



NEWSLETTER

3rd July 2026

A message from our school leaders...

On Wednesday, some of our children enjoyed an exciting trip to London. Pupils visited many of the capital's most famous landmarks, including Trafalgar Square, Big Ben, Downing Street and the London Eye.

A particular highlight of the day was a visit to the **Houses of Parliament**, where the children had the opportunity to sit in the **House of Commons** and observe a live debate. This was a fantastic experience and brought their learning about democracy and government to life.

The pupils were also delighted to meet **Sam Rushworth**, our local Member of Parliament, who took the time to speak with them and answer questions about his role and work in Parliament. Throughout the day, the children travelled in style on London's iconic red double-decker buses before making the journey home by train to Darlington.

The pupils' behaviour was impeccable throughout the trip, and they were a credit to our school. The visit provided a wealth of learning opportunities, helping to broaden their understanding of British history, politics and culture, while creating memories that will last for years to come.

Well done to all the pupils who took part in this fantastic experience!

Class Arrangements for September

In preparation for the transition to the new academic year, please find the class arrangements below:

Nursery – Mrs Dobson

Reception-Year 1 – Miss Humpherson

Years 2–4 – Mrs Wharton

Years 5–6 – Mrs Garnett

Our **Moving Up Morning** will take place on **Friday 10th July**, when children will have the opportunity to meet their new teacher, become familiar with their classroom, and learn about new expectations and routines.

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.

Useful Online Safety Links

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

BE SMART ONLINE

S SAFE Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too. Keep them safe to keep yourself safe.

M MEET Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous as this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on www.childnet.org.uk

A ACCEPTING Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) as you never know where they may lead to or they may contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is or what they've sent you.

R RELIABLE You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.

T TELL Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. This could be if you or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents, carers or contact Childline – 0800 11 11 or www.childnet.org.uk

BE SMART WITH A HEART Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or report by anything that happens online.

WWW.CHILDNET.COM

ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

~THIS WEEKS ATTENDANCE~

Rec/Yr 1	91.4%
Yr 2/3/4	99.2%
Yr 5/6	94.2%



NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?



Nursery – Mrs Dobson

This week, we have been reading the story, *The Little Red Hen*. The children really enjoyed listening to the story and talking about the different characters and what happened in the tale.

We have also been learning all about wheat and where our food comes from - we discovered that wheat grows in fields and that it needs sunshine and rain to help it grow. We also learnt that wheat is ground into flour, which can then be used to make lots of delicious foods, including bread.

To bring our learning to life, the children helped to make their own bread. We carefully mixed the ingredients, kneaded the dough and watched as it transformed into yummy bread. The children were very excited to taste the finished result and were proud of all their hard work.

This week has been Careers Week in Nursery, and we have been busy learning about the many different jobs people do in our community. The children enjoyed exploring a variety of careers and talking about how different people help us in our everyday lives. We were very lucky to welcome some special visitors into Nursery. A dentist visited us and talked about how they help us to keep our teeth healthy and clean. We also had an exciting visit from a police dog handler, who taught us about the important work that police officers and their dogs do to help keep us safe.

Our home corner was transformed into a doctor's surgery, and the children had lots of fun taking on the roles of doctors, nurses and patients. They enjoyed using medical equipment, writing prescriptions and caring for their friends through imaginative role play. We also spent time thinking about the future and discussing what we would like to be when we grow up. The children had some wonderful ideas, including becoming doctors, police officers, teachers, firefighters, farriers, vets and a princess!





NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?



YrR/1 – Miss Humpherson and Mrs Niven

Careers Week & Seahorse Adventures - It's been a wonderfully busy week in Reception and Year 1, filled with exciting visitors, creative learning, and lots of curiosity. The children all had a fantastic time exploring different jobs and thinking about what they might like to be when they grow up. The children were especially inspired by two special visitors:

- A dentist, who talked about keeping our teeth healthy
- A police dog handler, who shared how police dogs help keep people safe

These visits sparked brilliant discussions about future careers and the many roles' people play in our community. If you'd like to continue the conversation at home, you might enjoy chatting about future jobs or exploring community helpers.

Reception: Learning About Seahorses - Reception have loved diving into their new topic on seahorses. We shared the beautiful story, Mister Seahorse by Eric Carle and learned lots of fascinating facts about these tiny ocean creatures.

The children have been busy:

- Creating their own colourful seahorses
- Making patterns in maths using different resources
- Talking about how seahorses move, hide, and care for their young

If your child wants to share more at home, you could explore seahorse facts together.

Year 1: Fact Files & Time - Year 1 have been working hard on planning a fact file all about seahorses - discovering what makes these amazing sea creatures so unique. They've been gathering information, organising ideas, and preparing to write their own nonfiction pieces.

In maths, Year 1 have begun learning about time, starting with learning the days of the week, and the months of the year.





NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?



Yr2/3/4 – Mrs Garnett, Mrs Aislabe and Miss Spenceley

This week, we have been celebrating **Careers Week**, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about a range of exciting jobs.

We were delighted to welcome a dentist and their staff into school. They showed us lots of images of the equipment a dentist uses, sent around some of the tools, and talked to us about how to look after our teeth. The children also learned about the different types of teeth and why each one is important.

We also had a police dog handler visit us to talk about what their job involves. The children were fascinated by how skilled the dogs are and how they are trained to work alongside their handler. They also had the lovely opportunity to meet Ben and give him a gentle stroke.

To end the week, we enjoyed our trip to **Binchester Roman Fort**. We had a wonderful day exploring the archaeological site, looking at items that had been found, and taking a tour of the Roman Baths. We also had a chance to look at Roman armour and re-enact a battle between the Romans and Barbarians using shields. The children finished the day by making a clay pot to take home with them.





NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?

Yr5/6 – Mrs Wharton and Mrs Emery

This week, the children have been busy producing the first draft of their non-chronological reports based on the fascinating animals of Pandora, inspired by *Avatar*. They have worked hard to incorporate ambitious descriptive vocabulary and technical language to engage their readers and bring these imaginative creatures to life. We were impressed by the creativity shown and look forward to seeing how the children refine and develop their writing in the coming lessons.

On Monday, we thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the **Rounders Festival**. The children demonstrated excellent teamwork, sportsmanship and determination throughout the event. Both Middleton teams performed exceptionally well and proudly finished at the top of the unofficial leaderboard. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm and encouragement from all participants, making it a very successful morning.

In RE, we have continued to develop our understanding of **Buddhism**, focusing on the Three Root Poisons: greed, hatred and ignorance. The children explored how these behaviours can influence daily life and considered ways in which Buddhist teachings encourage people to respond positively to challenges and relationships.

In history, the class investigated the significance of lead mining in the Teesdale area. They examined different sources of evidence to consider whether the industry had a positive or negative impact on the local community. Thoughtful discussions took place as the children weighed the economic benefits against the social and environmental challenges faced by those living and working in the region.





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Upcoming
Events:

	Event
JULY 2026	
Mon 6 th July	Great Athletes Visit
Tues 7 th July	Open the Book Assembly – The Pathway
Tues 7 th July	Careers Dress-Up Day
Wed 8 th July	NELT Athletics Festival, Gateshead Stadium
Thurs 9 th – Fri 10 th July	Staindrop Transition Days
Fri 10 th July	Teesdale Transition Day
Wednesday 15 th July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly
Fri 17 th July	Nursery, Rec + Yr 1 Beach Day, 1.30 – 3.00pm
Fri 17 th July	School Closes for Summer Holidays