NEWSLETTER

13th November 2026

A message from our school leaders…

Many children have taken part in **Bikeability** this week, developing their cycling skills and learning how to stay safe on the roads. We have seen a positive increase in the number of pupils coming to school with the correct cycling equipment and safety gear - thank you for your support with this. We would also like to remind families to ensure that children wear a properly fitted helmet whenever they are cycling outside of school, as this can help protect against serious injury in the event of an accident.

Next week, we look forward to sharing important messages through **Anti-Bullying Week**, which this year has the theme ***Break the Silence***. On Monday, pupils are invited to come to school wearing '**odd socks**' to celebrate individuality, diversity and the differences that make us all unique. Throughout the week, children will take part in activities that encourage them to speak up about bullying, support one another and help create a culture where everyone feels safe, respected and heard.

We are also looking forward to our whole-school trip to **The Auckland Project** on Wednesday, kindly funded by our FOMS. Children should attend in full school uniform and bring a coat and a water bottle. We also recommend that pupils wear comfortable footwear suitable for a day of walking and exploring. This promises to be an exciting learning experience for all pupils, and we are looking forward to a fantastic day together.

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



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

~THIS WEEKS ATTENDANCE~

Rec/Yr 1	**99.3%**
Yr 2/3/4	**96.4%**
Yr 5/6	**99.0%**

NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?






Nursery – Mrs Dobson

We have had a very busy and exciting week in Nursery!
To mark ***Remembrance Day***, the children created a beautiful poppy wreath using their handprints. They enjoyed taking part in this special activity and learning about why poppies are important.

We also supported ***Children in Need*** by working together to create a giant collage picture of Pudsey Bear. The children were very proud of their teamwork and loved seeing the collage come to life.

This week we began reading a wonderful new story called ***Star in the Jar***. The story tells of a little boy who discovers a star, keeps it safe in a jar, and eventually helps it return to the night sky where it belongs with the other stars. The children thoroughly enjoyed the story and were fascinated by the magical star. As part of our learning, we explored some new wondrous words:
Treasure, ***Sparkly***, ***Swirly***, ***Whirly***
The children loved investigating a variety of sparkly objects and were very excited when they discovered a star in a jar in our classroom. Inspired by the story and our new vocabulary, they also created their own beautiful sparkly, swirly, whirly pictures.
It has been a week full of creativity, imagination, and wonderful learning experiences. We are very proud of all the children and the enthusiasm they have shown in their activities.
Thank you for your continued support. We hope you have a lovely weekend! ✨🌟




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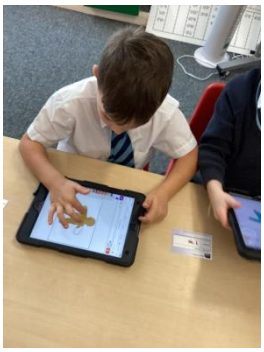
What have we been up to?



YrR/1 – Miss Humpherson and Mrs Niven

Reception - This week, Reception have been learning all about **People Who Help Us**, including police officers, firefighters and the coastguard. This links closely to our transport topic, as the children have been exploring the different vehicles these emergency services use in their important roles. The children have loved using their imaginations in our fire station role-play area, where they have been putting out fires, answering emergency calls and helping people in need. They have also created beautiful poppies for ***Remembrance Day*** and enjoyed taking part in activities to celebrate ***Children in Need*** – see last page.
The children have also been busy exploring magnets, investigating and identifying which objects are magnetic and which are not.

Year 1 - This week, Year 1 have been retelling the story of ***Meg and Mog***, and they will continue this work next week as they develop their understanding of the text.
In maths, the children have been continuing their learning on addition and subtraction within 10. In science, they have been learning about the different parts of the human body, while in art they have enjoyed exploring colour by mixing paints to create new shades.
During computing, the children created their own digital artwork, and in PSHE they have been learning about similarities and differences, celebrating what makes each of us unique.






NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?

Yr2/3/4 – Mrs Wharton, Mrs Emery and Mrs Aislabie

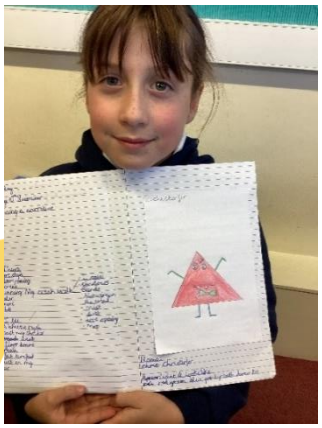
We have had a wonderful first week back following the half-term break. It has been great to hear about all the adventures the children have been on and the exciting things they have been up to during their time away from school. The class have returned with enthusiasm and have settled straight back into their learning.

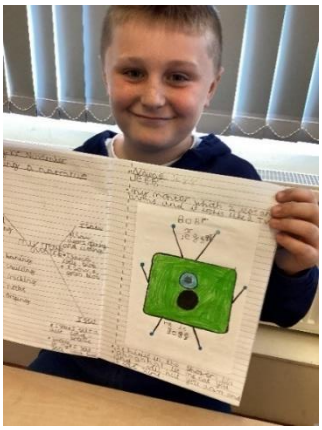
This week, we have begun our new writing unit, in which the children will be writing their own narratives inspired by ***The Creakers*** by Tom Fletcher. To help immerse themselves in the story, the class went on a 'Creak Walk', searching for spooky sounds and collecting ideas to use in their writing. They have also enjoyed creating their own 'Creakers', using their imagination to design some wonderfully weird and creative characters.

In geography, we have continued our learning about mountains and rivers. This week, the children explored how rivers are formed and learned about the processes that create oxbow lakes. They have enjoyed discovering how landscapes change over time through the movement of water.

In science, we have started our new topic, ***Animals Including Humans***. This week, the children learned about the digestive system and the journey food takes through the body. They made some gruesome observations as they watched, and even took part in, a model that demonstrated how the digestive system works. It was certainly a memorable lesson and helped the children develop a clear understanding of this fascinating process.

During our Forest School session this week, the children took part in activities linked to ***Remembrance Day***. They carefully created their own wooden poppies and spent time reflecting on the importance of remembering those who have served and sacrificed for our country. The children's poppies were then placed around the school grounds as a special act of remembrance.







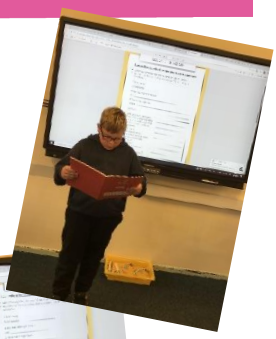
NEWSLETTER

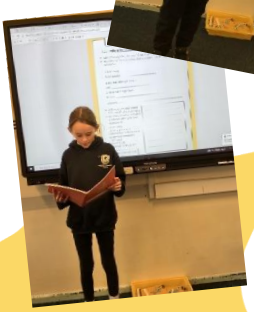
What have we been up to?

Yr5/6 – Mrs Garnett and Miss Spenceley

Year 5 and 6 have had a lovely week back and have settled brilliantly into their learning.

In English, we have been discussing whether animals should have been used in war. The children explored both sides of the argument through class discussion before presenting their own viewpoints, giving reasons both for and against the use of animals during wartime. They demonstrated some excellent speaking and listening skills and presented thoughtful arguments.





In maths, the Year 5 children have been completing addition and subtraction calculations and using their knowledge of rounding to estimate answers and check the reasonableness of their calculations. Meanwhile, the Year 6 children have been focusing on long multiplication, short division and using factors to support their calculation methods.

During our history lessons, we have been learning about trenches in the **First World War**. The children labelled a trench diagram and explored why trenches were needed, what life was like for soldiers living in them, the food they ate and the dangers they faced both in and behind the trenches.



This week, the Year 5 children have been lucky enough to take part in **Bikeability**, learning important skills to help them ride safely and confidently on the road.

On Wednesday, we attended a lovely service in school, led by The Pathway, to remember those who have died in conflict and those who continue to be affected by war today. Some children had the opportunity to read the poem ***In Flanders Fields***. It was a very moving service, and the children were extremely respectful throughout.



In science, the children learnt how oxygen and nutrients are carried to different parts of the body and how waste products are removed. We also discussed how water and nutrients absorbed from the digestive system are transported through the bloodstream to where they are needed. The children showed great curiosity and asked thoughtful questions about how the different body systems work together to keep us alive and healthy.



Well done to all of Year 5/6 for a fantastic start back and for their excellent attitude to learning throughout the week. We hope you all have a lovely weekend!

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Upcoming Events:

	Event
NOVEMBER 2026	
w/c Mon 16th Nov	Anti-Bullying Week
Mon 16th Nov	Odd Socks Day
Mon 16th – Thurs 19th Nov	Parent's Evenings
Wed 18th Nov	Whole School Trip (FOMS) – Auckland Project
Mon 23rd Nov	Yrs 5+6 and KS2 School Council - Trip to Arches Hall, Kynren
Thurs 26th Nov	Yrs 5+6 African Drumming Presentation – 2:30pm
Mon 30th Nov	Phototronics in School – Individual + Sibling Photographs
DECEMBER 2026	
Fri 4th Dec	Panto @ The Georgian Theatre, Richmond
Mon 7th Dec	Carol Concert at The Pathway – 1:30pm
Wed 9th Dec	Christmas Dinner
Fri 11th Dec	Nursery/Reception/Yr1 Nativity – 9:30am
Mon 14th Dec	Christmas Crafts - am
Thurs 17th Dec	Christmas Party Day
Fri 18th Dec	School Breaks up for Christmas Holiday

NEWSLETTER

Middleton-in-Teesdale School Council

It was wonderful to see so much effort put into our ***Children in Need*** fundraising activities. We were blown away by the creativity shown in the children's Pudsey Bear T-shirt designs. It was incredibly difficult to choose just one winner from each class!

A huge thank you to everyone who baked cakes, cupcakes and cookies. The fantastic decorations and delicious treats were a real hit at the cake sale.

We know many of you have been eagerly waiting to hear the result of our **Guess the Number of Sweets in the Jar** competition. Although nobody guessed the exact number, our winner came very close with a guess of 330. The correct number of sweets in the jar was 327, meaning they were only three sweets away from the right answer!

Thank you for your kindness and generosity in supporting these events. Thanks to your efforts, we have raised a fantastic **£91** for ***Children in Need***. Well done, everyone!



