



Summer 2 Newsletter

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely half-term break in the shockingly glorious sunshine which seems to have disappeared this week!

It is that time of year where you say 'how has it gone so quickly?' Christmas Nativities surely were not six months ago, never mind our Year 6s preparing to leave who I remember being in Mrs Morris's class when I arrived! Conversely this time last year, we were preparing for the new Year 2 classroom which feels like it has always been there.

Looking back, it has been another tremendous year for our children and our school. Careers Talks from so many varying fields including blacksmithing, veterinary care, dental care, aviation, law, entrepreneurs and many more; so many visits near and far including our three residential; watersports due to start in the next few weeks; visits from Northumberland Archive workshops, Cambridge University and many others; the Music Showcase with many of our Year 6s about to begin graded musical examination, and so much more.

As always, it is your children that make our school so special. Visitors always remark on the manners, behaviour and articulacy of our children. They make us laugh and make us proud every day. Every single child, without exception (and I do mean without exception!) exceed our high expectations and have succeeded this year. Thank you as always for your support as families in raising such lovely children.

I am delighted to say that, with the teacher resignation date having passed, **there are no changes to next year's teaching staff.** Teacher social media around this time of year often jokes about it feeling like a football transfer deadline day as staff are moved around but that is not our style at Warkworth and there are no surprises in store!

Nursery	Miss Pringle, Miss Ree & Miss Wright
Reception	Miss Fife
Year 1	Miss Fagan
Year 2	Mrs Welch & Mrs Morris
Year 3	Mrs Stuart
Year 4	Miss Good
Year 5	Miss Myllymaki
Year 6	Miss Milne

I always tell the staff that new initiatives and ideas are a lot easier to introduce than the hard slog of keeping our high expectations and challenging curriculum going day in, day out. In terms of next year, consistently keeping this up is of course our number one priority, rather than anything 'new'.

The school's next development priorities for 2026-27 are building upon what we are already strong at but pushing it to the next level: oracy, which is children's ability to both articulate their thoughts and improve their own thinking; working at making our curriculum more parent-friendly so that you know more about how we teach and what we teach; and continuing our work on challenge within all subjects.

Whilst Summer 2 is undoubtedly the busiest term, I hope that you and your children have a lovely rest of the academic year, with a special shout out to our departing Year 6s as they get ready for their next schools!

Jonathan Booth
Headteacher



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Ephesians 4:14-15



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Sports Day

With **771 points**, **Dunstanburgh were our Years 1-6 Sports Day champions**, beating out Bamburgh with 701 points and Alnwick with 698. That's despite Alnwick winning the final all-children event! It was the many second places of Dunstanburgh that brought the team over the line.

However, those are of course not the final standings...! With the sad postponement of the Early Years Sports Day (rearranged several times now - thank you for your patience!), the final results all rely on how our littlest souls manage! Please avoid all rain dances around **Wednesday 10th June**.

Year 1 to Year 6 homework from September

As you may be aware, Years 2 and 4 have recently trialled a new homework system. Parents in those year groups were then invited to complete a short survey.

The results were really helpful. While the majority of parents who responded preferred the online system to the previous system, the strongest message was that many families would prefer physical workbooks instead.

Homework is something that happens at home, so we want our approach to be helpful for families rather than adding unnecessary pressure. We also know from previous feedback that our old homework system was not working as well as it could.

From September, children in Years 1 to 6 will therefore have physical CGP workbooks for reading, spelling, grammar and maths. You may already know CGP books, as we currently use them in Year 6. They are clear, high quality and closely linked to what children are learning in school. Different pages from the books will be set each week and the children will mark these together in school.

We are very grateful to the Friends of Warkworth, who have kindly agreed to pay half of the cost of these books for every child.

Our approach to homework remains deliberately gentle. Educational research suggests that homework at primary age is not hugely impactful. However, we do think it can be useful in two ways: it helps children begin to build the habit of working at home before secondary school, and it gives parents a helpful window into what children are learning in class.

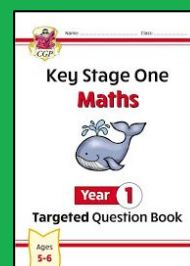
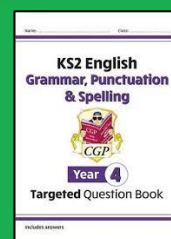
With the exception of Years 5 and 6, where homework forms part of preparation for secondary school, homework will be optional. There will be no punishment or sanction for not completing it. Instead, we will have half-termly prize draws for children who take part.

Children will not be at a disadvantage if they do not complete the homework. The purpose is simply to consolidate learning that has already taken place in school and to help families see what children have been working on. The last thing we want is for homework to become a battle at home the night before it is due.

Fundamentally, we believe that school is the main place for schoolwork. We want children to work extremely hard in school, then still have time at home to rest, play, enjoy family life and pursue their own interests.

If families choose to focus on just one thing at home, we would always say: read every day, and talk about books. That remains the most powerful home learning habit of all.

For a small number of children, particularly some children on the SEND register, the work in the CGP books may not always be the right level. Where this is the case, we will of course make appropriate adjustments. Teachers will communicate the plan in the new academic year.



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Meal Ordering

In the last parent survey, there were a number of feedback points, both positive and constructive, about meals. Whilst the high quality cooking of Mrs Dixon remains peerless, many of you wanted more information further in advance and a stronger degree of control over your children's meal choices.

In response to this, Mrs Dixon began trialling new menus shortly after the parent survey, putting the tried and tested (her mince and dumplings are my favourite) alongside new choices, closely monitoring which went down best. We trialled a different way of pre-ordering with choices in the morning although this was always going to be temporary until we could get parent pre-ordering in place.

As always with a change, there will be hiccups, and I know that a small number of families have been in touch with the ever-wonderful Mrs Gibson to help! I know also that some families did not order this week but hopefully the coming weeks will be a bit more straightforward.

Over time, families should feel a closer control to what their children are eating and have a better understanding of the menus. After the last survey, I had multiple families coming to me to talk about how they wished their children would try something different or how sometimes their children were ending up with the same meal twice, once at school and once at home!

For any of you who know Mrs Dixon, you will know that there is no chance she would willingly let any child go hungry and she continues to go above and beyond to make sure everyone gets healthy, well-balanced and delicious meals. We are very lucky to have her!



PE Kit Expectations

We wanted to give families a clear reminder about PE kit expectations ready for next academic year:

- Plain, *unbranded* black shorts, leggings or joggers
- A plain, *unbranded* green t-shirt
- A plain, *unbranded* black or green **sweatshirt** for outdoor PE
- Sensible trainers
- No flashing shoes, football kits, branded sportswear or large logos

The only change is that we are asking that children wear sweatshirts (jumpers) rather than hoodies for PE. This helps keep PE kit simple, smart and consistent across school. Hoodies can vary in style, colour, branding and fit, whereas a plain sweatshirt keeps expectations clear and helps avoid PE kit becoming another area where children feel pressure around fashion or labels.

To support house identity and healthy competition, we will be purchasing coloured bibs for each of our three houses. This follows parent feedback and means families will not need to buy specific coloured t-shirts for their child's house. Children will still be able to represent their house with pride in lessons and events, while everyday PE kit remains simple and affordable.

We know that families have lots to think about when preparing for the new school year, so we wanted to make this clear in good time. From September, we will need to be a little firmer in making sure children wear the correct PE kit. This is not about being difficult or catching children out: it is because we want PE kit to remain simple, affordable and fair.

Thank you, as always, for supporting us. Keeping PE kit simple helps children feel part of the school community and keeps the focus where it should be: learning, taking part, healthy competition and enjoying PE.





Safeguarding Updates

Keeping children safe
is everyone's
responsibility



Child-Friendly Safeguarding Policy

Working closely with our independent safeguarding consultants, we have put together a child-friendly safeguarding policy that we will be sharing with children across school as part of their PSHE curriculum. It is uploaded onto the website so you can [read it yourself here](#).

Of course, we will be sharing it in very different ways for different year groups! We expect that our older children will be able to read and understand it whilst for our youngest children, it is more about reminding them that we are always here to listen to them if anything is worrying them.

You may find it interesting reading yourself as it explains some of the smaller details of life here, such as what the different coloured lanyards mean in terms of visitors within school.

We will be sharing it in the coming term as part of the children's PSHE curriculum. We always aim to do so carefully and in a way that avoids alarming pupils.

Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust
Warkworth C of E Primary School

Child-friendly Safeguarding Policy



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Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

Our Promise to You

At Warkworth, everything we do is shaped by our vision and values. We believe every child is known, valued and loved. That means:

- You have the right to feel safe
- You have the right to feel happy and respected
- You have the right to learn, grow and flourish

When you feel safe, you can be your best.

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding means keeping you safe and helping you to thrive.

All the adults in school will:

- Protect you from harm
- Help you stay healthy and safe
- Listen to you and take you seriously
- Help you grow into the person you are meant to be

Artificial Intelligence

We take a research-focused approach in how we teach. This means that a focus that always considers strong evidence. We tend to view anything 'shiny and new' with a degree of healthy scepticism, knowing that what is tried and tested over time is often best for children.

In the late 1800s, some radical educationalists predicted handwriting would be dead within 50 years because of the typewriter. Yet even now, with devices everywhere, we know that writing by hand supports the thinking, planning and construction of ideas. Handwriting is not going away any time soon!

AI is exciting, not simply because it is new technology, but because it tests very old disciplines: logic, written communication, reading comprehension and research. Healthy AI use is therefore built into our Computing curriculum. Due to the primary age of our children, we do not allow pupils to use popular AI agents, but we do teach them how AI is used, along with its strengths and limitations. Teachers may demonstrate using AI. We also introduce approved tools that help children explore how AI works in practice, such as, [Say What You See](#), [Quick Draw](#) and [Semantris](#).

Staff follow strict data protection rules when using AI. We also follow a simple moral principle: using AI to replace genuine human communication is impersonal and dishonest. We don't use AI to write end-of-year reports! This newsletter is a good example: I may use AI to help tighten or rephrase a few sentences, but I do not ask it to write on my behalf.

This fits with our wider principles in school: we embrace useful tools, but we do not abandon thought, honesty, tradition or human relationships.



COURAGE



PEACE



LOVE

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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 2 Term 2026		
W/C Monday 1st June	Year 4 Multiplication Times Table Check, first week	
W/C Monday 8th June	Year 1 Phonics Screen Year 4 Multiplication Times Table Check, second week	
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	

Autumn Term 2026	
Wednesday 2nd September	Children return to school (Training Day on 1st September)
Wednesday 7th October	Individual class photographs
Friday 23rd October	Final day of Autumn 1
Monday 2nd November	Children return to school for Autumn 2.
Monday 7th December	EYFS Nativity
Tuesday 8th December	Years 3 & 4 Nativity
Wednesday 9th December	Years 1 to 6 Pantomime @ Blyth Phoenix Theatre
Thursday 10th December	Years 1 & 2 Nativity
Friday 11th December	Years 5 & 6 Nativity
Friday 18th December	Final day of Autumn 2