



NEWSLETTER

28th March 2025

A message from our school leaders:

This week, we were thrilled to invite KS1 families into school for our family brunch, to celebrate Mother's Day. Being our first event, we didn't expect such a positive uptake as we served brunch to 55 adults and children on Monday. Children enjoyed making crafts and sharing their first meal of the day with their chosen adult. It was wonderful to see everyone smiling and enjoying the session. We were so delighted with the feedback and are now planning to add this to our annual calendar. Our next family brunch will take place around Father's Day and this time we invite our KS2 children and their chosen grown up to join us for a morning meal. The date will be announced in the next few weeks.

Also, this week, we have looked at pupil reading records and were delighted to see so many of our pupils reading daily. We know that children who read often have a better imagination and can usually write more detailed stories. A reminder to listen to your child read regularly and ensure reading records are signed. We are extremely passionate about reading and hope that our pupils leave primary school as secure, confident readers. Thank you for your continued support on your child's reading journey.

Reminders and Messages

- Please remember to bring water bottles into school every day.
- A reminder that we are a **'NUT FREE'** school.
- **POLITE REMINDER:** We are unable to read or answer messages which are sent through Class Dojo. If you need to contact teachers, please telephone or make an appointment at the office.

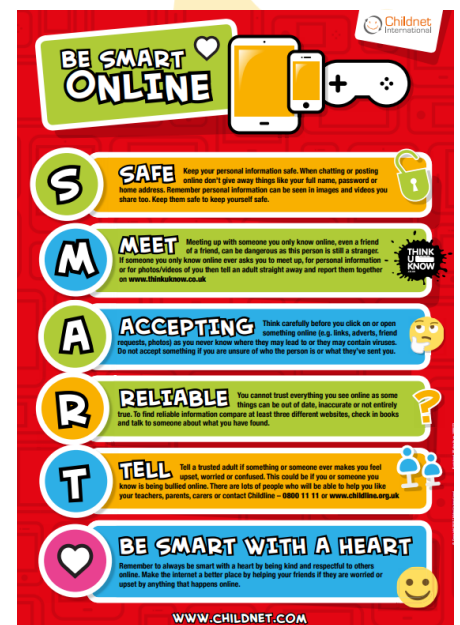
~~ OTHER NEWS ~~

The School Council are organising an 'Easter Bonnet' competition.

Please see the poster at the end of this newsletter for the last entry date.

Useful Online Safety Links

- [NSPCC](#)
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- [Childline](#)



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

~THIS WEEKS ATTENDANCE~

Reception	100.0%
Year 1+2	100.0%
Year 3+4	98.4%
Year 5+6	99.0%



NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?



EYFS – Miss Anderson and Mrs Dobson

NURSERY

This week, in nursery, the children have been learning all about the weather and seasons. We have looked at the different types of weathers we experience in the different seasons, and what would be the best clothing to wear in each season. The children also learnt about the weather in different countries around the world, by watching video clips. We then enjoyed looking in the nursery garden for signs of spring. The children went on to paint some fantastic rainbows, explored ice and watched it melt, used pipettes to make rain drops and made snowmen with cloud dust.

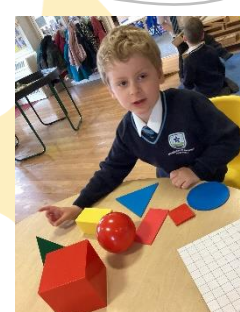
Nursery have also been looking at different things that start with the letter 'a'.

RECEPTION

This week, our topic books have been, 'Tadpole to Frog' and 'Frankin Frog'. The children have learnt all about the life cycle of a frog, from frogspawn to adult frog, and how the frog develops at each stage. The children have done a wonderful job at writing sentences and using our wondrous words to talk about the life cycle. We even observed some real frogspawn/tadpoles, before safely returning it to the pond.

In maths, the children have been introduced to 3D shapes. We have learnt about key features of 3D shapes, including faces, edges and corners. The children have opened up the 3D shapes into their nets to see which 2D shapes they are made up of.

The children have also recapped healthy eating. Miss Spenceley made a 'healthy' sandwich which was full of cake, marshmallows, fizzy pop and chocolate, before the children told her that it was not healthy at all! They then helped Miss Spenceley make a healthy shopping list, so she could make a real healthy sandwich next time.





NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?

Y1/2 – Mrs Garnett, Mrs Aislabie and Miss Spenceley

We had a brilliant start to the week with our amazing Family Brunch event! We were very pleased to be able to invite parents into school to celebrate Mother's Day. The children really enjoyed sharing breakfast with parents/carers/grandparents, as well as making some lovely crafts. The children sang a beautiful song and presented each family member with some daffodils, which were kindly donated by the Co-op. The children made us so proud with their manners and exemplary behaviour. We look forward to organising such events in the future.

During English lessons, we have been finding out all about Queen Elizabeth II to enable us to write our own non-chronological report. We read the story, 'Little Girl, Big Dreams' and worked in groups to make a mind map of facts. Perhaps you could ask the children if they can remember any!

In maths, Year 1 have been continuing with numbers to 40, thinking about 1 more and one less, as well as looking at number patterns. Year 2 have continued to learn about money, and have been using notes and coins to make different amounts.

In history, the class had the opportunity to look at a range of portraits of Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria. They looked at the background and dress in particular, to see if they could make suggestions about what type of ruler they were.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend, and enjoy Mother's Day!





NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?



Y3/4 – Mr Frazer and Mrs Niven

Another eventful week in our Year 3+4 classroom!

We have had a great time in DT lessons, making our seasonal tarts. The first lesson involved taste-testing many different toppings; here the children could decide which topping they would like to include on their own tart. The second lesson was all hands-on-deck, where the children had a wonderful time rolling up their sleeves and chopping the vegetables, before grating some cheese to add to the top of their seasonal pastry tart. Most of the children thought they were delicious! I hope a few of them are inspired to help cook at home with their newly found cutting, peeling and grating skills.

Our Year 4 children are now in full swing, heading towards their times tables check in June. It would be really helpful if they can practice at home, using Times Table Rockstars or any other games that can be found online. They could also write a song that includes the Times Tables (rewriting lyrics to popular songs is good fun too!) The children will be making some flashcards at school soon, to use when practising, and they could make another set at home to play some games.

This term children have been getting to grips with using a racket during PE lessons, and this practice helped one of our teams reach 2nd place in the Tennis + Racquets Festival, which took place this morning. Swimming lessons are still going wonderfully, with improvements in technique and ability.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend!





NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?



Y5/6 – Miss Dobinson and Mrs Emery

What object is king of the classroom? A ruler!

This was one of Year 5&6's favourite joke from the book, 'The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh' this week. As we have continued to read the book, we have explored Billy's emotions and debated whether or not Billy should do the 'Me, Me, Speech'. The class struggled to agree on an answer as there were so many arguments for and against the idea. Some children believed that Billy should do the speech as recommended by his speech therapist, Sue – she believes that speaking will improve his confidence. However, other children in the class believed that Billy should not do the speech because it gives more reason for his bully, William Blakemore, to ridicule him. Our understanding of the book from our reading lessons has ensured that the class have been able to write a diary entry from the perspective of Billy, using apostrophes for contractions, as well as the active and passive voice.

In maths, children in Year 5 have completed their unit of work on percentages – we learnt that the word percent means 'out of 100', which has supported us in our learning – all children have flown through the unit and are able to confidently use fractions, decimals and percentages. In Year 6, we have been learning about area and perimeter, challenging ourselves with finding the area of a triangle – we learnt that to find the area of a triangle, we just need to half the area of a rectangle! We have also been revisiting arithmetic questions in preparation for our SATs in May.

In geography this week, we explored the reason as to why the polar regions have changed over time and how this change may impact on the animal and human populations in the Arctic and Antarctic regions. This led to a very scientific question by one child, 'Why do icebergs not sink?' From this question we discussed the meaning of density and practised the movement of particles in solids, liquids and gases.

We also had a special visit from the Fire Service this week, who delivered a very informative session on how to stay safe in the community and the dangers of starting fires. The firemen answered lots of children's questions, resulting in the class having a deeper understanding of the role of the fire service and how fire's start.



NEWSLETTER

Upcoming
Events:

APRIL	Event
w/c Mon 7 th April	Parent's Evenings
Fri 4 th April	KS2 Girl's Football Competition at St John's Academy, B.A.
Tues 8 th April	KS2 Easter Crafts 2-3pm
Thurs 10 th April	NELT Athletics Festival, Gateshead Sports Stadium, whole day
Fri 11 th April	FOMS Easter Egg Hunt
Fri 11 th April	School Breaks Up for Easter Holidays
Mon 28 th April	School Re-Opens for Summer Term
Tues 29 th April	Countryside Learning at Raby Castle – Yrs 3+4
MAY	
Thurs 8 th May	VE Day 80 th Anniversary Celebration
Mon 19 th May	Yrs 3/4 Tri-Golf Festival at Barnard Castle Golf Club
Fri 23 rd May	Phototronics – Year 6 Leavers and Class Photos
Fri 23 rd May	Tri-Golf Comp for selected Yrs 3/4, at Barnard Castle Golf Club
Mon 26 th – Fri 30 th May	School Closed for Half Term
JUNE	
Mon 2 nd June	School Re-Opens to pupils
Fri 6 th June	Yrs 5/6 Athletics Comp at Bishop Barrington, B.A.
Mon 9 th June	KS2 Family Brunch for Father's Day, 9-10am
Wed 11 th –Fri 13 th June	Residential Trip to Robinwood
Mon 16 th June	Bikeability, Level 1 – Years 3+4
Tues 17 th – Fri 20 th June	Bikeability, Level 1 + 2 – Years 5+6
Mon 23 rd June	Sports Day
Mon 30 th June	Yrs 5/6 rounders Fest at Teesdale Leisure Centre, B.C.
JULY	
Tues 1 st July	NELT Summer Concert at The Glasshouse, Gateshead
Thurs 10 th + Fri 11 th July	Year 6 Transitions to Teesdale School
Wed 16 th July	FOMS All the Fun of the Fair
Fri 18 th July	School closes for the Summer Holiday



NEWSLETTER



Middleton-in-Teesdale
Academy

Easter Bonnet Competition

We are very excited to be holding an Easter Bonnet Competition for the first time this year and cannot wait to see your creative entries! Please decorate your hat or cap at home and bring your entry into school on **Wednesday 9th April**, for judging.