



## Autumn 1 Newsletter

### Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had a lovely summer, enjoying the mostly glorious weather. I have already told most children about my trip to Peppa Pig World (it was better than it sounds, and better than I expected!).

It has been a real joy to welcome everyone back this week. The start of term always brings a mixture of emotions - excitement, a few nerves, and more than a few smiles from parents glad to see routine return - but what stood out most was how confident and smart the children looked as they stepped through the doors.

This summer has marked a real milestone for us. The new school extension was completed - on time, despite my worries - and it is already transforming our provision. Year 2 are enjoying a bright, modern classroom and Nursery now has a wonderful new space (pictures are on the next page). Before long we will also be able to take two-year-olds all day, in line with the government's expansion of free childcare.

We also begin the year with the aforementioned changes to our staff team. I am delighted to welcome new colleagues, and very proud that Miss Milne has now stepped into her role as Deputy Headteacher. With such a strong team in place, I am confident that the school will continue to thrive. A key personal focus for Autumn term will be making sure that new members of staff quickly feel part of our high-expectation culture and are well supported as they get to know our wonderful children.

Looking back, it is remarkable to see how far we have come in only a short time. It feels almost distant to recall when we were first establishing the Friends of Warkworth, launching Breakfast Club as free for families, building the new library or refining our new school vision. All of these are now part of the everyday rhythm of school life.

Alongside this, the results from last year (on the next page) speak for themselves. In SATs and other key stages, our pupils achieved at record levels and remained consistently well above the national average.

Looking ahead, we want to continue stretching our pupils academically while also creating more space for reflection and calm. This year, we will be introducing mini-pilgrimages - short, thoughtful visits that sit alongside our excellent educational trips but focus on giving children time to notice natural beauty, find peace, and build resilience. These are not about religion, but about offering the same kind of restorative experience that adults might enjoy from a walk on the beach or a quiet stroll in the countryside.

Of course, academic outcomes are only one part of what we do. We are also expanding our already strong careers education offer and leadership opportunities. Our oldest pupils will now be able to take on new roles such as House Captain and Prefect, giving them greater responsibility and a chance to shape the life of the school.

Our curriculum continues to be ambitious and wide-ranging - from Forest School to residentials, from music and sport, to the rich cultural and historical learning that runs through every subject. We are proud to be known as a school where children are challenged, nurtured, and well prepared for the future.

Finally, I want to thank all of you - parents and carers - for the encouragement and support you give. This year we hope to open the school up even more, and I know teachers are already planning creative ways to involve you more closely in the life of the classroom.

It is a privilege to lead this school and to see it grow stronger each year. Here's to all that lies ahead in the months to come.

**Jonathan Booth**  
Headteacher



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

*Ephesians 4:14-15*



Pictures from top to bottom:

- New canopies offering all-weather access for Early Years and outdoor coat and welly storage.
- Our new Year 2 classroom.
- The whole extension, with new Nursery space on the left and new Year 2 classroom middle-left.



## Statutory Test Results

While results are never the whole story, they are one important way of showing the progress and achievement of our children.

We always emphasise that high expectations matter - not because every child will reach the same standard, but because aiming high helps each pupil achieve their very best. Some children may not hit a particular grade, but our commitment to them is even stronger, with tailored support at every step.

We are proud of the record outcomes our pupils achieved last year, and just as proud of the resilience and growth shown across every year group.

Testing	Warkworth	National Average
Year 1 Phonics Screen	92%	80%
Year 2 Phonics Screen	100%	90%
Year 4 Times Table Check	100% 20+ 95% 23+	67% 20+ 53% 23+
Year 6 Reading	82%	74%
Year 6 Writing	90%	72%
Year 6 Maths	88%	73%
Y6 Reading Greater Depth	40%	29%
Y6 Writing Greater Depth	41%	13%
Y6 Maths Greater Depth	41%	16%
Year 6 RWM Combined	82%	62%



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## Warkworth Show

It was yet another bumper showcase at the Warkworth Show in August for our pupils, with entries in every class. I was sadly unable to attend at the last minute due to family commitments, but my sources tell me there were many happy faces at the sight of their cash prizes (!), alongside the usual assortment of family activities.

The show categories changed this year for some variety. From animal hand puppets to friendship bracelets and the ever-popular Northumbrian wildlife artwork, our children made us very proud once again.

We look forward to our entries next summer!



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### A military band in school!

We were so very proud to have our very own Mrs Glanville bring the Fusiliers Band down to Warkworth for an exclusive performance in front of all the children!

Mrs Glanville, the Music Lead across the trust, is in most Thursdays to lead Singing Praises and coordinates our fantastic music offer. You may remember her from the Warkworth Showcase last academic year. She is also in the Army Reserves, performing in the [Fusiliers Band](#).

Thanks to some last minute schedule changes, the Fusiliers were training at RAF Boulmer and Mrs Glanville asked if we would like an exclusive performance. The answer was a yes, of course!

Please take a look at Class Dojo for some highlights. The above picture is the band performing by Newcastle Quayside.

We are very proud of our area's rich military heritage and that we have had and continue to look after Forces children. The visit was not just a musical one, but a Careers opportunity that showcased a different type of vocation within the armed forces.

We look forward to Mrs Glanville returning in her 'civvies' in the coming weeks.

### Homework, Clubs, Pupil Roles

We are letting the children (and the new staff!) get settled in before we begin the usual extracurricular activities.

Homework will begin in the coming weeks. Families may remember the inconclusive results from our last major survey last academic year - parents were largely very happy with the homework offer which is more formal as they get older and more open-ended in the younger years. However, a majority of parents were open to a new system. As such, we will open a consultation early in 2026 with a few different options, so watch this space!

Clubs-wise, we have an even wider range of exciting lunchtime clubs to come. Booking will be via Arbor. Mrs Welch, the new job-share with Mrs Morris, will be leading our School Council and was emailing me lots of ideas over the summer holidays! Elections for that role will commence in the coming weeks. In addition, we are going to announce Prefect and House Captain roles for our oldest pupils soon too, which we are very excited about!



### Parents' Evening and Open Classes

Consultations with parents will happen in week commencing Monday 13th October. Bookings will open on Arbor in the next couple of weeks. The meetings will be focused on how your child is settling in and early target setting.

In addition, over the coming weeks,, teachers will communicate when there will be an 'open class' which will be a lovely opportunity for parents, grandparents and other family members to see classrooms and work completed so far! Year 2's is Monday after school so parents can see the new classroom firsthand!



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## Uniform



The sight of children in their new uniform on the first day is always a lovely moment - my own daughter started full-time school this week and I must admit I had a tear in my eye seeing her in full uniform. She attended the 2s provision here one day a week at Warkworth but, sadly, a 30 mile drive is a bit too far for full-time - if I could send her here, I would!

Back to uniform: we believe strongly that uniform is an important part of school life. It sets the appropriate tone for an educational setting, it builds a clear identity, and it also creates an equal footing between pupils and reduces pressure on parents to have a varied (and expensive!) wardrobe of clothes.

This week, we have been reminding particularly our Years 5 and 6 pupils about looking smart in their blazer and ties, tucked in shirts and setting an example to our younger pupils.

May we please remind families about our expectations in terms of **no smartwatches**, that any hairbands/bobbles be **plain, dark green, black or white** and that we do not allow oversized scrunchies, bows etc.

Parents of Key Stage 2 children are particularly reminded about no nail varnish - we in school do have acetone-free nail varnish remover. If children come to school with nail varnish, we will first send home a reminder about expectations then, the following day, have the child remove it in school if not at home. [This is detailed in the uniform policy.](#)

Thank you for your support and cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns, or any financial difficulties with uniform, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Gibson or I and we do everything we can to help confidentially.

## Educational Visits, including Swimming

I have written to families several times about educational visit costs. The school has very limited funds, partly due to government funding (!) and partly because our area is classed as more advantaged than others (e.g. inner-cities).

We continue to subsidise trips wherever possible and seek charitable support (e.g. Warkworth History Society has helped before). We also provide, for free, an exceptional water safety programme: kayaking, paddleboarding and coasteering in Years 3-6, which relies on children learning to swim earlier in Years 1&2.

Following parent feedback, Mrs Gibson is arranging all visits for the academic year so parents can 'pay as they go' in smaller parts with as much notice as possible.

For most trips we ask for voluntary contributions, as our only other funds are ring-fenced for disadvantaged families. Schools are entitled to cancel trips if there is a shortfall—we have come close twice, but fortunately the vast majority of families paid.

Please may I implore families who can to make voluntary payments, otherwise we will have to start cancelling visits—something we want to avoid. This includes swimming, since government rules prevent us from using water safety funds for swimming.

As noted on my first page, upcoming 'mini pilgrimages' will not be optional payments, as they are not linked to the National Curriculum—non-payment will mean your child cannot go.

As ever, if you have difficulties paying, please speak to us confidentially. We may also be able to ask our wonderful Friends of Warkworth to help.

Thank you so much for your understanding.



T: 01665 711369

Strive together as one. *Philippians 1:27*  
Acts of love and good works. *Hebrews 10:24*



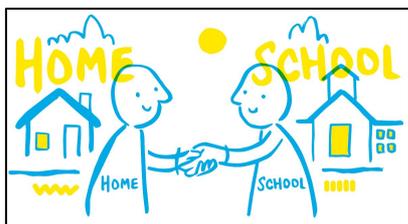
## Safeguarding

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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<b>Academic Year 2025-2026</b>		
<b>Autumn term</b>		
<b>W/C 13th October 2025</b>	Parent Consultations	Arbor information to follow.
<b>Thursday 23rd October 2025</b>	FoW Disco	Details to follow from FoW page.
<b>Friday 24th October 2025</b>	Final day before half-term	
<b>Monday 3rd November 2025</b>	Children return to school.	
<b>Wednesday 3rd December 2025</b>	Christmas Fair	
<b>Thursday 4th December 2025</b>	Christmas Dinner Day	
<b>Monday 8th December 2025</b>	Early Years Nativities	Morning & Afternoon
<b>Tuesday 9th December 2025</b>	Years 1 & 2 Nativity	Morning & After School
<b>Thursday 11th December 2025</b>	Years 5 & 6 Nativity	Morning & After School
<b>Friday 12th December 2025</b>	Years 3 & 4 Nativity	Morning & After School
<b>Friday 19th December 2025</b>	Final day	Christmas Service at church



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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	
27th March-19th April 2026	FoW Easter Egg Trail	Details to follow from FoW.
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.	
Thursday 21st May 2026	Sports Day	
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
Wednesday 8th July 2026	Summer Fair	
Friday 17th July 2026	Final day	