



Ellingham CE Primary School

Friday Flyer

17.10.25

Executive Headteacher's update

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another busy, productive week in school, so please enjoy seeing what everyone has been up to in the class pages.

On Tuesday, we welcomed the Deputy CEO of Pele Trust and the Executive Headteacher of Shilbottle and Belsay schools, to carry out a review of our safeguarding. We were very pleased with their feedback, describing our school as 'lovely', with a great staff team and knowledgeable pupils. We look forward to receiving their final report.

I really enjoyed hosting the Cross Country event yesterday: we welcomed the largest number of schools ever and it was fabulous to see pupils from all over the Alnwick partnership of schools competing and having fun together. We had superb support from Mr Rogers (Duchess' High School) and his excellent team of sports leaders too!

Puffin children's publishers have made schools and libraries aware of an issue with some of their books, which I want to share with you in case you have any of these books at home. The books are by Andy Cope, including those in the Spy Dogs, Spy Cats, and Spy Pup series. Within the books, there is a link which encourages children to find out about additional information told during the story. The link is intended to take children to Mr. Cope's webpage, however, the page is no longer owned by him and instead the link will direct children to a webpage now owned by a third party which contains inappropriate content. The content of the actual stories are fine to read, however, if any children access the link with the intent to learn more about the story online they will be exposed to highly inappropriate materials.

Please see the BBC link below for further information.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn7631z8343o>

Well done to Splash for their perfect attendance!

Warm regards,
Diane Lakey



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Safeguarding

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonline.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH UPSETTING CONTENT

A Guide for Parents and Carers

Raising children in the digital age seems to be getting tougher, with the world currently experiencing so many uncertainties. From climate change to military conflicts around the globe, right now children across the globe can scarcely go online without being exposed to unsettling stories, images and ideas. Reassuring a concerned child can be difficult, especially when bad news feels omnipresent. We've put together some advice to help you in discussing upsetting events with young ones.

1 FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS

There are many ways that children are exposed to upsetting content in the media, both online and offline. Before swamping your child with information, find out what they know already. Show them you're interested in what they have to say, practice active listening and try to gauge how much your child has been impacted by what they've seen.

2 RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE

Starting a conversation about upsetting content probably isn't the best idea when your child is studying for an exam or about to be relaxed and open to talking, to make sure you have their full attention. Remember, these conversations can become emotional, so choose somewhere your child feels safe and comfortable.

3 KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE

With younger children, try and keep the conversation more general and avoid leading questions and complex detail. You can go slightly deeper into the specifics with young teenagers but keep monitoring their emotional responses. With older teens, you can be more open about the realities and consequences of what's happening – but again, do stay aware of their emotional state.

4 EMPHASISE HOPE

Upsetting content can make anyone feel angry, scared, sad or overwhelmed. Try to find stories of hope, generosity and strength related to the content you're discussing. Children often feel reassured when they know they can do something to help, so encourage your child's sense of control through activities which make them feel they're positively impacting the events they're concerned about.

5 MONITOR REACTIONS

All children react differently, of course, and young people might not directly say that they're scared, angry, anxious, confused or uncomfortable. Emotional reactions are natural when discussing upsetting topics, so take note of your child's body language and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings in a non-judgmental space and try to stay mindful of how they might be feeling.

6 CONSIDER YOUR OWN EMOTIONS

It's not only young people who find upsetting news difficult to process; adults also have to deal with strong emotions in moments of stress. Children develop coping strategies by mirroring those around them, so staying on top of how you appear to be regulating your emotion on the outside is important for supporting your child through worrying times.

7 SET LIMITS

Managing screen-time and content can be difficult even in normal circumstances, but especially in unusual or stressful periods (at the start of the pandemic, for example). It's virtually impossible to keep children away from upsetting content completely, but it's important to try to limit exposure by using parental controls, talking about the dangers of harmful content and enforcing screen-time limits.

8 TAKE THINGS SLOWLY

Try not to overwhelm your child with information all at once; instead, take the discussion one step at a time. You could make the first conversation a simple introduction to a potentially upsetting subject and then wait until your child is ready to talk again. Opening the door to the conversation and demonstrating that your child can talk to you about this type of issue is a vital first step.

9 ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS

Online, troubling images, posts, videos and stories are shared across multiple platforms, many of which your child might access. Even if the content is actually inappropriate, encourage your child to discuss what they saw instead of being angry at them for seeing it. Children are still learning that not everything online is accurate – you want to be their ultimate source of information, not their device.

10 FIND A BALANCE

There's often a tremendous compulsion to stay right up to date with events. Our phones frequently send us push notifications urging us to read the latest article or view the most recent video on social media. It's essential to remind your child that it's healthy to take regular breaks, and to focus on positive events instead of 'doomscrolling' and risking becoming overwhelmed by bad news.

11 BUILD RESILIENCE

News has never been more accessible. While our instinct may be to shield children from upsetting stories, it's important that they're equipped with the tools to manage this content when they're exposed to it. Talk about upsetting content more generally with your child and emphasise that they can always tell you or a trusted adult if something they see makes them feel uneasy.

12 IDENTIFY HELP

It's hugely important that children know where to find support if they encounter upsetting content online. Encourage them to open up to an adult that they trust, and make sure they're aware of who their trusted adults are. It's essential that children understand that they're not alone, and that help is available if and when they need it.

Meet Our Expert

Corley Jorgensen is the director of FaceUp South Africa, which is a reporting system that is currently being used by schools and companies to fight bullying around the world. FaceUp helps give a voice to bystanders by encouraging them to speak up and get the help they not only want but need.



<https://nationalonline.com> <https://nationalonline.com/high-supporting-your-child-with-upsetting-content/> <https://nationalonline.com/parents-how-to-talk-to-your-child-about-conflict-and-war/>



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#WakeUpWednesday



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Attendance

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Splash	100	100
Space Base	87.5	95
Earth Works	97.1	93.7
Time Zone	84	90.6

Did you know? Each pupil has 175 non-school days a year to spend however they like. The table below shows the significant impact of absence over time.

Days of school add up to lost learning						
Days in school	190	186	180	175	171	170
Percentage attendance	100%	98%	95%	92%	90%	<90%
	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Caution	Cause for concern	Serious concern

Absence Procedures If your child is ill, please keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school. Please notify us by phone call or email before 9.15am if your child is to be absent, and continue to inform us on a daily basis if they continue to be ill.

We have a continual focus on attendance and punctuality and this is of the utmost importance in your child's education. Please remember that our school gate closes at 8.55am as this is when our lessons begin. Anyone arriving after this time is classed as late and will miss valuable learning opportunities which take place immediately after registration, such as phonics.

What are the risks of missing a day of school?

'Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing and wider development. Pupils with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE results. The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments.' The Education Hub - Department for Education



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Splash Class

Splash have had a fabulous week! We had pumpkins at Forest School yesterday and spaghetti pumpkin guts to play with. We are going to toast the seeds and eat them for our Friday treat. We looked at all the amazing things our bodies can do and made an obstacle course which was great fun. In maths we enjoyed learning about more and fewer and learning to recognise our numbers to ten and put them in order. We also had a great time cheering for our runners in the Cross Country yesterday.





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Space Base Class

This week, we have been focusing on teamwork. We have been developing our communication skills and practising turn-taking. We put our teamwork to the test by working in pairs and groups to explore reasons why tourism in Northumberland has increased over the past 20 years.

In Geography, we have been learning about the different seasons and the types of weather we might expect in Northumberland. The children worked in pairs to deliver their own weather forecasts, focusing on a specific season.

In PE, we've been exploring different ways of travelling. The children used their imagination to come up with their own movements — travelling like giraffes, frogs, and even tigers!





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Earth Works Class

Another busy week in Earth Works, we have been focusing on using formal and informal language and writing in the role of a character to create some fantastic diary entries based on our stimulus The Lighthouse. We enjoyed taking part in an experiment in Science with Mrs Dodds and have continued to work on our beautiful pieces of Claude Monet artwork in our Art sessions.





We have had a very busy week in Time Zone: writing letters, diary entries and even looking back at the Census to assist with our history topic of Our Local Area - we found out lots of interesting facts about both Northumberland and Ellingham. Throughout the week, we have been tackling long multiplication and all of the children have worked really hard on this new topic and should be extremely proud of themselves for their resilience and perseverance.





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Dates for your Diary

Monday 20th October	Open the Book Collective Worship
Tuesday 21st October	Last day to order a school photograph
Thursday 23rd October 09:00	Harvest Festival in school - all welcome. Please bring a tin, jar or packet for the Alnwick Food Bank collection.
Friday 24th October	KS2 Cragside Visit
24.10.25 to 04.11.25	Half Term Break
Monday 3rd November	Teacher Training Day
Friday 14th November	Pudsey Bear Day non uniform - wear something spotty and bring a donation for Children in Need.
Wednesday 26th November	Whole school 'RAVN Clay' Workshops
Thursday 27th November 15:30-17.30	Parent Consultation Meetings - there are still appointments available.
Tuesday 9th December 10:00	Nativity Play
Wednesday 10th December 17:00	Nativity Play
Thursday 18th December 09:15	Christmas Carol Service at Church



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More News: Cross Country

On Thursday we had an excellent turn out for our Cross Country event; 9 schools in total - it was very busy, but a fantastic experience for all of the children. We want to say a huge well done to everyone who took part, whether they were a runner, a helper or a spectator - you were all amazing!



Superstar Winner!





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Stars of the Week



Splash: Angus for following instructions and listening well.



Space Base: Daisy for taking pride in her work and improving her handwriting.



Earth Works: Harry for giving excellent explanations in Science; Rose for working hard in English and using ambitious vocabulary throughout her pieces of writing.



Time Zone: Oakley for his amazing running in yesterday's cross country; Serena for an excellent piece of writing in the role of another character from our stimulus of The Lighthouse.



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TOFFEE APPLES

WILL BE ON SALE FOR
£1.50 ON THURSDAY
23RD OCTOBER. ALL
PROCEEDS TO THE
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