



Ellingham CE Primary School

Friday Flyer

07.11.25

Executive Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a good half-term break and I'm sure you are happy that we are back in school.

This will be a very busy half-term, so please keep checking on the key dates and events that are happening.

We have had our second, shared teacher training day alongside Embleton colleagues. We have been exploring the DfE Writing Framework, improving pupil oracy skills, and have begun working on the development of the use of Google apps more widely, including staff exploring the safe use of AI applications. It is very useful to be able to work with a larger group of staff, sharing ideas and best practice.

On Wednesday, we had a visit from one of Pele Trust's Deputy CEOs to look at our support of SEND pupil needs, moderating the teacher appraisal system and carrying-out some school improvement work. She was, of course, impressed by our wonderful pupils and evident, supportive ethos.

Please don't buy anything spotty and new for Pudsey Bear Day - it would be lovely to see pupils in home-made spotty (and even recycled) costumes.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Warm regards,

Mrs Diane Lakey



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At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible resource with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 500 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate content. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but it can also lead to binge-watching and screen addiction – especially if 'auto-play' is active. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

RADICALISATION

YouTube's algorithm tends to promote content that's getting the most traffic – a lot of which can be quite extreme. This can be fine for harmless topics, but YouTube isn't regulated like television, and that means that conspiracy theories, fake news and hateful ideologies can occasionally surface to warp impressionable minds all too easily. Remember – the more they watch, the more they'll be recommended.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as message other users directly. Connecting with strangers online can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and – in the worst cases – online predators. If a child is creating content themselves, this can increase the likelihood of them becoming a target.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends and challenges, some of which are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may cause physical or emotional harm to children who watch or copy them. The painful 'salt and ice challenge' – where people use these two ingredients to burn their skin – is just one of many examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

The comments sections of popular content creators regularly have scammers posing as that influencer, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and often offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users aren't who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Educators

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

For older children, Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate material (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence, and sexual content) to underage viewers. To prevent children from changing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that they use to access YouTube. It's worth also turning the auto-play feature off, to prevent YouTube's algorithm automatically recommending something inappropriate.



TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows parents and carers to monitor what their child is watching, uploading, and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches, and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives a parent or carer oversight of how their child uses sites like YouTube and helps to ensure that they are only accessing appropriate content.



MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them under 18. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course. You may want to keep an eye on how children interact with this material – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand what they're interested in. Remember that creators often share content outside of YouTube, so don't ignore their web presence elsewhere!



CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

It's possible to sidestep most inappropriate content completely via Google's own YouTube Kids app for Android handsets and iPhone. This lets you filter content by 'preschool' (4 and under), 'younger' (ages 5 to 8) and 'older' (ages 9 to 12). This isn't a perfect substitute for personal supervision, as the app's filtering system is automated, and Google can't manually review all videos.

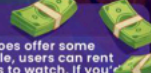
CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that a child is subscribed to can be hidden. If the child is only uploading videos set as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.



LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch. If you're like to avoid children purchasing content online, limit their access to online payment methods. Many parents have discovered the hard way that a child happily consuming a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!



Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



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Attendance

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Splash	87.5	98.8
Space Base	100	96.1
Earth Works	96.4	91.7
Time Zone	95	91.2

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?

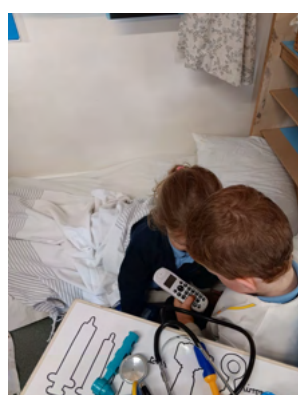
'Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing and wider development. Pupils with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE results. The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams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



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Splash Class

This week was all about spiders and fireworks. We found amazing spider webs on the field and enjoyed watching them in the sunshine. We had spiders to rescue in our finger gym challenge as well. Our Maths was all about number 6 this week, with egg boxes to make 6. We also did really careful counting with the Mouse Count story. We did some fabulous writing about our holidays too. The big news this week is our role play hospital, where lots of poorly people have been given medicine and bandaged up. We have had lots of fun, and learnt about our bodies and about hospitals as well. Our pasta skeletons were fantastic and helped us learn about our bones and their function in our bodies. What a lovely first week back to school.





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Space Base Class

It has been wonderful to have Space Base back in class this week! The children have loved returning and sharing stories about their week off.

In English, we have been focusing on writing diary entries about London. The children have really enjoyed learning about the city and its famous landmarks, and they have shown a great understanding of using the past tense.

In DT, we have been exploring different fabrics. The children loved feeling the various textures and describing why they liked each one.

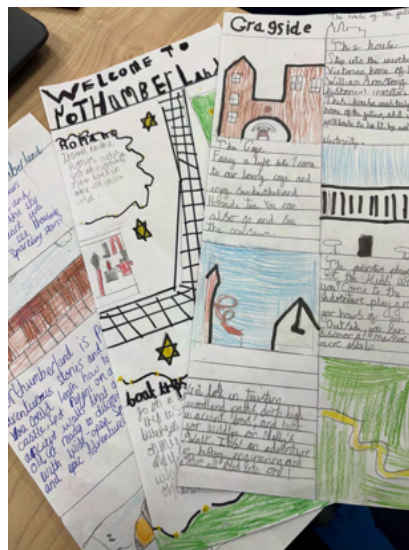
Space Base always enjoys their building challenges and this week they have made some amazing Lego creations! These challenges give the children a chance to be creative and think critically as they build.





Earth Works Class

We have had an excellent first week back! The children have been non-stop chatting with their friends, sharing their stories of their half terms - it has been lovely to hear all of the things that they have been up to. We were straight back into work mode on Tuesday, starting off strong with lots of English work - we have been focusing on using persuasive language in preparation for creating some leaflets to promote our wonderful county. The children have been really engaged in this topic and have worked so hard to develop their understanding of ambitious adjectives and expressive persuasive language! Miss Morton and I are super impressed with the language choices the children have been using and cannot wait to see their final leaflets.

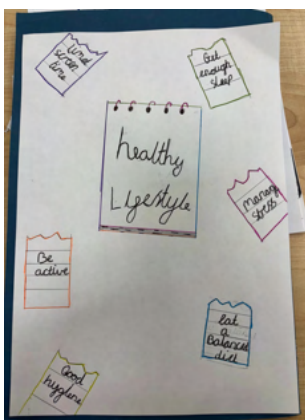




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Time Zone Class

In Science this week, the children started their new unit of work on Light with Mrs Dodds, by exploring what light is and how it moves in straight lines. They modelled how light travels from a light source, is reflected off an object and then travels to our eyes, and demonstrated that light travels in a straight line using torches and mirrors - the children were excellent when taking part in their investigations. In Maths, we have been tackling division - long division for our Year 6 boys and they have been absolute troopers and have shown fantastic resilience with this new, and tricky concept!





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Dates for your Diary

Monday 10th November	Odd Socks Day - wear your odd socks to mark the start of Anti-Bullying Week
Friday 14th November	Pudsey Bear day - 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
Friday 12th December	KS2 Christmas in the Forest
Monday 15th December	KS1 - Nursery Christmas visit
Tuesday 16th December	Professor Chris Done Astrophysicist visit KS2
Wednesday 17th December	Christmas lunch
Thursday 18th December	PTA Christmas Disco - Ellingham Village Hall 4.30pm-6.00pm
Friday 19th December	Christmas Jumper Day

Please remember, Breakfast club is available from 8.15am if anyone needs to drop off a child earlier. Please book in advance if possible. £2.50 includes cereal or toast.



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More News: Our KS2 Visit to Cragside



We had a wonderful day over at Cragside with Mrs Dodds, Mr Brown and Kelsey. We explored the home of The Armstrong's, visited The Rock Garden and took a stroll through The Pinetum, the home of the non-native coniferous trees, some of the tallest trees of their kind in the country.





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Stars of the week

Names:

Splash: George for having a lovely week, being a great friend and completing all of the activities and collecting each lolly stick.

Space Base: Camilla for excellent work in her English when writing a diary entry and giving detailed answers throughout her lessons this week; Rupert for working hard with his sentence structure and using a conjunction.

Earth Works: Leo for working hard with his handwriting and using ambitious and expressive vocabulary in his writing; Rose for sharing her background knowledge in science, history and geography!

Time Zone: Thomas for amazing perseverance and resilience in Maths when tackling the concept of long division.



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CHILDREN IN NEED



NOVEMBER 14TH
Wear something spotty
and bring a donation!



BBC
Children
in Need