



Spring 1 Newsletter

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to school. I hope you had a lovely time with all your families, wherever you travelled to and from. I also appreciate that Christmas is not always the easiest time for many families for myriad reasons - I hope that, whatever you did and whoever you shared it with, that you had some rest, some good food, and some time with your special little souls.

We started this week off with a training day looking at Computing, including some new changes to how we teach coding (we think the children will love it!) and further consolidation work on RE as well as how to support our children with SEND. Although these training days are incredibly useful days for us as staff to develop our practice, nothing puts a smile on my face like having the children back in the building!

This term, we continue to plough ahead with plans for our extension - I am hoping to be able to share more detailed plans with year groups affected most by the building-work as soon as possible.

We also wish Mrs Stuart the best of luck with her recovery from surgery - hopefully she will be returning very soon!

Jonathan Booth
Headteacher

Change in school motto

As discussed all the way back in September 2023, the children and staff helped hone our vision and values significantly, tightening it, shortening it and making it more memorable and meaningful.

We cut our values to just three, **Love, Peace and Courage**, which the children are really well-versed on. It is incredible the way that some of our youngest children can talk about living this out!

We have also consolidated our school motto, reducing it from two quotations to just one:

Not tossed with the waves, but speaking the truth in love, we will grow (Ephesians 4:14-15)

The thinking behind this came from our most established staff who have been here for multiple decades. They talked passionately about how the school stands for what is right, not influenced by whatever is in or out of fashion, serving the children and community with pride. We aim to stand like a lighthouse, guiding each other in the darkness, standing firm against the tides of everyday life. This imagery we felt linked so neatly with our coastal location and proud history of seafarers.

We felt that 'speaking the truth in love' also embodied what we do, especially in terms of love being our core value. And of course, growing, like the tree in our school badge, which we encourage the children to do each and every day.

We will be drip-feeding this slowly but surely to the children over the coming months - no, I don't expect children to memorise it just yet!





Warkworth Way of Teaching

As I have shared in newsletters over the past year and a half, we have done a lot of work with staff in school on defining and consolidating what makes our school special, particularly focused on our teaching approaches.

I have [published it on our website](#) which you are more than welcome to read in full (it's short, I promise!). However, for those of you who do not get excited talking about this type of thing (!), I thought it would be good to summarise it as succinctly as I can.

The Warkworth Way is that we teach rigorous lessons with high expectations within a loving, nurturing environment. We do so through simple, effective, gimmick-free teaching approaches.

As I wrote in September, that's a fancy way of saying build resilience and provide a grounding in classical education, be they fairytales, times tables, instrument tuition, Shakespeare, the sciences, our proud local history, and so much more.

It's about the resilience to pick yourself up after a fall in Forest School or our excellent outside equipment, and the strength to try your hardest in lessons that should be accessibly challenging. It's about not being 'tossed with the waves'!

And most importantly, at its heart is our most important value, Love. In my personal opinion, schools sometimes can use broad, clichéd phrases like 'be kind', but we recognise Love as deeper than that, and also more challenging. As we tell the children, it can be hard to love a sibling who has irritated you (!), or a friend who has let you down, or a stranger, or even someone we think of as an enemy.



COURAGE



PEACE



LOVE

As it seems timely to link it to our three values, which the children do well know, here they are:

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](#).



Part of Northumberland Church
of England Academy Trust

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Ephesians 4:14-15



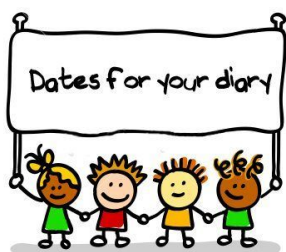
Dates in the diary

At the end of this newsletter is the usual list of dates. This has been populated with lots more dates for the term ahead, including Sports Day and Summer Fair.

We have chosen this year to bring the Sports Day forward into Summer 1, rather than Summer 2, so that we can raise the status of the day, as well as giving us more flexibility if the weather looks poor in the run up. It also reduces the risk of any clashes with secondary school transition dates which have been an issue for Year 6 in previous years.

In addition, the Summer Fair will be operated by our Friends of Warkworth, who will also be sharing some further dates with families over Class Dojo, many of these included in the diary.

As a fellow working parent, we always endeavour to give as much notice as possible.



Times Table Competition!

Last year, I was the proudest headteacher in our family of schools (not that I'm competitive...) as we won the interschool Accelerated Reader competition.

Whilst this competition will be returning soon and our position as reigning champions will be put to the test once more, there is another trust-wide competition going ahead: Times Table Rockstars! It's for Years 3 to 6, starting next week (Monday 13th January).

Separate to the actual competition, the importance of times tables cannot be overstated. Even in today's day and age of calculators in our pockets and on our wrists, rote memorisation of tables is linked to mathematical fluency and logical reasoning capabilities.

The government choose to 'test' this through the Year 4 Times Table Check but it is something that is essential beyond that, not just in Year 6 tests but beyond. Having sat in meetings with secondary teachers before, they often say how essential times table knowledge is to making that jump to Key Stage 3.

Further details will follow over Class Dojo - any and all encouragement to participate is of course encouraged!



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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 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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January 2025

Monday	6 th January	Teacher Training Day	School closed to all pupils
Tuesday	7 th January	Return to school for Spring 1.	
Week commencing 13 th January		SEND Parents' Evening Week	
Monday	20 th January	Friends of Warkworth Spring Meeting After School	
Tuesday-Friday	21 st -24 th January	Thurston Residential, Years 5 and 6	

February 2024

Week commencing 3 rd February		Children's Mental Health Week	Activities in school
Thursday	6 th February	Safer Internet Day	Activities in school
Wednesday	19 th February	Friends of Warkworth Family Games Night	
Friday	21 st February	Last day before half-term.	

March 2025

Monday	3 rd March	Return to school for Spring 2.	
Week commencing 24 th March		Parents' Evening	
Wednesday-Friday	2 nd April-4 th April	Year 4 residential to Ford Castle	
Monday	7 th April	Easter Egg Entries due	Details to follow
Friday	11 th April	Final day before Easter holiday.	
		Easter Service at church	Rec to Year 6



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April 2025

Monday	29 th April	Return to school for Summer 1.	
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May 2025

Monday	5 th May	Bank Holiday.	School closed to all pupils
During the month		Year 2 SATS	Details to follow
Week commencing 12th May		Year 6 SATS	Details to follow
Wednesday	21st May	Sports Day Y1-6	
Friday	23 th May	Final day before May half-term.	

June 2025

Monday	2nd June	Return to school for Summer 2.	
During the month		Year 4 Multiplication Times Table Check	Details to follow
Week commencing 9th June		Year 1 Phonics Screen	Details to follow
Saturday	21st June	Friends of Warkworth Family BBQ	Details to follow
Friday	27 th June	Teacher Training Day	School closed to all pupils

July 2025

Week commencing 7th July		End of year reports out to families	
		SEND Parents Evening Week	
Wednesday	9th July	Summer Fair	
Friday	18 th July	Final day.	