

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





Safeguarding





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



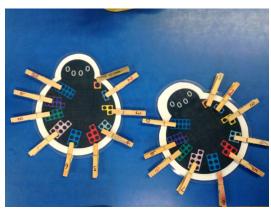


Splash Class

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.













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!











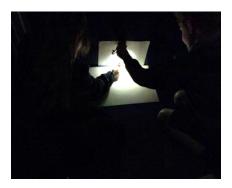


Earth Works Class

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.

















Time Zone Class

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.

















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.		
ruesday 9th December 10:00 Nativity Play			
Wednesday 10th December 17:00	Nativity Play		
Thursday 18th December 09:15	Christmas Carol Service at Church		





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!











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.







