



Ellingham CE Primary School **Friday Flyer**

09.01.26

Executive Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had the Christmas break you hoped for and wish you a happy, healthy New Year from us all at Ellingham School!

It certainly hasn't been the start to the year we hoped for. Thank you to everyone for your patience and resilience in accessing school during this challenging weather.

It has been a pleasure to welcome Mrs Julie Fife to our staff team, as an EYFS teaching assistant, as well as Mr Michael Dowman, who is shadowing Mrs Senior until he takes up his KS2 teaching position when Mrs Senior's maternity leave begins.

Thank you, as always, for your greatly appreciated 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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and revisit topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.

2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING

Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved and/or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.

3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE

Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.

4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS

When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.

5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT

With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.

6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING

Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.

7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.

8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.

9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.

10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CEOP can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on [our website](http://our.website)



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Attendance

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Splash	100	96.4
Space Base	96.9	95.3
Earth Works	77.8	89.9
Time Zone	100	90.8

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?

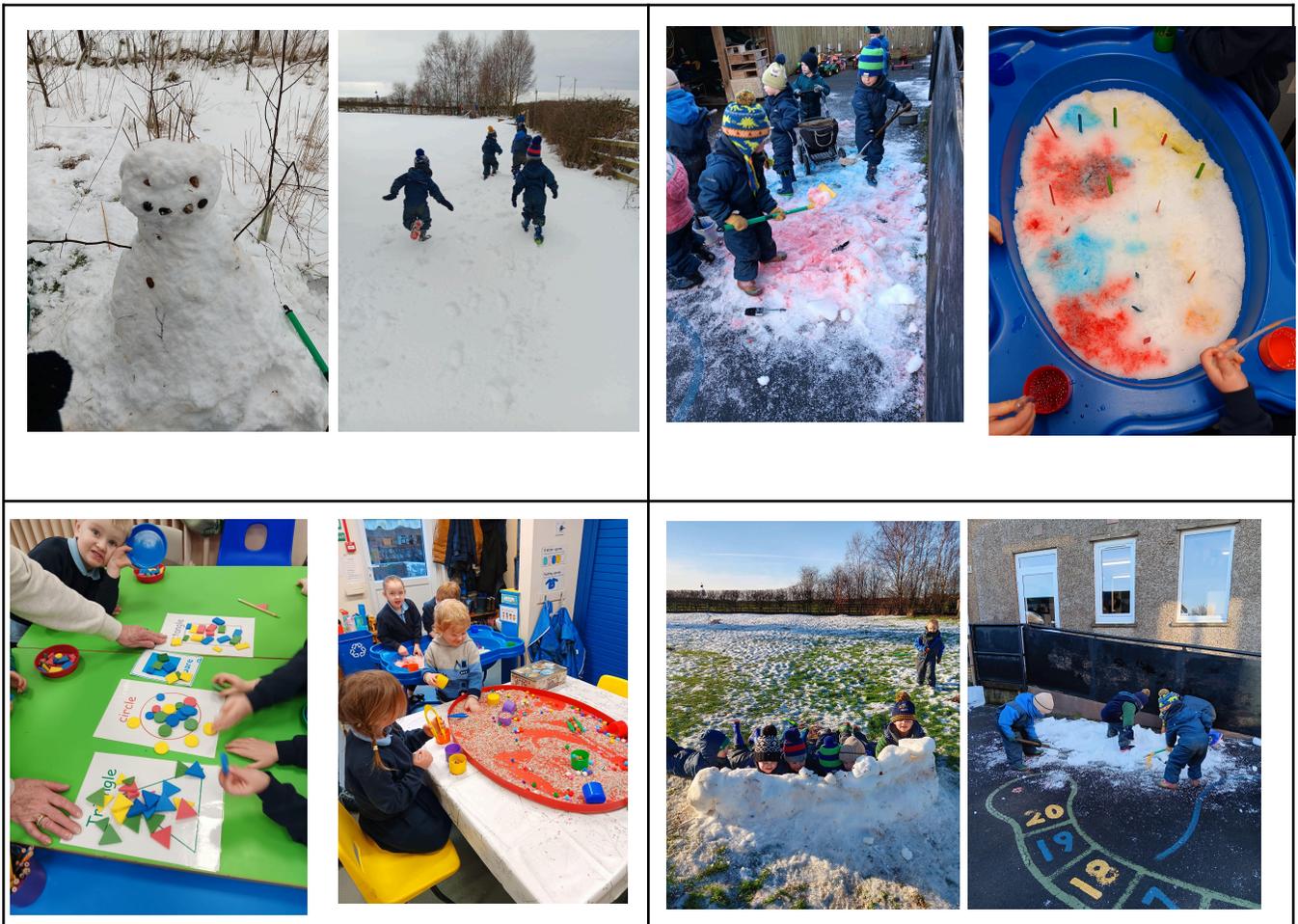
'Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing and wider development. Pupils with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE results. The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams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



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Splash Class

This week has been snowtastic, with lots of fun outdoors, building, digging and moving the snow. We have made rainbow snow and enjoyed mixing our colours. We had snow indoors too and watched it melt. We also played with rainbow rice this week, did some great counting and wrote about our Christmas presents. We all worked super hard and had loads of fun. What a great start to the term.





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Space Base Class

Space Base have had a great week back! We have had lots of fun playing in the snow and trying to build the biggest snowman!

We have started lots of new topics this week. In Geography we have been looking at aerial views. In history we have been looking at different inventors and their inventions. The children loved this. They loved finding out about their creative ideas and how they kept going even if they did not succeed on their first attempt.





Key Stage Two Time Zone and Earth Works

We have had a wonderful start to the Spring Term. We have started exploring our new topics of Ancient Egypt (Y3/4) and The Maya (Y5/6) and we cannot wait to find out more about how they lived and what they did during these periods of time. As well as our work, we have had lots of fun, both in the snow and in the classroom showing Mr Dowman our fantastic keyboarding skills!



In Time Zone Science we explored forces and discussed forces in action by identifying forces in practical activities in the classroom.



In Earth Works History we explored when and where the Ancient Egyptians lived. We created a timeline of events in Ancient Egypt and compared them with developments in Britain during the same period.





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Dates for your Diary

Monday 12th January	KS2 New Testament 500 Workshop 13:00
Thursday 15th January	KS2 Police Road Safety Talk 10:00
Monday 9th February	'Open the Book' for Collective Worship 8:55
Tuesday 10th February	KS2 Dye Workshop led by Duchess' Community High
Monday 16th February	Half-term holiday
Monday 23rd February	Teacher Training Day- school closed to pupils

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.



Stars of the week

Names:

Splash: Jasper for being brave going out in the snowy weather.

Space Base: Etta for using her helping card to ask for help in lessons.

Earth Works: Aimee and Rose for sharing their knowledge of Ancient Egypt with the class.

Time Zone: Avie for completing lots of detailed research into the continent of Mexico in Geography, when learning about The Maya Civilisation.