Newsletter 7
6.3.26

Dear Parents and Carers,

Spring has sprung and boy were we ready for it! After 7 years of January, February has gone in the blink of an eye and March is here! Woop Woop. Dust those sunnies off we're due for some sunshine and much milder weather.

Reaching the half way point of the year and reflecting on all our school has been through, we really have come through on our school beliefs that we are a school with a Big Heart and Big Ambition. A small group of staff decorated the Community Room over the half term to make it an increasingly cosier space for the school and the community to use. If you know of a group that requires a space to meet during school times (9:00am to 3:00pm) please contact Rachael in the office and she will see if we can be the space they are looking for at a very reasonable price.
The children have shown their ambition in their work over the last half term and the results of writing through the Talk for Writing process has been incredible. I love to hear all about the different topics they are learning in class during Family Assembly on a Friday.

You will have received your child's mid-year report on Monday and teachers are looking forward to meeting with you at **Parent Evenings Tuesday 10th March and Wednesday 11th March 3:30pm to 6pm** to discuss the report, how your child is doing in school and have a look at their books. The book is open on MCAS so book your slot.

This week we have had a fun week during Geography and Reading week. Through the eyes of Flat Stanley we have travelled around the world in the afternoons to see what the other classes have been learning in their key country. In our English lessons we have been enjoying tales from around the world. Today was World Book Day and the costumes were phenomenal. Check out Facebook to see the great ideas!

All that's left to say is #bemoreCASTLE and we all look forward to the rest of the half term and what it's going to bring.
Jill Dodds
Executive Headteacher

Information

Wild About Adventure- Forest School

We will continue to develop our Forest School skills this term.

- Thursday 26th March- EYFS
- Thursday 30.4.26- KS2

The PTA are helping us raise funds to further develop the forest school area and Mr Mordue and I are working on plans to have a work weekend to clear out some of the area and find the missing path! We will be in touch as soon as we have solid dates and plans for some strong and eager members of our school community to come and lend a hand… also if you have access to a mini digger drop us a line!

PE this half term

We have had a couple of changes to the PE timetable for **this half term**, please see below. Just a reminder that children are to come to school in their PE kit on their PE days.

	Indoor PE	**Outdoor PE**
EYFS	Monday	Thursday
KS1	Friday	Thursday
KS2	Wednesday	Thursday

Football coach

In July, Year 4 attend a football tournament for all the local schools. It's a great day out and the children really enjoy themselves. In the past we have done our best and our coach has done their best to prepare the team for the games. I would like to give this Year 4 class the same preparation and team spirit. So I am looking for a volunteer to coach a group of Year 4s each week and build a strong team up. Please contact the office if you have a little bit of Kevin Keegan in you to turn our team into winners!

Flooding

As the flooding continues across our entrance in the main yard all I can say is **a big THANK YOU** for your patience. We have reported it to the council, water board and the Trust have organised for someone to come and survey the drainage points around the area and on the school.
I appreciate that the situation with the planks is not ideal and I will be looking at this again with Mr Harrison (caretaker) to ensure that it is stable when walking across. I will keep you up to date with changes when I know them.

Rocksteady concert

This term's Rocksteady concert will be on Wednesday 25th March 2026 at 10am. We look forward to seeing you there… I'm excited for the Taylor Swift song! Parents of the musicians should have received information about this directly from Rocksteady.

Easter Service

We will be holding an end of term Easter Service at St Mary Magdalene's church on Thursday 2nd April at 9:30am. We would love you to come along to celebrate with us.

Workshops

There are lots of opportunities for you to join us in school this coming half term.

- Mr Chapman and Mrs Baxter have been working hard across the two schools working on Talk for writing and supporting our teachers to implement it into their classrooms. Some of you may have attended Mr Chapman's first workshop looking at 'imitation' and how the children learn the text. **T4W Workshop part 2** is coming to our school very soon. Mrs Baxter is getting ready to explain all about the 'innovation' stage where the children change the story. Join her on **Tuesday 17th March at 9:00am**. Then go into the classroom with your children and see this stage of the process in action.
- Mr Chapman will be holding a 'No-Outsiders' parent's workshop on **Tuesday 31st March at 2:15pm** so that you can find out about the project and how we use it in school with the children as part of our PSHE curriculum.
- Finally, Miss Palmer, our computing lead, is going to be doing a **Computing lesson with KS2** and their adults on **Wednesday 1st April at 2:00pm**! Come along and find out how your child is learning in Computing and they learn to keep safe using the internet in different ways. It's a practical lesson in the hall altogether so come along and join in the fun!

Red Nose Day

Friday 20th March.

This year we are supporting comic relief by either coming to school wearing non-uniform and designing our own red noses! It is £2 to participate. We will supply the official "design your own" comic relief red nose and the children will supply the creativity (and I'm sure many many laughs!).

On Saturday 21st March it is World Down Syndrome day- to celebrate our 'Luca' in Little Castle we would also like to invite the children to wear Odd Socks with their non-uniform. Celebrating diversity.

Community Room

If you know of a group that requires a space to meet during school times (9:00am to 3:00pm) please contact Rachael in the office and she will see if we can be the space they are looking for at a very reasonable price.

Reminders

Baby Group

Don't forget if you have a little one up to 2 years old you can join Annamarie for Baby group every Thursday 2:00-3:00pm. Come along and have a cuppa and a biscuit, meet other parents in the area and have a relaxing hour whilst your little one explores and meets new friends.

Healthy morning snacks

The children are welcome to bring a healthy snack such as veg sticks, fruit, rice cakes, a piece of cheese (such as babybel) or bread sticks and malt loaf into school for morning break.

Reading at Home

We know that many of our children and families read at home. It is essential that children are given the opportunity to practise their reading at home regularly to support their progress. It is also so important that children get the opportunity to read for pleasure and to listen to and enjoy a range of stories. We know that life can be busy but spending just 10 minutes practising the school reading book 3 times a week and sharing a daily bedtime story can have a significant impact on both reading and writing. To support your child please try to read a minimum of 3 times a week and don't forget to sign the reading record.

Contacting school when your child is absent

Please ensure that you contact school in the morning to let us know if your child is unwell and unable to attend that day. If we have not heard anything from you then we will contact you before 10am. If we are still unable to get in touch with you we will attempt to contact people on the contact list you have provided school.

In line with Keeping Children Safe In Education statutory guidelines it is essential that we know where our pupils are. If we have exhausted all options and have still not made contact then we must follow procedures and may have to contact the Education Welfare Officer or Children's Services.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Safeguarding

This #WakeUpWednesday edition offers clear, supportive guidance to help parents and educators feel more confident in navigating the online world with children and young people. It looks at how everyday conversations, simple boundaries, and a bit of digital awareness can make a real difference to young people's online experiences.

This guide also explores how parents and educators can create an environment where children feel comfortable asking for help when something online unsettles them. By highlighting the importance of safe and healthy internet usage, these tips provide a grounded starting point for anyone supporting young people's digital lives.

PTA

The PTA look forward to seeing you at **the next meeting will be Monday 9th March 6pm at West Road Tavern**- we look forward to seeing you there.
They would like to remind you of a couple of ways that you can help the school PTA:

- ★ Northumberland lottery- https://www.northumberlandlottery.co.uk/ when you play 60p out of the £1 ticket is donated to school- just make sure that you select Prudhoe Castle PTA as your nominated charity.
- ★ Easyfundraising- https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/create-an-account/ all you have to do is sign up, nominate Prudhoe Castle PTA as your nominated charity and allow the pop up on your phone. When you access a website that supports the charity it will prompt you to activate the donation and the company will donate to our PTA free to you! I do it- on Dominoes Pizza!!!
- ★ Clothes bank- There is a clothes bank besides the school which donates a sum when it is emptied. So bring your unwanted clothing along and support our PTA.

Dates for you PTA diary:

- ➢ Friday 20th March- Non-Uniform for Easter Chocolate
- ➢ Friday 27th March- Easter Chocolate Bingo- School Hall 3:15pm (eyes down 3:45pm)
- ➢ Saturday 20th June- Prudhoe Castle PTA Summer Fair- School Yard (weather permitting)

Look out for a PTA newsletter whizzing its way to you very soon.

School Calendar

Tuesday 10.3.26	Parents Evening
Wednesday 11.3.26	Parents Evening
Tuesday 17.3.26	9:00am Talk for writing workshop
Thursday 19.3.26 Friday 20.3.26	KS2 Treasure Project with the Great North Museum in school.
Tuesday 24.3.26	KS1 Skipping Festival - Hexham
Wednesday 25.3.26	10:00am Rocksteady Concert
Thursday 26.3.26	Forest School with Mr Mordue EYFS
Friday 27.3.26	3:15pm PTA Easter Chocolate Bingo
Friday 3.4.26	Easter Holidays start
3.4.26 to 17.4.26	Easter Holidays
Monday 20.4.26	Back to school
Thursday 30.4.26	Forest School with Mr Mordue KS2

Monday 4.5.26	Bank Holiday- School Closed
Thursday 21.5.26	1:30pm Sports Day
25.5.26 to 29.5.26	May Half Term
Monday 1.6.26	Back to school
Thursday 4.6.26	Forest School with Mr Mordue KS1
Wednesday 24.6.26 to Friday 26.6.26	Year 4 Residential to Elterwater with Wylam First School
Friday 3.7.26	Lowery Cup- Year 4 football competition
Monday 6.7.26	Transition Day (Year 4 to Highfield)
Tuesday 7.7.26 to Friday 10.7.26	Commando Joe's week- watch out for the timetable to come and join in with Commando Joe's with your children.
Wednesday 8.7.26	Parent Evening
Thursday 9.7.26	Forest School with Mr Mordue EYFS
Tuesday 14.7.26	9:00am End of Year celebrations with Reception
Wednesday 15.7.26	10am End of Year Rocksteady Concert
Thursday 16.7.26	2:00pm Year 4 leavers assembly
Friday 17.7.26	Last Day of Term- Have a sunny summer.