NCEA Warkworth Primary School

Autumn 2 Newsletter

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had a lovely half-term break and that your children have enjoyed returning to school.

Autumn 2 is here which means cold, dark starts and finishes but also the absolute joy of Christmas. We have the usual mixture of events detailed in this newsletter. We try to delay the magic until Advent season officially starts but, with some events coming up in November, apologies in advance if any of your children start singing Christmas songs a bit early!

We are continuing to develop children's oracy: their ability to express themselves clearly, listen carefully and think aloud. This work is for every child, not only those who may need additional help.

I was delighted to share our plans with the regional lead for the NHS Speech and Language Service, who recognised our school as a beacon of excellence. This recognition reflects our commitment to making purposeful talk a central part of learning throughout the school.

When children learn to put their thoughts into words, they become better able to organise, question and refine their ideas. Over time, stronger spoken language develops a richer inner dialogue, which in turn supports deeper and more independent thinking.

Our work on making our way of teaching into family-friendly, short guides is well under way, with each subject being on our website under the 'Curriculum' tab. For instance, you might want to know how we teach PE, Maths or Computing, or any other subject! Alternatively, you might just be interested in our Careers offer our school meals menus, or how Early Years works. We are working hard on making the website more parent-friendly - feel free to direct any and all feedback or queries directly to me.



Alongside this, we are building on many years of work to keep raising expectations and increasing the level of challenge across the school. I have long said that we want children to come home tired, in the best possible way, because they have thought deeply, worked hard and been fully engaged in their learning!

Our internal assessments show that the average level of attainment in each class is significantly above both local and national averages. This is something to celebrate, but it also means that we must work especially hard to ensure that our children continue to be stretched and challenged, while giving every child the support and encouragement they need to succeed.

This half-term in Collective Worship, we have the joy of Advent and Christmas traditions to explore, but November is a special time too. We will think about light and darkness, the changing seasons and the lives of some famous saints. This week, I spoke to the children about St Julian of Norwich, a favourite of mine, whose words 'all shall be well' are something I repeat to myself in times of tribulation!

My sincere thanks to the many families who have expressed an interest in welcoming Careers Bear to their workplace following my Dojo post this week. The response has been overwhelming! It looks like Bear's work experience rota will be full for quite some time - he's booked up until February currently!

Lastly, as ever, thank you for your commitment to and belief in our school. I say it often, but it bears repeating: you entrust us with your precious souls, and we have the greatest privilege of sharing so much time with them, getting to know each one individually and seeing them grow. That feels particularly special at this wonderful time of year.

Jonathan Booth
Headteacher



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



Christmas Dates for your diary!

As ever, there are the long list of dates at the end of the newsletter, but for easy reference for this Christmas season, please see below.

Date	Event	Notes
Thursday 12th Nov	Bring a Bottle Day	Bring a bottle for Christmas Fair and wear your own clothes!
Sat 21st Nov	Christmas Light Switch On, 4pm	School choir - all families invited to attend
Fri 27th Nov	Christmas Fair	Run by Friends of Warkworth - details to follow
Thurs 3rd Dec	Christmas Dinner Day	Details to follow via Dojo
Mon 7th Dec	EYFS Nativity	9:30am & 2pm
Tues 8th Dec	Y3+4 Nativity	9:15am & 3pm
Weds 9th Dec	Y1-6 Panto	Morning school trip
Thurs 10th Dec	Y1+2 Nativity	9:30am & 3:15pm
Fri 11th Dec	Y5+6 Nativity	9:15am & 3pm
Fri 18th Dec	Y1-6 Christmas Carol Service	2pm start - dismiss from church

Please note: Nativities and Christmas celebrations are a valued part of school life, alongside our usual lessons, which continue right up to the very last day of term. **The final week remains an important week of learning, so good attendance matters just as much then as throughout the year.**





Remembrance

We are honoured to be located in a place of such rich military heritage. As a result, we take this as a responsibility to take the solemn honour of marking Remembrance very thoughtfully. This week, our Year 6s have been selling poppies and related items to raise funds for the Royal British Legion. This coming Sunday, I will attend the Remembrance Service at St Lawrence's where one of our children will place a wreath on behalf of our school.

Next week, we will mark Remembrance on the 11th through silence, thought and prayer. On behalf of the whole school community, may I thank everyone who is in active service or who has been previously or who has been a relative to someone in service. We know the sacrifices people in service make, even in times of somewhat peace.





A growing Warkworth Family

Since September, a significant number of families have chosen to move their children to Warkworth from other local schools. It is a privilege to welcome them and a real vote of confidence in our school community.

The calm classrooms, excellent behaviour and warm relationships we enjoy every day can become so familiar that it is easy to forget how special they are. They reflect the care and consistency of our staff, our children's efforts and your support as families. Children will sometimes fall out or make mistakes, and we take those moments seriously. Helping them learn, put things right and grow is part of sustaining the kind, respectful school we are so proud of.



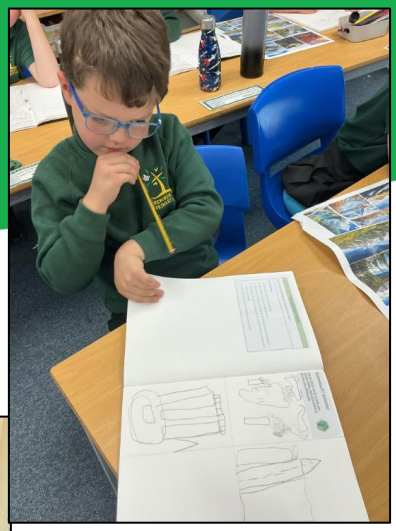
LOVE PEACE COURAGE

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NCEA WARKWORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL













A small selection of Autumn 1 highlights, starting clockwise at 10 o'clock…

Year 3 at the Great North Museum;
Year 2 doing their art exhibition and critiquing each other's work;
Year 4 at St James's Park;
Year 1 practising line landscapes;
Reception making bread;
Year 6 preparing for self-portraits;
A Year 5 philosophy question to Bishop Mark;
Nursery examining the changing seasons in Forest School;
Reception thinking about the story of the Good Samaritan and how to be kinder







LOVE PEACE COURAGE

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Keeping our school at its best

Regular external reviews are an essential part of running our school. We welcome this rigorous scrutiny: families should feel confident that the quality of their children's education is being checked carefully.

During a recent full-day visit, a team of school improvement specialists observed lessons, examined children's books, reviewed results and attendance, and spoke with leaders and children. They looked closely at everyday school life, checking how well children learn, how they are supported and how they feel about school.

The findings were a strong endorsement of the work taking place at Warkworth. The team highlighted our strong academic results, impressive attendance and rich range of experiences beyond the classroom. They described children's behaviour in lessons, at break and at lunchtime as excellent. Children who spoke to the visitors said they felt safe and trusted adults to listen and respond to concerns.

I was especially pleased that the team recognised how well staff know children's individual needs, providing thoughtful support while maintaining high expectations for everyone.

Education continues to develop, and there are always opportunities to refine what we do. Practical feedback helps us build on these strengths and keep improving. We are very proud to see the care, ambition and hard work of our school community recognised so positively.



Consultation on RSE Resources

We are opening our annual consultation on Relationships, Sex and Health Education which all schools are required to do by the government. There have been no major changes to our curriculum or resources since last year. Alongside Science, we teach the Relationships and Health Education required by government, covering families, friendships, respect, boundaries and safety. In Years 5 and 6, children also learn about changing bodies, puberty and menstruation.

Following government guidance, Year 6 includes an optional sex education unit, 'How do people become parents and carers?' This provides basic, scientific explanations of reproductive anatomy, conception, pregnancy and birth. Parents and carers in Years 5 and 6 are notified through Class Dojo before these lessons and are welcome to view resources or ask questions. Parents may withdraw their child from the optional Year 6 sex education unit; this is separate from compulsory Relationships, Health and Science teaching.

Our RSE policy, alongside the dedicated PSHE curriculum page explain what is taught across school and parents' rights to request withdrawal from non-statutory sex education. Children cannot be withdrawn from statutory Relationships and Health Education or Science. You can also view our progression document and year-by-year plans. The exact learning outcomes within each PSHE unit, which includes RSE, is detailed on the curriculum page under each year group. In Nursery, this looks a little different as it comes under 'Personal, Social and Emotional Development'.

Please send any comments or questions to the school office by Friday 27th November.

Safeguarding Updates

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Road Safety



We were delighted to welcome local police, including PC Darin, who has been a familiar and active presence in our community for many years, to speak with Years 5 and 6 about road safety just before half-term. With many of our older children walking home independently, this was a valuable opportunity to reinforce how to stay safe.

Please help us put those messages into practice around school. Do not stop or park on the zigzag markings, even for a quick drop-off, and keep pavements, dropped kerbs and driveways clear. The 20mph limit is a maximum: at busy times, or when children are crossing, a much slower speed may be necessary.

Over many years, we have successfully campaigned for road improvements through Northumberland County Council and pressed for closer parking monitoring. These measures matter, and the sensible, considerate choices we each make remain essential to keeping children safe.

Please also revisit road safety with your child. Practise their route together, agree safe crossing places and remind them to put phones away when crossing. Encourage them to tell a trusted adult if anything on their journey makes them feel unsafe, and share concerns with us so we can work together to protect our community.

Useful resources: THINK!'s advice on independent journeys and police guidance on safe parking outside schools.

Choosing video games

With Christmas approaching and new releases such as a new Grand Theft Auto on the horizon, please keep age suitability in mind when choosing games as presents.

As someone who enjoys video games myself (from Bluey with my daughter to football games in rare moments of free time!), I know how much fun they can bring. I also know that our families often take care over their children's media choices.

Following my online safety message in the last newsletter, **this is a friendly reminder to check PEGI age ratings** and content descriptions before buying or downloading. Ratings reflect the suitability of a game's content, including violence, sexual material and strong language. A PEGI 18 game is intended for adults and is unsuitable for primary-aged children, however popular it may be.

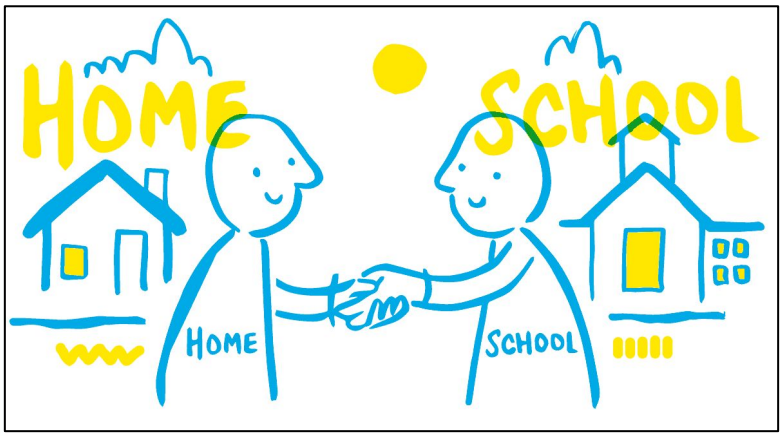
Please also consider what children might see when watching older siblings or gaming videos - **'Let's Play' videos on YouTube are very popular and can result in children being exposed to inappropriate content unintentionally**. Check parental controls, chat settings and spending permissions before they start playing, and remind them they can always tell you if something worries them.

Useful resources: PEGI ratings explained and the NSPCC's gaming safety advice.



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.

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)
- Online Safety Policy (School)
- Safeguarding Policy, both the school's and the trust-wide Child Protection Policy
- Complaints Policy (Trust)

Keeping Children Safe



OPERATION ENCOMPASS
In every force. In every school. For every child.

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

Meeting with the headteacher: I continue to be available most Thursday mornings for in person or over the phone conversations. However, you are always welcome to phone the office or email the school if you would like a chat about anything we can help you with, from something within school to wider support for your family.

Autumn Term 2026	
Monday 2nd November	Children return to school for Autumn 2.
Thursday 12th November	Bring a Bottle Day (see page 2 and Dojo)
Monday 16th November	Odd Socks Day (part of antibullying week - Dojo post forthcoming)
Saturday 21st November	Warkworth Village hristmas Light Switch On, 4pm - school choir.
Monday 23rd November	Reception to Year 6 - flu vaccinations
Friday 27th November	Christmas Fair - afternoon
Thursday 3rd December	Christmas Dinner Day Christmas jumper day School choir at community events
Monday 7th December	EYFS Nativity - 9:30am and 2pm
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 Years 1-6 Christmas Service at church @ 2pm - dismiss from church

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Spring Term 2027	
Tuesday 5th January	Children return to school (Training Day on Monday 4th)
Weds 6th-Friday 8th January	Year 5 Residential
Weds 27th-Friday 29th January	Year 6 Residential
Friday 12th February	Last day of Spring 1 - half-term
Monday 22nd February	Return to school - Spring 2
Weds 10th-Friday 12th March	Year 4 Residential
Friday 19th March	Easter Music Showcase
Thursday 25th March	Last day of Spring 2 Maundy Thursday Service at church, R-Y6 - dismiss from church

Summer Term 2027	
Monday 12th April	Children return to school
Monday 3rd May	Bank Holiday
W/C Monday 10th May	Year 6 SATs Week
Friday 28th May	Last day of Summer 1 - half-term
Monday 7th June	Return to school - Summer 1
W/C Monday 7th June	Year 4 Multiplication Times Table Check
W/C Monday 14th June	Year 1 Phonics Check Year 2 SATs (over two weeks)
Friday 25th June	Teacher training day - school closed
Friday 16th July	Last day of Summer 2