the final week of term, we had our inaugural Spelling Bee competition. After the initial round where all children competed, the top scoring house members of each year group got through to the final. I mean it without exaggeration that it had to be one of the most thrilling things we have seen - genuinely! The audience were all desperate for each child to do well.

We in school are so proud of everyone who participated, but especially our youngest Reception children who did such a cracking job in front of the whole school! It was also lovely to do a competition that stretched children in a different way to the Easter Egg competition and upcoming Sports Day.

I am delighted that the winners within each year group were:



| | | |
|-----------|---------|--------------|
| Reception | Scout | Dunstanburgh |
| Year 1 | Josie | Dunstanburgh |
| Year 2 | Archie | Dunstanburgh |
| Year 3 | William | Dunstanburgh |
| Year 4 | Danny | Alnwick |
| Year 5 | Rose | Dunstanburgh |



Sports Day and Summer Fair

On Wednesday 3rd July, we are very excited to host our Sports Day and Summer Fair! Mrs Frater has been busily organising these and will be writing to families very soon, if not having already done so by the time this goes out, including a special request around house colours (see picture on the left if in doubt!).

It can be a challenging balance getting events like these right - we want to ensure that families can attend around their busy lives, so try to do it altogether, but that does mean that it is not as lengthy a Sports Day as we may remember from our own school days with many, many events! However, having listened to feedback about last year (which I sadly was off sick for!), I think that hosting both on the same day and having the whole school together, leading into the Summer Fair, will be another lovely occasion.

In terms of fundraising, we have already successfully raised money for our library. I am awaiting confirmation from a couple of grant requests we have made to get that finished. This year's Summer Fair will, assuming those grants are successful (!), be the first funds for our newly reformed Parent, Teacher and Friends Association, which I mentioned in last time's newsletter.

Further information on the PTFA, soon to be known as **Friends of Warkworth**, will arrive in due course!



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Lockdown Drills

As your children may have made you aware, we completed a lockdown drill last half-term. This is something many schools do and which ours has done prior to my time and is a part of our safeguarding duty.

We handle this very sensitively with children - for most of them, they find the event a peculiar and reasonably amusing change in normal procedures. Particularly for our oldest children, who are more 'tuned in' to what a lockdown could be for, we held open discussions about what it may be for, speaking truthfully but mindfully about what lockdowns are for.

Without going into too much detail about the procedure, it involves reducing noise and bringing children together away from sightlines.

As discussed with the children, the likelihood of needing to do one for real is incredibly low. The genuine most likely scenario, especially in this area, would be a wild animal like a horse or dog on site! However, as a school, we must also prepare for all possible foreseeable scenarios, however unlikely, to ensure the safety of all within our school.

We will be performing another over the course of this half-term but we will continue to do so in a manner that does not upset children, especially our most vulnerable pupils. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Operations Endeavour and Encompass

The school is a signatory to two Northumbria Police services, both of which we have shared previously, but I thought it prudent to send a reminder.

Firstly, as an [Operation Encompass school](#), this means that the school's Designated Safeguarding Leads receive key information from the police and other agencies in the case of police involvement around domestic abuse. This information is of course confidential and handled sensitively and carefully but it does allow us to put appropriate support and pupil monitoring in place.

In addition, as an Operation Endeavour school, the school receives information from social services and the police in the event of children going missing from home or at risk of doing so.

The school will support any and all families with any concerns, but particularly anyone victim to domestic abuse which affects many more families than some realise. No issue in this regard is too big or too small and we are glad to be a listening ear or a signpost to other agencies. Mrs Gibson, Miss Fife, Miss Milne and I are all available to discuss these matters.



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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** 



Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



You can find copies of all school policies [on our website](#) as well as trust-wide policies on the [NCEA website](#).

For ease of reference, I will provide hyperlinks to the following policies if you wish to consult them:

- Attendance Policy [here](#)
- Behaviour Policy [here](#)
- Anti-Bullying Policy [here](#)
- Online Safety Policy [here](#)
- Safeguarding Policy specific to Warkworth [here](#) and the trust-wide Child Protection Policy [here](#)
- Trust complaints policy [here](#)

With my very best wishes,

Jonathan Booth

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| June 2024 | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Mon-Tues | 10th and 11th | Y3-6 Kayaking and paddleboarding | |
| Wednesday | 12th June | Own clothes - bottle stall | See Mrs Frater's dojo |
| During the month | | Year 4 Multiplication Times Table Check | Details to follow |
| Week commencing 10th June | | Year 1 Phonics Screen | Details to follow |
| | | Year 2 SATS Week | Details to follow from teachers |
| Tuesday | 18th June | Year 6 Leavers' Service at Newcastle Cathedral - train from Alnmouth | Families welcome to come |
| Wednesday | 19th June | Year 4 Celebration Trip | Details to follow |
| Week commencing 24th June | | End of year reports published. | |
| Thursday | 27th June | Year 4 Lifepath Event | Details to follow |
| Friday | 28 th June | Teacher Training Day | School closed to all pupils |
| July 2024 | | | |
| Monday | 1st July | Year 6 coasteering at Howick | Details to follow |
| | | Years 4 and 5 trip to Newcastle University | All day |
| Tuesday | 2nd July | NSPCC Workshops for Years 2 and 5&6 | Details to follow |
| Wednesday | 3 rd July | Sports Day and Summer Fair | |
| Thurs-Fri | 4th-5th | Year 6 onsite camp out. | Details to follow. |
| Tuesday | 9th July | Year 2 trip to Woodhorn Museum | Details to follow |
| Thursday | 11th July | Debating Club trip | Details to follow |
| Friday | 12th July | Bastille Day Celebrations for KS2 | Details to follow |
| Friday | 19 th July | Colour run and final day. | |



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| September 2024 | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Monday | 2nd September | Staff training day | School closed for all pupils. |
| Tuesday | 3rd September | School reopens for all pupils | |
| October 2024 | | | |
| Tuesday and Wednesday | 15th-16th October | Individual photographs of children. | |
| Friday | 25th October | Final day before October half-term | |
| November 2024 | | | |
| Monday | 4th November | Return to school for Autumn 2 term. | |
| December 2024 | | | |
| Tuesday | 3rd December | Christmas Fair | Details to follow next academic year. |
| Wednesday | 4th December | Christmas Dinner Day | |
| Monday | 9th December | Years 5 and 6 Nativity Performances | 9:20am & 3:20pm |
| Tuesday | 10th December | Years 3 and 4 Nativity Performances | 9:20am & 3:20pm |
| Wednesday | 11th December | Christmas Pantomime for Years 1-6 | Morning |
| | | Early Years Nativity Performances | 9:20am & 2:00pm |
| Thursday | 12th December | Years 1 and 2 Nativity Performance | 9:20am |
| Monday | 16th December | Years 1 and 2 Nativity Performance | 3:20pm |
| Friday | 20th December | Final day of school before Christmas holiday. | |