



Spring 2 Newsletter

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had a lovely half-term - the constant rain appears to have stopped and I think we are all adjusting to this strange thing called 'the sun' that seems to be appearing at points!

This term of course marks the start of Lent. Perhaps you ate many a pancake last week. In school, we have been considering what we may do differently to better ourselves in this traditional season of reflection. For me, it's repeating my successful abstaining from all that is sweet.

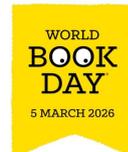
As ever, we invite all within our community, whatever your beliefs, to consider your own Lenten commitments to not only be a better person but also to remind ourselves of what really matters in life. If that means we can gently encourage some of our children to be extra helpful and polite at home, then we'll take that as a victory!

As has been mentioned in previous newsletters, we are having a big push on encouraging children to think more 'spiritually'. Our new initiative this half-term is dedicating some time on Fridays for children to, after Celebration Worship, consider who they are and what they want to be in the very broadest sense. Not only is this part of their statutorily required education, but it is central to our wider children's mental health offer.



As ever, you know where I am if you need anything at all and I look forward to seeing many of you at our [Maundy Thursday service on the last day of term](#) which is for Reception to Year 6.

Jonathan Booth
Headteacher

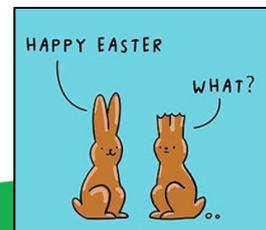


World Book Day and other events

Fast approaching on [Thursday 5th March](#) is [World Book Day](#)! Miss Fife has a range of exciting activities planned in school and children are of course very welcome to dress up as their favourite book character. As ever though, please do not feel under any pressure to 'buy' or prepare anything particular. Normal clothes carrying a treasured book will more than suffice!

Some other events of note:

- Each class will have some very special messages for Mother's Day (Friday 13th March for the Sunday event)
- The Warkworth Music Showcase will be in the afternoon of Thursday 26th March.
- Northumberland County Cricket coaching has begun this week for Reception to Year 6 - with amazing cricket grounds on our doorstep and within easy drives, and many ex-pupils playing at county level and beyond, this is always exciting!
- The Easter Egg house competition is coming for the end of term...Miss Milne will provide further details but it will be due in for the final Monday.



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



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Edinburgh Residential

Over the past few years, we have looked to build upon our residential model for Years 4 to 6. It is rare for schools to offer more than one overnight stay in their school career, never mind three (!), and we have spent quite a lot of time trying to perfect the system.

Following parental survey of many of our older pupils' families, then our first successful city break residential for Year 6 in January, we now have a great, progressive sequence:

- Year 4's Ford Castle is designed as a gentle introduction to staying away from home.
- Year 5's Robinwood is a little bit more focused on independence, whilst still offering the same sort of 'facing your fears'-type outdoor activities. As I write this, Year 5 are there now!
- Year 6 will from now on be a city break residential, taking in more cultural sights.

From learning about penguins at the Zoo to mindbending illusions at Camera Obscura to some great restaurants, our Year 6s had an absolute blast and were fantastic representatives of the school, with many people from venue staff to people in the street remarking at how well-behaved and polite our young people were.

Polling of Year 5 parents has demonstrated that my desperate wish to one day take Year 6 to London (including parliament) isn't quite approved just yet (!), but we are looking at York next year. Who knows where our current Year 4s and beyond will end up!



Parliament Box

Coming straight from the Houses of Parliament, we received a special box full of various props that tell the complex story of how our democratic system works. I entered a ballot on behalf of the school to receive it and was delighted that we were selected!

In the final week before half-term, the children had multiple Worship sessions focused on understanding the principles of how our parliament is supposed to function and why it does so. From learning about the rowdy behaviour of MPs during Prime Minister's Questions to the complexities of bishops sitting in the House of Lords, the children's knowledge often astounded me.

The children were reminded that we have had our local MP visit the school (to see our Breakfast Club provision) and the Bishop of Newcastle back in 2024 who sits in the Lords.

My highlight has to be when we had 'the government' propose a bill (to cease going to school... ironic given how much fun they were having!), the opposition try and fight it, and it make its way through the House of Commons, then Lords, then even to Royal Assent, before the judges at the Supreme Court ruled it illegal - rather convenient that I made myself said judge.

We have the box a few more weeks and each class will get time to explore it some more.





Consultation for RSHE

The government guidance requires all primary schools to review their Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) policy and consult with parents.

In primary school, RSHE focuses mainly on healthy relationships, wellbeing, and keeping safe. Any teaching about the human body or growing up is age-appropriate and taught sensitively, in line with statutory guidance and our school's values.

There is little in the way of 'sex education', especially compared to secondary. The school sticks to what is recommended by the government.

In Year 5, children cover some basic elements of physical changes during puberty (and separately, the Year 5 National Curriculum Science coverage includes the difference between asexual and sexual reproduction). In Year 6, this is covered in a little more detail, explaining how a baby is conceived, how babies grow in the womb, and menstruation. The school *does not* teach about contraception, sexual acts, or safer sexual practice, as this is for secondary schools.

In Years 5 and 6, parents are forewarned ahead of time about such topics and parents have the right to withdraw their children from such lessons (although the government does not allow withdrawing from Science).

We welcome any and all feedback on this. You can find our policy [here](#) and the full progression document which covers which material is covered when [here](#). If you have any questions, concerns or would like further information, please do not hesitate to email me.



Teaching about Relationships

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Staffing Updates

We have welcomed **Mrs Jodie Tanner** as our **Assistant Cook** in January - she has done an amazing job, especially since stepping into the kitchen during Mrs Dixon's absence! Speaking of Mrs Dixon, I saw so many cuddles when she popped in on the last day before half-term - Mrs Dixon is back on a phased return. May I extend a huge thanks to all the staff, especially Ms Young, who have stepped up in her absence to keep the all-important Breakfast Club running which continues to be free from 8:10am for all pupils in Reception upwards.

In addition, we have a new Site Assistant, **Miss Suzanne Stevens**, whom many of you will remember was our caretaker two headteachers ago! We were lucky to have so many applicants for the posts but Mrs Tanner and Miss Stevens were tailor made for us here!

As Year 3 families will know, we were very sad to hear that Mrs Stuart had suffered a further injury to her knee previously operated on - however, **Miss Smith** has done a stellar job of taking the reins of the class. We are hopeful that Mrs Stuart will be back soon on a phased return for a 'proper' return after Easter.

I remain very grateful to our wonderful staff team who always step in and go above and beyond when the realities of life mean we have to cope with absences, both planned and unplanned. Most importantly of all, I am very proud of the continued high standards, even when things do have to change!

Breakfast Club

We are delighted that our free Breakfast Club offer from 8:10am continues to grow. As a working parent myself, I know how precious a few extra minutes in the morning can be, and it can be a 'softer' way for children to begin their day. Please note that if your child arrives into Breakfast Club at 8:25am, we will not be able to guarantee them breakfast as staff are cleaning and winding things down prior to children returning to class. Thank you for your understanding.



LOVE



PEACE



COURAGE



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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.



Operation Encompass

The school is part of Operation Encompass. This is to support families experiencing domestic abuse. A notification is shared with the school to the Designated Safeguarding Leads if police attend a domestic incident where children are related to the adult parties present.

You can also find out more information regarding support that is available for adults and children [here](#) and [here](#).

Operation Endeavour

This is a joint operation between Northumberland County Council Children's Services, Northumbria Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner to safeguard children and young people who go missing from home or care. Useful information and resources:

- The Children's Society: www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-wedo/resources/protecting-young-runaways
- Missing People: www.missingpeople.org.uk 24 hour confidential helpline: 116 000



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

Particular policies you may wish to read and are most relevant to parents include:

- **New** Parent Code of Conduct (School)
- Attendance Policy (School)
- Behaviour Policy (School)
- Anti-Bullying Policy (School)
- Online Safety Policy (School)
- Safeguarding Policy, both the school's and the trust-wide Child Protection Policy
- Complaints Policy (Trust)



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Monday 23rd February 2026	Children return to school	
Thursday 5th March 2026	World Book Day	
Thursday 26th March 2026	Warkworth Music Showcase	(Other than Year 4 who are on residential)
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	Weather-permitting! It is earlier in the school year to allow some flexibility in timing.
Friday 22nd 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
Thursday 9th July 2026	Summer Fair	
Friday 17th July 2026	Final day	



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TERM DATES 2026 - 2027

	DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL CLOSE	DATE ON WHICH SCHOOL WILL OPEN
STAFF TRAINING DAY	Monday 1 September 2026	
Autumn Term Starts		Wednesday 2 September 2026
October Mid-Term	Friday 23 October 2026	Monday 2 November 2026
Christmas 2026	Friday 18 December 2026	Tuesday 5 January 2027
STAFF TRAINING DAY	Monday 4 January 2027	
Spring Mid-Term	Friday 12 February 2027	Monday 22 February 2027
Easter 2027	Thursday 25 March 2027	Tuesday 12 April 2027
MAY DAY	Monday 3 May 2027	
Summer Mid-Term	Friday 28 May 2027	Monday 7 June 2027
STAFF TRAINING DAY	Friday 25 June 2027	
Summer 2027	Friday 16 July 2027	Thursday 2 September 2027