
LIGHThouse

SUMMER 2023

ISSUE 30

SCHOOL
OUT!



"ENABLING EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITIES TO LET THEIR LIGHT SHINE."

LIGHTHOUSE

Welcome to the Summer edition of Lighthouse and our final of this school year.

Working together to benefit our children

By Alan Hardie

Although we have moved on from the direct impact of the Covid pandemic, this school year has continued to throw up new challenges. These have ranged from the cost of living crisis which has impacted on all of us, to the effects of industrial action. All of this on top of the long term impacts of austerity which have made life even more challenging for many in our communities.

It also feels at times there is an unrelenting expectation for schools to deal with problems we have a society, such as the impact of social media, and step in to make up for cut backs in other services. Throw in the impact of high stakes accountability and inspection, along with the increasing challenge in recruiting and retaining staff, then the level of challenge is huge.

This isn't of course unique to education and there is high challenge in other sectors, but despite all of this I remain optimistic about the future of the young people in our schools. Why?

Although there are many ways in which OFSTED could and should be reformed, having four of our schools inspected this year had highlighted what our staff do incredibly well every day and the strength of working together as a family of schools.



In each OFSTED inspection report, there are five categories where a judgement is made, depending on the age range of the school. Castle has six as it is all through school. This means that over the four inspections we've received judgements in twenty one categories. All but one of these judgements has been "Good" which is a fantastic achievement and should provide reassurance to our parents and carers. A single judgement of "Requires Improvement" was received in one category at Duke's, but is a significant improvement on the previous inspection. Both we and the OFSTED inspection team are confident that Duke's we be judged "Good" in every aspect by the next inspection.

OFSTED reports are very short and contain only a fraction of the feedback which we receive from the inspectors during each inspection. We have a great deal of additional information which tells us how well our schools are doing and importantly also informs our annual school improvement planning. The collaboration between our schools, sharing ideas, training, resources, etc. makes us stronger as a family of schools rather than single schools in a way that benefits our children.

The inspection feedback tells us that our children feel safe and happy in our schools and where this isn't the case, staff act swiftly to put things right. It has been great to see that the tireless work of our staff and their positive impact on the children has been recognised. It's also very pleasing to have the best feedback we've ever received from our parents and carers and in the pupil surveys.

As I've said before, we don't always get it right, but when we get something wrong we try to put things right as quickly as possible and learn from it. Strangely, I think that our shared experiences during the Covid pandemic have brought our schools and families closer together and this can only be a good thing for our children.

Finally, it is a joy to see our children working so hard to do well and having genuine pride in their progress and achievements. Despite the ongoing challenges I have no doubt that their desire to do well will enable them to 'let their lights shine' and this is why I still consider it a great privilege to lead our trust. I wish all of our pupils, staff and families a happy and restful summer break.



“Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”

Matthew’s gospel chapter 6



The end of term and the summer holidays for pupils and for many staff stretch out ahead of us. What are the memories of summer holidays of your youth? Although there are a few highlights that stick in my memory, there was also an awful lot of “nowt”. Me and my brothers lolling around on the sofa or the lawn and saying we were fed up and rolling our eyes. While my harassed mother thought of things we could be doing including such thrilling teenage activities as: pegging out washing, cleaning the bathroom or a real favourite tidying my bedroom. I distinctly remember my brothers and me saying it was “boring” and there was “nothing to do”. So what were the highlights what sticks in my mind? Some of you of a similar age may remember the Peter Powell Stunt kite from the 70s or maybe ask your grandparents. It had two strings so you could control it, get it to swoop down nearly to the ground and then soar up high. The long tail could make patterns in the sky. Before this kites just had one string and you couldn’t do anything with them. The problem was the genuine Peter Powell Stunt kite was expensive when they first came out or more expensive than I and my family could afford. My mum found a cheap version and although I was disappointed at first I LOVED it, it was shades of blue and a long, long tail. I stood for hours and hours flying it under a clear blue sky, lost in wonder.

The memories remind me of Jesus’s words in Matthew’s gospel chapter 6:

“Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”

Everything seems so frantic these days. What should I be doing next? How long have I got left to do that? What else is on the list? What am I behind on? It can squeeze out time for God, for loved ones and for ourselves. We may not notice the beauty and wonder of the world and the people around us.

Sometimes we think absolutely everything is vital and urgent but look at the birds and the flowers they don’t fret yet they are created and flourish, loved into existence by God.

I might just go and get a second hand kite from a charity. I’ll fly it like in 1978, stand and stare up as it makes patterns against the clouds and the tail swoops and swirls through the air in Hirst Park or on the beach, in Alnwick or in Warkworth. God is with us and cares for us wherever we are just like the birds of the air and flowers of the field.

Almighty God bless us with the time and space to stop and stare this summer, May you bring peace and contentment into our busy lives. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Sally Milner
Trust Chaplain



WELCOME TO ST MICHAEL'S

THE NEWEST MEMBER OF OUR FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust are delighted to welcome St Michael's C of E Primary School in Alnwick as the newest member of our Trust family of schools. St Michael's officially joined NCEAT on the 1st July and we welcome the pupils, staff and families into our community. We hope that your lights shine brightly as part of our Trust!

Over the last two years, we have worked closely with St Michael's providing the school with support in preparation for their OFSTED inspection, which we were delighted to see judged them in November 2022 as "Good" in all categories. St Michael's is a school at the heart of its community in the north part of Alnwick and shares our high aspirations for its pupils to succeed.



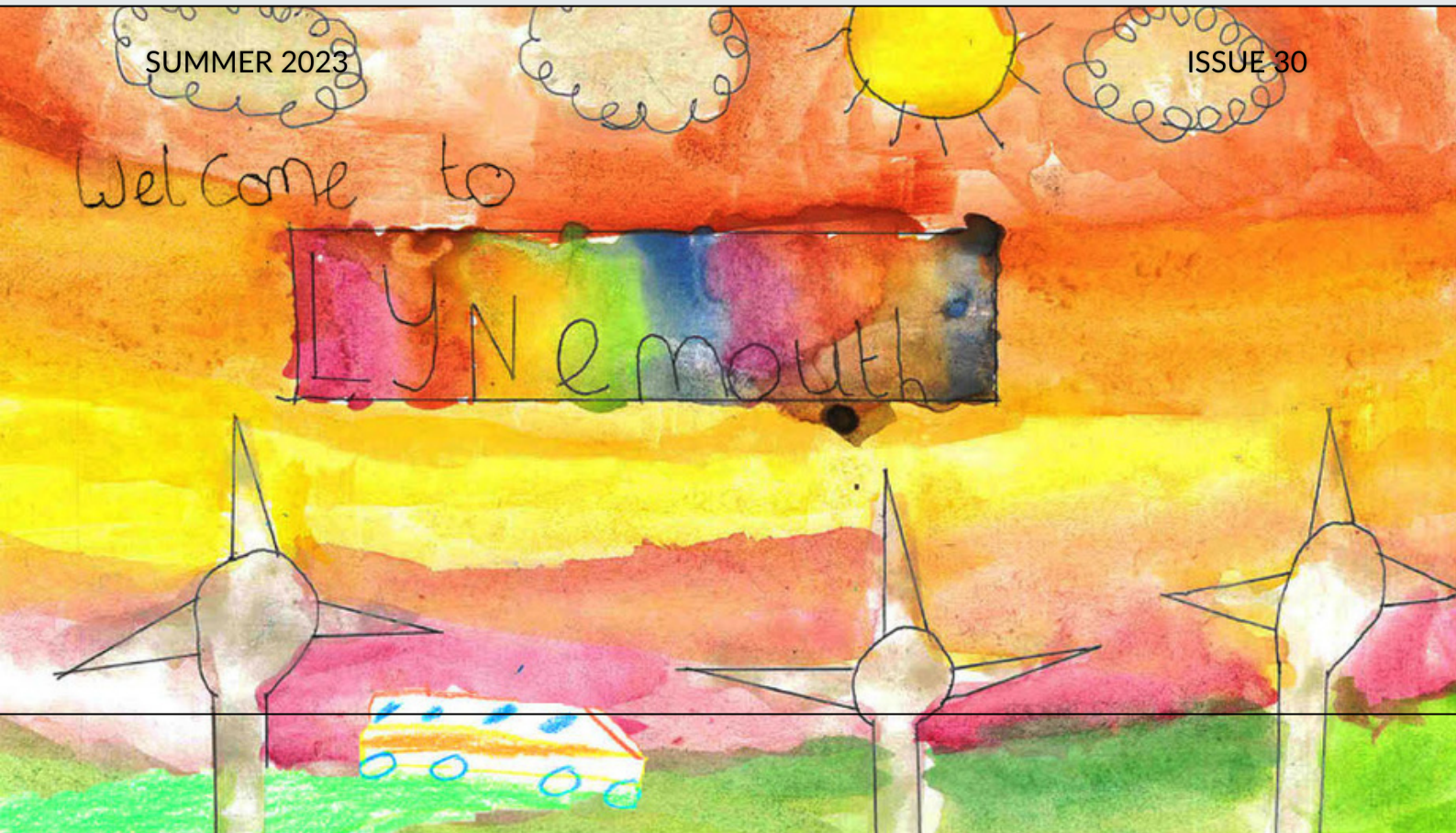
Alan Hardie, NCEAT's CEO, said :

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“We are delighted that St Michael's has chosen to become part of the NCEAT family. Their motto of 'achieving and growing together' is clearly at the heart of the school, which is a welcoming and inclusive community.

We have enjoyed working with St Michael's and joining our Trust means that we will be able to work even more closely for the benefit of the children in our trust schools.

Having seven primary schools allows us to work on school improvement and sharing excellence so that all our schools gain from this”.



Lynemouth Bus Stop Design Winners

For 5th year in a row Duke's students have designed a bus stop in Lynemouth.

With thanks to the parish council donation, student's were given a theme and were asked to design some artwork!

You can see the winning design around Lyemouth now!





World Environment Day

At Bishop's the children from Year 6 supported the children in Year 1 to help tidy our school grounds. On World Environment Day they had a big focus on pollution and decided the best place to start was our own yard. Armed with litter pickers and collection bags, off they went!

The children think people are really messy and sadly we get lots of single use plastic blown into our yard from outside too.

We think we should change the well known saying 'see a penny pick it up and all the day you'll have good luck' to 'see some litter pick it up and all the day we'll have good luck (for our planet!))

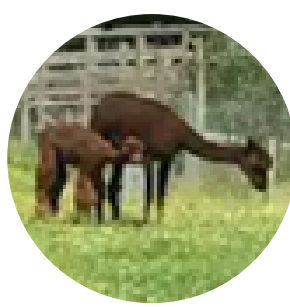




HIRST PARK DAY 3

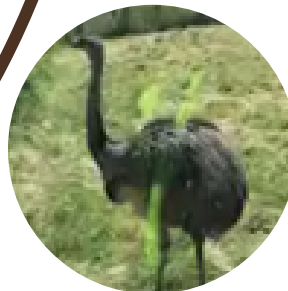
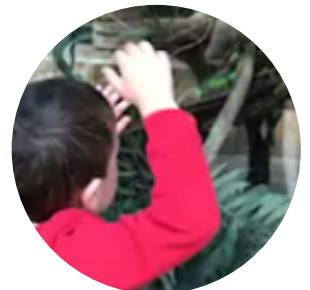
Year 4 visited the Hirst Park again this week for the 3rd day of their work towards the John Muir Award. During the day they spent time in the community garden sampling some of the salad vegetables they are growing there, they painted rocks to hide around the park and learnt how to start a fire using friction. The children have learnt so much about the importance of the park to their local community and how to look after it during these visits.





Castle School Early Years had a fantastic day out at Northumberland Zoo. In our topic, we are learning all about Amazing Animals so we thought we would go and see some up close and personal...we had lots of fun!

The staff at Northumberland Zoo made us feel very welcome and they had many different animals for us to see, the bats were huge and a bit scary! We had some time in the soft play too, we ran and jumped around with our friends.



Sheepish events at Grace Darling

A MASSIVE WELL DONE to the community of Grace Darling for helping raise over £3000 for charity.

Last month, pupils at Grace Darling took part in a barmy fun run for the launch of Shaun the Sheep on the Tyne Learning Programme and to support and raise money for St Oswalds Hospice.



Not only the children but the teachers also took part, dressing up as sheep dogs and waiting for the children to pick up hose pipes and water buckets and soak them. Everyone had so much fun!

The wonderful kitchen staff wore sheep masks and made shaun the sheep themed treats for all the children to enjoy.

Grace Darling aimed at raising £400 from this event for St Oswald's Hospice but in fact raised a whopping £3,000!

Well done all for your fantastic achievement.

If you want to read more, take a look at the full article here -

<https://www.shaunonthetyne.co.uk/sunshine-smiles-and-whole-lot-of-sheep/>





A small group of year 10 students took part in an Army supercamp over 3 days as part of their work experience. For the first part of Monday, students visited Harrogate Army Foundation College which involved a tour of the site, an introduction to drill marching, an explanation of all of the kit soldiers use as a part of their training, as well as personal training which involved an obstacle course to test speed and balance, and crab football. On Monday afternoon, students moved to Catterick Army Base where they ate in the mess hall amongst regular soldiers, got to see an operational army base, were issued their kit to wear and the items they would need for fieldcraft the following day; they also had the opportunity to sleep in an

On Tuesday morning students woke up and packed their kit ready to move to Albemarle Barracks for the remainder of the experience. Firstly they were introduced to Battle PT, Team building exercises and a STEM activity which involved collaboratively building a device to transport an ammunition container. Then students moved into the field where they were shown how to cook ration pack meals for themselves. Students were then shown how to construct their own sleeping space in the woods using a basher, rope and sticks which they would be sleeping under that night. Tuesday was rounded off with some lessons on first aid, reconnaissance manoeuvres, a stalking exercise through the woods and a mini reconnaissance mission.

After a night sleeping in their shelters, students were surprised with an attack simulation which required them to respond to the sound of gunfire, investigate the situation and then conduct an emergency medical evacuation as a team, transporting the wounded soldier to a safe helicopter extraction site. The students threw themselves into the supercamp and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS



Last week Duke's had their opening night for Little Shop of Horrors and it was an enormous success.

They had a small but significant cast made up of mainly Year 11s who have worked tirelessly during exam season and they performed brilliantly.

The students love it when staff are in the audience and we were pleased to see how blown away everyone was with the talent on stage.



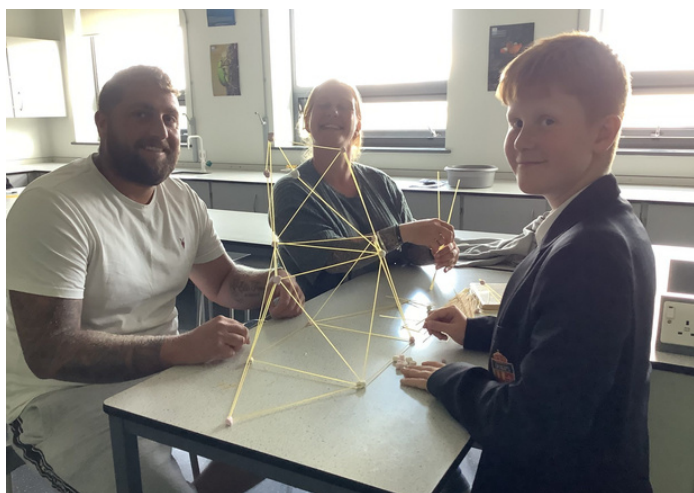
'Take your Parent/Carer to school day'



Thank you to all the parent/carers who visited Duke's on 11 July for 'Take your Parent/Carer to school day'.

Parent/Carers were able to take part in lessons with their child as well as have a buffet prepared by our catering 6th form students to mingle with Duke's staff.

Thank you for the Science Department for organising this wonderful day.



ARC1

The students from ARC 1 recently went on a trip to 'The Newcastle United Foundation', working in the STEM centre under the guidance of knowledgeable staff from the organisation. They were led to use technology in new and innovative ways, some used a VR Headset for the first time, all were taught how to program a ball using data through an ipad. It is fair to say the students excelled at what they took part in and were fully engaged in the experience - so much so that no one wanted to return home and were disappointed when it came to the end of their time there.





MINERS PICNIC



The NCEA Miner's Picnic event on Tuesday 11th July was the culmination of a huge amount of work that both children and staff have completed in relation to the Y3 enquiry about mining and the local area. Children had worked extremely hard to learn all about the mining heritage of Ashington and the surrounding areas before getting the chance to engage in some fantastic workshops. Bill Elliot, a member of 'The Elliott's from Birtley', led a number of workshops across five of our primary schools to teach traditional mining songs such as: 'Just One Spark' and 'Jowl Jowl.'

The children had a fantastic time learning the songs and a real highlight of the Miner's Picnic was seeing over 200 children all joining Bill in singing these songs together.

It definitely was a sight to behold and there were numerous members of the public who stopped by to watch the singing which sounded beautiful. In addition, children had the opportunity to learn the art of Proggy Mat making thanks to Justine Fox (Creative Remakery). Each school now has their own Proggy Mat banner which they were able to parade on the day. The banners will be shown around Ashington over the summer before being returned to schools to be displayed. The event could not have been such a success without the support of Sarah Bredin-Kemp from Hirst Park. Sarah supported the organisation of the event and was able to provide much needed funding to ensure the children were able to have all of these wonderful experiences.





'HOWE' AMAZING

Eight children from Thomas Bewick were lucky enough to win a place on the team for the NUFC Foundation 1892 Cup. Children were invited along to the NUFC Academy building where they competed against seven other primary schools. Despite some very tough competition, the children still enjoyed a fantastic day out.

They received a brand new Newcastle United strip (to keep!) and even had the chance to meet Eddie Howe and his coaching staff who all paid a visit to watch some of the young football talent on show.

Ali Kartoev (Y3), one of Thomas Bewick's players, said,

"Yesterday at the 1892 Cup I had an amazing time playing football matches against the other schools. We tried our best and it was really good fun. I had the best time and it was great to see the school's lift the trophy at the end. I felt so excited getting my first ever Newcastle strip and it was cool to meet the Newcastle manager. Hopefully I could join the team again some day."



12 July
2023



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Parents and guardians of those children eligible for Free School Meals will have received a link via text message to claim a £100 voucher per child to support them with the purchase of groceries during the Summer 2023 holiday.

The link to these vouchers will expire on 30th September 2023. It is important that you activate the voucher as soon as possible as there will NOT be a further opportunity to issue any vouchers which have expired after the 30th September deadline.

If you have any difficulties accessing the voucher or if you have any questions, please email: data@ncea.org.uk.



Northumberland Church of England
Academy Trust

WE'RE HIRING



Scan the QR code to see our latest vacancies or go to
www.ncea.org.uk/about-us/vacancies



Summer Reading Challenge 2023

Ready, Set, Read!

Presented by The Reading Agency.
Delivered in partnership with libraries.

It's all fun and games at Ashington Library this summer

Team Ashington are on the look out for new signings this
summer - you!

Join our squad for the 2023 Summer Reading Challenge where you can go for gold as power through our exciting new book collections. Then spring into action ready to tackle the great list of event fixtures we've got coming up.

So grab your bike, scooter, skates or running shoes and head over to join the fun.

Sat 8th July

Launch Day - come along and join the Challenge - help us get off to a flying start!

Mon 24th, 31st
July and 7, 14,
21 Aug.
1.30-2.30pm

Drop in for Sporty Stories and Crafts - creative fun!

Tues 1 Aug
10.30-11.30am

Tinker with tech this summer at one of our programmable LEGO®workshops. We'll be using LEGO Education SPIKE™ Essential kits. Suitable for children aged 6 + who must be accompanied by a responsible adult

Wed 16 Aug
1.30-2.30pm

Epic Adventures with Robin Simpson Spectacular stories, quirky quizzes and friendly fun with storyteller Robin Simpson

Book events via: nlandlibs@eventbrite.com

**THE
READING
AGENCY**

**SUMMER
READING
CHALLENGE**

 Northumberland
County Council

Summer Programme

Ashington & Newbiggin Family Hub

Ashington Library Visit

Tuesday 25th July | 10:00 - 11:30

Come along and meet us at Ashington Library (Leisure Centre) for stories and crafts



Sports Activities

Newbiggin: Monday 31 July | 13:00 - 14:30

Ashington: Thursday 03 August | 10:00 - 11:30

Fun and games for the whole family to enjoy, sports themed



Neon Rave

Newbiggin: Wednesday 16 August | 13.00 - 14.30

Ashington: Tuesday 22 August | 10.00 - 11.30

Bring along your own T-Shirt to decorate!

Bust your best moves with the Family!



Fair Days!

Ashington: Thursday 27 July | 10:30 - 12:30

Newbiggin: Friday 28 July | 10:30 - 12:30

Join us for our Carnival Themed Activities at the Family Hub's, for the whole family.

No need to book for our Fair Day - Just turn up!



Beach Themed Activities

Ashington: Monday 07 August | 13:00 - 14:30

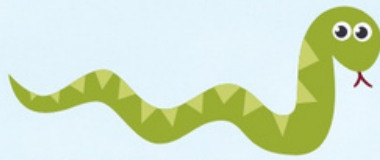
Newbiggin: Thursday 10 August | 10:00 - 11:30

Join us in the Family Hub's for fun activities for the whole family, beach themed



Ashington Town Council will kindly be sponsoring some of our Summer Events!

Amazing Animals



Ashington: Friday 18 August | 10.00 - 11.30

Newbiggin: Monday 21 August | 13.00 - 14.30

We will have fun crafts and activities, with special guests Animal Antics. An opportunity to meet an assortment of animals!



Brunch and Play

Ashington: Monday 24 July | 10:30 - 12:30

Ashington: Friday 04 August | 10:30 - 12:30

Ashington: Wednesday 09 August | 10:30 - 12:30

Ashington: Monday 14 August | 10:30 - 12:30

Ashington: Friday 25 August | 10:30 - 12:30

Ashington: Wednesday 30 August | 10:30 - 12:30

Come along to our free Pop-up Cafe, and enjoy some fun activities for all ages



TRIPS!

South Shields Trip

Wednesday 02 August | Bus times below

09:30 - Pick up from Newbiggin Family Hub

10:00 - Pick up from Ashington Family Hub

14:00 - Departure from South Shields

£3 refundable deposit required to be dropped off at the Family Hub, this will be returned



Alnwick Gardens Trip

Thursday 31 August | Bus times below

09:30 - Pick up from Newbiggin Family Hub

10:00 - Pick up from Ashington Family Hub

14:00 - Departure from Alnwick Gardens

£3 refundable deposit required to be dropped off at the Family Hub, this will be returned

Give us a call to book

Newbiggin Family Hub, Cleveland Avenue,
Newbiggin, NE64 6RR | 01670 812751

Ashington Family Hub, Alexandra Road,
Ashington, NE63 9EF | 01670 819988



If you're 21 or under*, now you can go by bus for just £1 or less!

***Proof of age may be required. Terms and conditions apply.**



SOCIAL MEDIA



Don't forget - all our schools are on Social Media! Give them a like and a follow to keep up with the latest news and to see what your children will be getting up to in September.



WELL DONE AND THANK YOU

**We would like to wish everybody a Happy
Summer! 😊**

**Well done to every student across NCEAT for
all you've achieved this year, you're all
stars! ☆**

**We also want to say thank you to all our
staff for their hard work and dedication and
extend our thanks and good luck to all
those staff members who leave us today.**

**Goodbye to all our school leavers in Sixth
Form, Year 11 and Year 6. We wish you all
good luck ☒**

**Have a fantastic summer holiday and we
look forward to welcoming you back in
September. ♥**

#schoolsout

WE WISH YOU ALL A
HAPPY SUMMER! 🌞

KEEP UP TO DATE

with the Trust



WWW.NCEA.ORG.UK