



Summer 2 Newsletter

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had a wonderful half-term break. I have shared with the children briefly on Monday that I enjoyed a pizza-filled trip to Italy - I sense it may be more culturally enriching than my trip to Peppa Pig World in the summer holidays...

At this time of year, for staff in school, it can feel like we are looking both backwards, reviewing the year we have had, and forwards to the next year, making plans for 25-26 already. However, my objective for this term is to keep us focused on the pleasures ahead: the Summer Fair, wishing our wonderful Year 6s well as they take their next steps, and the deep curriculum that will need covering right until the last second! Long gone are the days when staff would wheel in the TV on wheels because the days got a bit hot and the six week break was coming - staff will be pushing the children to be the best they can be for the next seven weeks, do not fret!

Taking a moment to think about next year, I am very keen to share staffing for 25-26, but with the teacher resignation date only having passed last Saturday, we have some final pieces to arrange. As soon as I can share information with families, I will, and I hope to do so at the very earliest opportunity. However, I do have one piece of news that I can share at this stage.

We have appointed Miss Milne as Deputy Headteacher for September 2025.

It is rare that a school of this size does not have a clear 'second-in-charge' (aka a Deputy Headteacher) - appointing one has been a long-term target of mine.

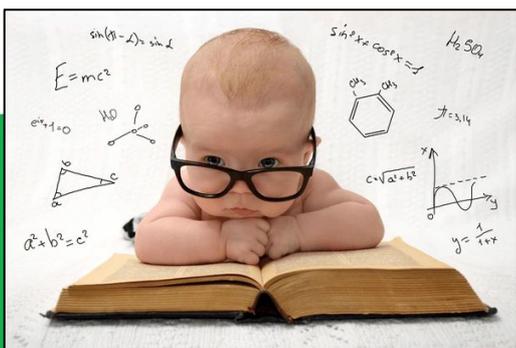
I have no plans to go anywhere anytime soon (!) but having a clear Deputy Head means that the school can operate more smoothly in my absence, be that when I am in an offsite meeting or if something unexpected happens.

As such, Miss Milne will undoubtedly not just be an excellent Deputy but, one day in the future, a phenomenal headteacher, and the school will benefit immeasurably from her dogged drive and attention to detail in all matters. I am delighted that we were able to appoint from within, recognising the excellent talent we have already in school.

Now looking backwards for a moment, it has been another incredibly successful year. Rightly so, we face a lot of external scrutiny, and we have repeatedly come out from this stronger than ever. From our outstanding phonics delivery to our broad and balanced curriculum and ever-increasing academic standards, scoring significantly above national average across a range of metrics, to the successes of our new Friends of Warkworth, and countless other achievements, it has been a truly delightful year. I remain as honoured to lead this school now as I did when I started.

May I thank you all for your support and for your phenomenal children who continue to make us proud day in and day out. The position of the school is rightfully so very strong, as shown by the absolutely mindboggling number of applicants for the teacher vacancies, many of whom knew the school precisely because of our reputation for excellence. That is down to not just our great team but the children you send to us (and for the excellent word-of-mouth recommendations many of you make about the school!). Thank you as always.

Jonathan Booth
Headteacher



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

Ephesians 4:14-15



Building Work

As you will be aware from previous newsletters, this summer is when our final classroom will be built. This is a conversion of the intervention room between Year 1 and 2 and will become the new Year 2 classroom, with the current Year 2 classroom becoming Year 3, current Year 3 becoming Year 4 and so forth.

Building work starts on the 23rd June. This later start means less disruption for the children; we have worked very hard with the team to minimise this. I should also add that our building procurement and process is completely different to that of other nearby schools that had building issues and that our extension is relatively simple. However, I will be paying very, very, very close attention to the build throughout the summer holidays.

In terms of disruption and/or changes from Monday 23rd June, I have grouped them into each year group for ease of reading.

Nursery & Reception: Parental access from the 23rd will be via the school car park only on Magdalene Fields, not via the main yard.

Year 1: Please drop off children via the front entrance. We are also mindful that there may be noise during the school day which we will mitigate via increased use of outdoor learning opportunities and/or the hall.

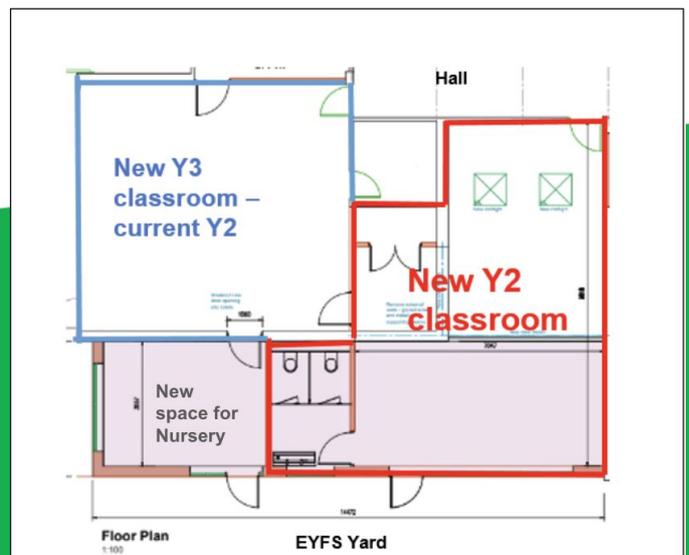


Year 2: The current Year 2 classroom is the most affected by building works as the reading corner and teacher cupboard will join the new classroom. I have been assured that almost all work inside the classroom can be delayed until the holidays. However, there may be occasions when Year 2 will have to be entirely vacated which I appreciate is not ideal and may lead to a slightly unorthodox approach to teaching at points. This will involve utilising the hall, the Year 6 classroom when they are out, and more Forest School.

Other year groups:

- Access for building supplies will be via the field gate so a portion of the yard and field will be separated off.
- In the event Year 2 need the hall for teaching, we may ask for some classes to eat in their classrooms on occasion.
- We may do some temporary changing of classrooms for some year groups.
- I would advise general caution around drop off and pick up times if you have very small children - the building site will be clearly segregated but as a parent of a curious toddler I thought I should forewarn regardless.

Thank you for your patience. Hopefully you can clearly see how hard we have worked to make sure there is minimal disruption to the children whilst completing the final phase of school expansion.. It is an exciting time and we do hope that we will be able to show the children what the builders are accomplishing!





Ignite Alnwick & Memorial Garden



2 Year Old and EYFS Changes

We asked prospective parents and existing parents with littler ones if they would like Warkworth to open full-time 2 year old provision. The response was incredibly positive, both from within school and those who are new to the school. We have made some small adjustments to the upcoming building work to help make this feasible. Our 2 year olds will get their own, exclusive space within the current Nursery classroom, and Nursery will have both their current classroom and a new room as part of our upcoming building work.

All day 2 Year Old Provision will likely start in January 2026. As such, our current 2 year old provision offer of 3 hours in the morning will continue until then.

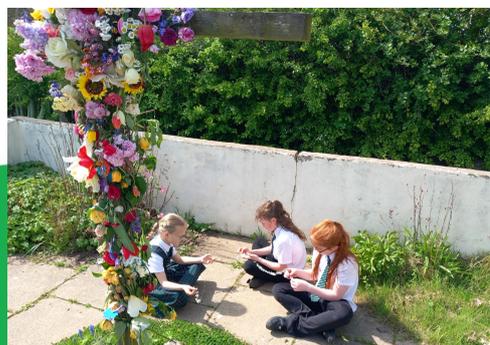
As part of these changes, we are repurposing the cloakroom space in the EYFS Cabin to become a wet and messy play area. **This means that all coats, wellies and outdoor shoes will be moved outside starting in September.** Miss Fife will be in touch with families about how this will work over the summer holidays but the important thing to note is that we will be asking for **Nursery and Reception children to have comfortable 'indoor shoes'** (e.g. slippers, Crocs etc.) that they will get changed into before coming inside the cabin. This is similar to the setup my own daughter's upcoming Nursery in Newcastle has and I know this will also mean a beautifully clean inside!

I was delighted to welcome Rachel from Ignite in Alnwick to the school this week. Rachel has worked in a wide range of schools in different regions of the country to help build children's spiritual language. She is going to re-set up Open the Book, which is where volunteers help provide Worship through fun interactive sessions as well as working with some of the children.

Perhaps best of all, she is also really interested in rejuvenating our Forever Friendly Garden (the area where the cross is on the yard). This was originally placed for Rev Janet Brierley who sadly died in post a decade ago. The garden was originally built for the purpose of helping children who are struggling emotionally. Warkworth Green Matters wanted to assist but the job was a bit too big due to issues with the wall. However, Rachel hopes to be able to access some wider funds and help facilitate this.

We envisage that the garden would be a place to go when children are having a tough time, perhaps for major events (e.g. a bereavement) or simply for peaceful reflection. We also would like it to be a place for the community, including families at the start and end of the day.

Rachel is looking forward to meeting with children to gain their views and also wants to speak to families to take their thoughts. I will send out an electronic form in due course and she will be available to catch at the start and end of days at points to be confirmed in the future.



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

Ephesians 4:14-15



Sports Day

Congratulations to Dunstanburgh on their first victory at Sports Day, taking the crown from Bamburgh! The Sports Day trophy has its green ribbon in honour, held aloft below by our oldest Dunstanburgh member (discounting adults in school). Some staff have taken Dunstanburgh's mighty victory better than others...

It was a huge success thanks to Mrs Frater's excellent organisation of Years 1-6 and Miss Fife for Early Years. It is always a joy to see children give their all and have a fun time in an appropriately competitive event - thank you to the many families who attended! Given the success of hosting it in May, it is something we will likely look at repeating next year, with the same proviso that we may postpone if the weather is poor!



Parking

I have sadly had a number of complaints from the neighbours around the school about parking. Please see below for an email I received this week which I have anonymised - I am not endorsing all of the message but I felt it was important parents knew the sort of emails I receive:

I am writing to express my dismay at the way parents park on Guilden Road and West Close. There is no regard for grass verges, nor do they seem to have any regard for their own children, opening car doors onto the road in the face of traffic.

Just as worrying is the parking on West Close which does not leave room for emergency vehicles, or if they park on the pavement, no room for wheelchairs or buggies. Cars regularly do U turns to get out of Guilden Road. Today a car reversed into West Close to turn round and nearly hit a parent and her children.

The whole parking situation is a constant annoyance if you live in the area, and I am sure that car sharing is possible, or "walking", which seems to be out of date these days.

I have apologised to this individual and said that I will remind families about parking. We in school do not have the capacity, especially given all leaders including me have teaching responsibilities, to be on 'parking duty'. I believe this individual will be seeking advice from the council.

I know the vast majority of drivers are considerate and sorry to bring the tone down in the newsletter but I felt it important to share!



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

Ephesians 4:14-15



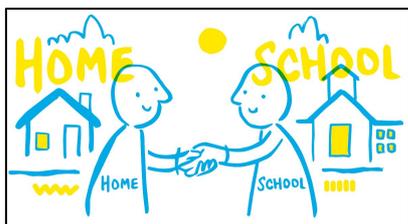
Safeguarding

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

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
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.	



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

Ephesians 4:14-15

Academic Year 2025-2026		
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 2026	Children return to school	
Friday 26th June 2026	School closed	Training day
Friday 17th July 2026	Final day	