



Spring 2 Newsletter

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you had a lovely February half-term. Mine was spent, alongside catching up with a lot of work, first at Flamingo Land followed by the joys of potty training - not quite as glamorous as Mrs Coils's trip to Rome!

This term marks the start of Lent and the countdown to Easter. By the time you read this, Shrove Tuesday will have been and gone, and hopefully many a pancake consumed.

Church of England schools are proudly 'invitational' in their Collective Worship - this means that there is never any pressure for children to participate, or to believe anything in particular - instead, it is an opportunity to be still, to think, to be mindful, to ponder how we can do better and help others.

In that spirit, we have been inviting children, staff and our whole community to make Lenten commitments - you do not have to believe in a god (or multiple gods!) to participate. I hope that your children come away this week with something in mind - the suggestions I have made include 'helping tidy up the kitchen after a meal' and 'being nicer to your sibling(s)' and other similar ideas - hopefully you at home will benefit from these!

As ever, if you need anything at all, please do not hesitate to email me or make an appointment to see me.

Jonathan Booth
Headteacher



LOVE



PEACE



COURAGE

Upcoming dates

As usual, I have updated the end of newsletter dates. One parent contacted me to ask about term dates next year which, technically, have not been approved at trust-level, but I have on good authority are pretty much finalised. I have put them at the end of the calendar. If any of these change, Mrs Gibson and I will inform all families immediately.

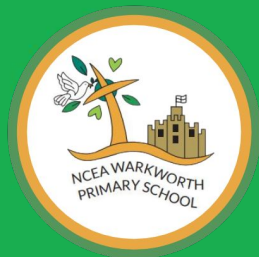
May I draw your attention to a few items:

- Due to some complexities with staff availability and external training, we have brought Parents' Evening week forward to week commencing 17th March. Details will follow on Arbor shortly.
- Mothering Sunday is approaching and we have thought at length about how we can best do something special for those that care for us. On Friday 28th March, we will invite families in the morning for something special from each class and some coffee and cake. This is welcome to anyone, not just mothers, although we are looking at ways to mark Father's Day in June, so perhaps any male caregivers can give this one a miss! Further details will follow shortly. We do ask, for space purposes, that only one family member per child attends.
- On the last day, Friday 11th April, families are invited to attend an Easter service at church, with songs from all children across Reception to Year 6, and older children leading readings.
- The first day back to school, Monday 28th April, will be marked with the annual tradition of 'flowering the cross' which we will post about on Class Dojo nearer the time.



Not tossed with the waves, but speaking the truth in love, we will grow.

Ephesians 4:14-15



Results from parent survey

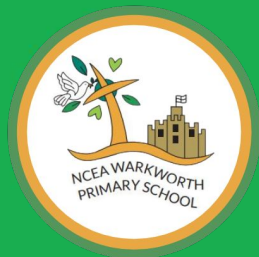
Thank you so much for the many families who completed the parent survey. I especially appreciate this given the length of the survey - I wanted to ask families about a lot of different things this year, not just the 'usual' annual questionnaire. I think it is important that the survey is anonymous so that you feel comfortable sharing how you truly feel - whilst I feel confident that the school has an excellent 'open door' policy to families who wish to share concerns, that needs to be backed up by families having the opportunity to speak honestly about any concerns and to let me know directly if there is anything we are missing.

We had 55 respondents (out of 131 families across school) and every class was represented roughly equally. The vast, vast majority were incredibly positive - thank you, and for those who wrote about specific individuals they wanted to thank, your responses have been shared with the individual staff members.. I would need many pages to share *every single* question, but I have put a few highlights over the next few pages.

For responses to specific concerns, I have limited those to ones made by more than one parent - however, please do note that every single response has been read by the school's leadership team.

Questions	Percentage strongly agree or agree	Percentage strongly disagree or disagree
I am happy with the general direction that the school is heading towards.	96%	4%
I understand the school's vision, values and ethos.	95%	5%
I broadly agree with the school's vision, values and ethos.	91%	2% (7% neutral)
If asked by prospective parents, I would recommend this school instead of other schools in the area.	96% yes	4% no
I am happy with the uniform policy and rules.	100%	0%
I would prefer receiving homework that is open-ended (e.g. 'find 5 things in your house related to...'), rather than specific to what they are learning (e.g. learning related to English, related to Maths etc.).	49%	51%
I would be happy if the school used electronic systems for homework (i.e. homework that can be completed on mobile devices).	65%	45%
My child enjoys coming to school.	91%	2% (7% neutral)
My child feels safe at school.	98%	2%





Questions		Percentage strongly agree or agree	Percentage strongly disagree or disagree
I feel comfortable talking to my child's teacher about any worries I may have that are impacting on my child/family.		100%	0%
The behaviour of pupils in the school is mostly good.		98%	2%
The school supports my child to maintain positive friendships.		100%	0%
I would feel confident reporting a safeguarding concern I had to the school's safeguarding leads.		96%	4%
The school encourages my child to look after their physical health (for example healthy eating and fitness).		77%	7% (17% neutral)
The school encourages my child to look after their emotional and mental health.		90%	4% (6% neutral)
The school effectively supports the emotional / mental wellbeing of pupils.		90%	4% (6% neutral)
<p>If you would like, could you name one to three things that you love about the school?</p> <p><i>A small sample</i></p>	1. High expectations of pupils 2. 'Fun', extra-curricular activities in the calendar 3. Staff commitment		
	My children talk happily about school. My children feel nurtured and safe at school. Plenty of opportunities for outdoor learning. Staff are happy to help		
	Openness - the school definitely encourages engagement. Inclusive- the school balances the environment for all children well.		
	Fantastic, supportive staff keeping children safe; Interesting activities for children and special events e.g.fairs, sports day, nativity etc very well organised.		
	Love as the main focus in everything. Building resilience and positive attitudes. Happy children +happy staff= positive learning environment		
	I love that the older children are involved with the younger children in classes and playtime. I think this is so beneficial for all involved.		
	I love the staff, what a wonderful, enthusiastic, caring and hardworking bunch they are. The amount of effort and love you can see from them with the children shows me I made the right choice of school for my child.		



Written responses	What we will do next
Two parents asked if we could have 'early access' to whole-school events for children with sensory difficulties.	This is an excellent idea. The Friends of Warkworth have been informed and look forward to finding ways to implement it. It won't be easy to do for lots of logistical purposes but we agree it's important to find a way to make this work.
Whilst 73% were happy with the uniform supplier, some specific concerns were raised about a number of different issues.	The uniform supplier is handled at whole-trust level but we will pass on these concerns. I was delighted that families were universally happy (100%!) with our uniform policy and rules, which is the main thing as a school we can control, but I appreciate that some families felt Ciel were a better supplier and will pass these concerns on.
Whilst most parents were happy with the type and quantity of homework, suggestions around what could change were varied.	Parents' views on homework varied hugely. Based on feedback, it's likely we'll change homework for older children, possibly introducing online systems, while keeping the current approach for younger ones. I'll engage with the Friends of Warkworth for further family input but will delay changes until next academic year.
Parking issues noted by a small number of parents.	Whilst I agree it is still an issue, there have been significant improvements. The NCC parking officers are here more often on our request and I remain delighted that after many years of campaigning, we finally have our 'pencils' and a safer crossing. When I arrived in 2023, a small number of parents spoke to me about changing the start and end times of the day but, when I looked into this, all the potential changes would lead to more families picking up at once. I will continue to request that families park considerably and, when possible, have increased staff presence - this has been challenging this year as I have been teaching a lot more often. It remains a key priority for us as a school, but a tough nut to crack!
Two parents raised concerns about 'reliance on technology' and ensuring children do not have too much screen time.	As a school, whilst we are proud of our Computing curriculum, we are quite firmly 'traditional' in our broad academic offer. We avoid screen time in other subjects except for very, very specific purposes (e.g. Times Table Rock Stars or Accelerated Reader)) and our Breakfast Club and After School Club is focused on time for homework and playing games with one another. Hopefully, this can put you at ease that, as a whole-staff team, our agreed teaching approach is to avoid all unnecessary screen time. A century ago, some educationalists said that typewriters would mean it's pointless to teach children handwriting - today, some people continue to say that certain technology will replace traditional lesson types. However, we strongly disagree!
Two parents queried our PE offer and general work towards healthy lifestyles.	I am happy to say that the school easily meets the government recommended amount of PE taught, something that sadly is not the case in every school. However, we are actively auditing our healthy lifestyles curriculum taught through PSHE.
One parent queried wraparound costs, and another wanted to know more about what we offered with our wraparound care.	I am delighted to announce that the school is an 'early adopter' for the government's Breakfast Club offer, which we will be in touch with families about soon. This should further reduce the costs. In terms of our fees, other nearby schools can subsidise their wraparound costs using Pupil Premium funds because they have a higher number of children from a disadvantaged background, which sadly we cannot. Compared to schools with similar catchments, I can assure families we are in line (and often cheaper!), and we have frozen the cost for two years despite inflationary rises. Our wraparound offer is very strong I feel, as it is led by staff within school, not outside providers, and is eclectic, from family-type board games to reading to completing homework. However, I am open to further evolution - for instance, we are exploring our extracurricular music offer.
Two parents queried our offer around children's mental health.	This is something I can assure families remains very strong at school. It is such an integral part of the school's curriculum and our general offer. However, what we have been weaker at over the past few years is publicising it. I have tasked teachers with posting more about it on Class Dojo but I can assure you that it is a real strength of the school and remains integral to everything we do.
Three parents wanted more Tapestry updates for Early Years.	Miss Fife has noted this and it is being actioned!





SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY 16TH AUGUST 2025

Local links

It has been a top priority of mine since coming into post to build closer links with our community and it has been particularly wonderful to be involved with more local organisations recently.

- Warkworth Green Matters have been planning work to encourage gardening and help refurbish our Forever Friendly garden, using funds from the Warkworth Show committee. A community planter has just been placed by the front entrance, so watch this space for exciting further gardening!
- The Warkworth Show Committee have sent representatives helping us plan for the upcoming event and coming up with some exciting new children's categories for the prizegiving on 16th August for the big day. We look forward to announcing something special for the children at our Sports Day!
- We will be building links with The Ambler, Amble's local newspaper. Not only do we look forward to getting some school news in the paper, but the editor also told me about wonderful journalism opportunities for children (age 9 and over). Artograffiti meet every Monday, 4:30pm-6pm in Amble. If you are interested at all please do [contact them](#)!
- I was delighted to attend a meeting of Amble & Warkworth Rotary Association alongside Anna Morrison, Chair of the Friends of Warkworth. They do such wonderful work for the community and whilst we were there to see if they could support our fundraising, we also hope to build long-standing links with the association.



Cricket

We are delighted that the fantastic Northumberland County Cricket coaching will return from 24th March each Monday for six weeks. Further details will follow over Class Dojo - may children from Reception to Year 6 please wear PE kit on this day. Thank you!



Easter competition time

Yes, it's coming up to the all-important Easter Egg competition. Just like last year, there will be house points at stake - will Dunstanburgh build on their mighty victory in the class quiz competition? Or will Alnwick (after maths competition victory) and Bamburgh (champions in the food bank trolley haul) taste victory once more? Details will follow shortly but, for those eager egg boilers, entries will be collected on Monday 7th April.

The Friends of Warkworth also have an Easter Egg Treasure Hunt that will take place during the holidays, from Friday 11th April to Thursday 17th April. Sheets can be purchased from school for £2 and prizes are given for sheets handed in. This is also being supported by Grays and The Hermitage. Posters will be displayed around the village.

There are further house competitions coming, including the annual reading challenge. It's not just the children that get into the competitions - our hypercompetitive teachers do too.



**Not tossed with the waves, but speaking
the truth in love, we will grow.**

Ephesians 4:14-15



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

jonathan.booth@warkworth.ncea.org.uk



Not tossed with the waves, but speaking the truth in love, we will grow.

Ephesians 4:14-15



Not tossed with the waves, but speaking
the truth in love, we will grow.

Ephesians 4:14-15

March 2025

Week commencing 17th March		Parents' Evening	Please note the change in date.
Friday	28th March	Mothers' Day Services	See this newsletter.

April 2025

Wednesday-Friday	2nd April-4th April	Year 4 residential to Ford Castle	
Monday	7th April	Easter Egg Entries due	Details to follow
Friday	11th April	Final day before Easter holiday.	
		Easter Service at church	Rec to Year 6
Throughout	22nd April-30th April	Virtual London Marathon	Details to follow
Monday	28th April	Return to school for Summer 1.	
		Flowering the cross worship - Nursery to Year 6	

May 2025

Monday	5th 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
Saturday	18th May	Children's Cancer Run	Entries now open!
Wednesday	21st May	Sports Day Y1-6	
Friday	23rd 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	27th June	Teacher Training Day	School closed to all pupils



Not tossed with the waves, but speaking
the truth in love, we will grow.

Ephesians 4:14-15

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.	
Academic Year 2025-2026 (Still subject to change)			
Autumn term			
Tuesday 2nd September 2025		Children return to school.	Training day on Monday 1st September.
Friday 24th October 2025		Final day before half-term	
Monday 3rd November 2025		Children return to school.	
Friday 19th December 2025		Final day	Christmas Service at church
Spring term			
Tuesday 6th January 2026		Children return to school.	Training day on Monday 5th January 2026.
Friday 13th February 2026		Final day before half-term	
Monday 23rd February 2026		Children return to school	
Thursday 2nd April 2026		Final day	Maundy Thursday service at church Good Friday on 3rd April
Summer term			
Monday 20th April 2026		Children return to school.	
Friday 26th May 2026		Final day before half-term	Bank holiday on 4th May
Monday 1st June		Children return to school	
Friday 26th June		School closed	Training day
Friday 17th July		Final day	