



NCEA Warkworth Primary School

Summer 1 Newsletter

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had a lovely Easter with your family. Easter Sunday at the Booth household was particularly joyous as we not only got to have chocolate for breakfast but I also got to break my Lenten fast - I don't think chocolate has ever tasted so good!

Thank you to the tremendous numbers of families who came to the Maundy Thursday service on the last day of term - they are always well-attended events, but I think that one may have been a record breaker! Our children did us proud as they sang and told the Easter story.

One particular memory of the final week of school that sticks out is one day, when I was rushing around school, I was stopped in my tracks as I heard our Year 1s practising Amazing Grace from their classroom. It genuinely brought a tear to my eye.

As I said at the end of the service, the adults in school are acutely aware that there has been genuine loss in our community recently. Some of this is well-known, but some is not.

Please know that we are here to support you in whatever way we can. Schools are often the only agency that families engage with regularly and we take that responsibility seriously. If you have suffered something and need to talk, we are here to help, even if it does not seem to be directly affecting your children.

We have supported families through bereavement, financial difficulties, family estrangement, and many other challenges that life can bring. You do not have to face these things alone. If we can help, or simply listen, please do get in touch.

In terms of the half-term ahead, we have (weather-dependingly!) **Y1-6 Sports Day to look forward to on Thursday 21st May** (the penultimate day of term). In Worship, we are going to be reflecting on some key 'character education' values - **kindness, humility, integrity, aspiration and truthfulness**. Plus, we have some special days in the church calendar: St George's Day (which will have just gone by the time you read this), Ascension Day and Pentecost.

As Early Years families will be aware, Miss Fife is due to undergo some surgery. She will be off for a number of weeks, then back for a short while, then off again, potentially missing the majority of the summer term. We have the wonderful Mrs Seel who has spent this week working alongside Miss Fife, having already spent time with the class earlier this year, and I will be overseeing Early Years in Miss Fife's absence. Any concerns or issues can of course be shared with the office, through the [EYFS email](#) or directly to me. As per my letter last half-term, I am available most Thursday mornings, appointment not necessary either in person or over the phone, and appointments available throughout the week, during the school day and after school.

We are going to schedule the EYFS Sports Day event for when Miss Fife is back - I appreciate that this is short notice but I'm not sure Miss Fife would be a happy bunny if I ran such a fun event without her!! We will confirm details as soon as possible.

The silver lining in Miss Fife's sad absence is that I'm looking forward to the excuse of getting to spend even more time with our smallest and most precious souls! We also welcome Ms Stevens, our new Site Assistant, this week.

Thank you, as ever, for your support.

Jonathan Booth
Headteacher



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



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Our water sports offer

This half-term, Years 2 and 4 will be swimming, with our Year 1s going after the May break. You will likely well-know that water-based activities has been a priority for the school for some time. Both because of our high expectations and our proximity to water, we choose to send children swimming as early as possible so they can meet the end of primary school objectives long before they are due.

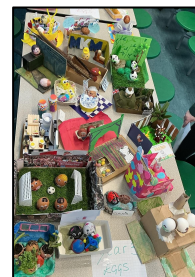
This is because we believe that children can, and should, be able to meet the minimum Year 6 requirements as early as possible. We still do some catch up swimming for older children, but the long-term plan is that all our children will be able to swim long before the deadline set by the National Curriculum.

This then means that, in Key Stage 2, we can invest in a bespoke watersports offer that includes kayaking, paddle boarding, and for our oldest pupils, coasteering (jumping off rocks and swimming in the sea!) as well as, for the first time this year, surfing. Last year's Year 6's achieved a national accredited kayaking award meaning that, if they so choose, they can continue further qualification.



Easter Egg Competition

Thank you to everyone who entered our Easter Egg competition - what a wonderful effort all round! Each entry contributed important house points, and with the winning house this time being **Dunstanburgh**, the competition is looking very close this year. Special congratulations to our winners for their brilliant designs. I hope that not too many of you were up late the night before frantically glueing or painting...



Retirement of Rev Helen O'Sullivan

As some of you will be aware, Rev Helen announced her retirement during the Easter holiday. Luckily, she is not leaving until the end of September: the school will save its many, many warm words for her for closer to the time.

Of course, Rev Helen is someone children will recognise from visiting school, leading Worship and being there for major events. However, it's the work in the background I want to point out - she is often there for families in their toughest moments, as well as us staff and our children. She takes her responsibility as Parish Priest for all within our community, no matter whether they are Christian or not, very seriously.

She will be tremendously missed, but at least we have plenty of time with her (and time to make sure we say goodbye properly!).



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Safeguarding Updates

Keeping children safe
is everyone's
responsibility



Introduction to our new section

Following feedback from the last parent survey, families said they would like more information on aspects of safeguarding such as online safety, you will see our new safeguarding updates page in a rather eye-catching red.

In each newsletter from now on, I will highlight some key bits of information. I will keep it to just the one page so it's not too much to read. Topics will be a mixture of those recommended by our safeguarding consultants as well as responsive to wider issues noticed inside school or our community.

Safety in the community



As the days get longer, it is always lovely to see so many of our children enjoying time outdoors. We are fortunate to be part of communities like Warkworth and Amble, where children can play out, build independence, and enjoy a sense of freedom.

At school, we value children learning to take sensible, age-appropriate risks. Alongside this, we want them to feel confident and safe when out on their own. It is important they know where they can go if they need help - for example, trusted adults or familiar houses they could go to if they feel unsure or need the toilet. Simple conversations at home can make a real difference.

We would also like to make you aware of some reports of anti-social behaviour by adults in the area immediately outside of school, particularly around Guilden Road. The police have reassured us this is not connected to the school; however, we felt it important to share, especially as some children play on the school grounds after school.

As always, thank you for your support in helping keep our children safe.



Staying safe online

As a school, we are committed to helping children grow up safely in an increasingly digital world. We support initiatives such as [Delay Smartphones](#), which encourage families to think carefully about when children are given access to smartphones and social media.

Our position is clear: we strongly discourage the use of platforms such as WhatsApp, TikTok, and unsupervised access to YouTube for primary-aged children. These platforms are not designed for younger users and can expose them to inappropriate content, contact from strangers, and social pressures.

We feel it is important to be open: serious e-safety incidents have affected children in Warkworth. While not originating in school, they have had a significant impact on wellbeing and friendships, and early access to smartphones often plays a part.

We also recognise that families will make their own decisions. Our role is to ensure these are well informed.

If your child is using digital devices, we recommend:

- Keeping devices in shared spaces, not bedrooms
- Using parental controls and age restrictions
- Checking apps, messages, and browsing history regularly
- Having open conversations about online safety
- Setting clear boundaries around screen time

Further guidance is available from [NSPCC](#), [Childnet](#), and [UK Safer Internet Centre](#).

Thank you for your support in keeping children safe.



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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:

- 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)



In every force. In every school. For every child.



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Meeting with the headteacher: I am of course available at other times, including before or after school, which can be arranged via the school office.

However, I have scheduled out time almost every week on Thursday mornings, appointment not necessary, either over the phone or in person if you wish to speak to me directly.

Any changes to my availability are below.

Summer term		
Monday 20th April 2026	Children return to school.	
Thursday 27th April	Mr Booth available in afternoon, not morning.	
Monday 4th May 2026	School closed - bank holiday	
Monday 11th April-Thurs 14th	Year 6 SATs	
Thursday 14th May	Mr Booth available in afternoon, not morning.	
Wednesday 20th May	Class Photographs	
Thursday 21st May 2026	Y1-6 Sports Day (Mr Booth unavailable for meetings that 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	
W/C Monday 8th June	Year 1 Phonics Screen Year 4 Multiplication Times Table Check	
W/C Monday 15th June and Monday 22nd	Year 2 SATs Weeks - spaced out in groups over the weeks	
Thursdays 25th June & 2nd July	Mr Booth unavailable that day - available on Wednesdays these weeks	
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