



Ellingham CE Primary School **Friday Flyer**

16.01.26

Head of School's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been very privileged to welcome visitors from the community into school this week to enrich our curriculum. NT500 was an eye opening experience for our children about the Bible, and we had a very informative workshop from the police around road safety.

We are grateful for the continued input from volunteers and local initiatives, especially our Open the Book team from local churches.

Next week, we are having EV chargers put into the school carpark as part of our continued Green Eco school policy.

The weather is still unpredictable, please make sure your child is dressed for outdoor play.

Warm regards,

Mrs Karen Swinbank
Head of School



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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 OFCOM MEDIA REPORT 2025

Every year, Ofcom releases its Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Report, offering fresh insights into how young people are using digital platforms. The 2025 edition highlights key safeguarding concerns as children's engagement with social media, gaming, and live streaming continues to grow. This guide pulls out the top statistics from the report, focussing on the main areas of concern for parents and educators.

ONLINE LIVES

Children are engaging with social media and online content at increasing rates:

37%
3-5s

now have access to social media platforms; however, only a small proportion use it independently of parents.

79%
3-17s

have a social media profile, with 16% including a public photo.

66%
3-17s

watch livestreamed videos regularly, with 16% of them streaming their own content.



PARENTAL CONCERNS

Parents are increasingly worried about online risks:

70%

fear their child may see age-inappropriate or sexual content.

68%

fear exposure to content that promotes self-harm.

72%

worry about their child distinguishing real from fake information.

61%

worry about exposure to extreme views.

69%

are concerned about online bullying.

ONLINE GAMING

Gaming remains popular but raises concerns:

74%

of children say they play with someone they know, while 32% report playing with strangers.

62%

of parents worry about their children talking to strangers while gaming.

31%

of children who game online chat with people they don't know.

SCREEN TIME

Screen time is still a major challenge for parents:

70%
of parents of 13-17s say it's difficult to manage screen time.

33%
of 8-17s think their own screen time is too high.

At 29% vs 24%

boys were more likely than girls to disagree that their screen time is too high.

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HARMFUL CONTENT & INTERACTIONS

A significant minority of children continue to have negative feelings about social media and messaging apps:

Nearly four in ten 8-17s believe that people are mean or unkind to each other online all or most of the time.

Girls aged 8-17 are more likely than boys to say they have experienced someone being nasty or hurtful to them online (31%).

One third of teenagers agree that it's important that people can say what they want online, even if it offends someone.

ONLINE SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

Positively, the vast majority of children reported learning about online safety at school:

92%

of children aged 8-17 recall at least one lesson on online safety and most report finding them useful.

The top three topics covered are:

63%

How to recognise harmful content.

63%

How to keep personal information safe.

62%

Being kind and respectful online.

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Attendance

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Splash	100	96.7
Space Base	97.5	95.4
Earth Works	85.7	89.6
Time Zone	100	91.5

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

In Splash, we have had a very busy week. We read our book about a lonely polar bear who writes to all his bear friends around the world. We are looking at all the countries and the bears who live in them, over the next few weeks. This week we learnt facts about polar bears and the Arctic and enjoyed lots of adventures with ice. At Forest School, we cooked mini pizzas on the fire and enjoyed the mud which the snow had left behind. We also spent time writing postcards and learning about shape in maths. We had a great polar bear addition challenge for our number work and enjoyed time on our balance bikes and scooters, now that the ice and snow have all melted.



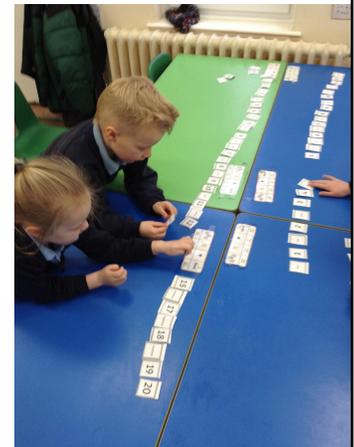


Space Base Class

On Monday in Space Base, we had visitors. Splash joined us for a lovely morning where the children went on a shape hunt in teams. The children worked well with each other. We also used paint to create our very own Picasso-inspired pictures.

In Maths, the Year 1s have been looking at numbers to 20. They worked in teams to order numbers from 1-20, matching the numbers with the correct number words.

In History, we have been investigators looking at different sources. We explored the work of the Wright brothers and thought about how their invention has affected life today.

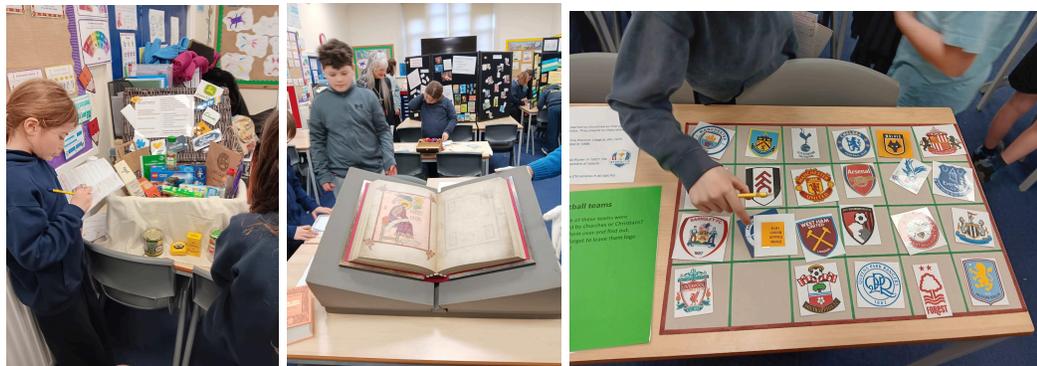




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Key Stage Two Time Zone and Earth Works

Earth Works and Time Zone have had a busy week. To start things off, on Monday we had visitors in school to put on a New Testament 500 Workshop. We learned about the Bible and its history.



We played parachute games, during PE.



On Thursday, the police came in to talk to us about road safety.



We also learned the Xhosa song Shosholoza. It was a challenge to learn a song in a foreign language, but we could sing it a cappella by the end of the lesson. Next week, we will be adding music with our glockenspiels.





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Dates for your Diary

Monday 9th February	'Open the Book' for Collective Worship 8:55
Tuesday 10th February	KS2 Dye Workshop led by Duchess' Community High
Monday 16th - Friday 20th February	Half-term holiday
Monday 23rd February	Teacher Training Day- school closed to pupils
Monday 16th March	Easter RE project for KS1 and Reception
Friday 27th March	Interactive Science at Alwick Playhouse for KS2
Wednesday 1st April	Billy Goats Gruff at Alwick Playhouse for Nursery - Y2

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: Otis for making a really good start to school.

Space Base: Jess for good attitude to learning,
she has been giving things a try and not giving up.

Earth Works: Louie for fantastic singing of a difficult song.

Time Zone: Oakley for quick and accurate fraction calculations.

After half term we will be adding Karate to our PE curriculum during the school day for Nursery - Y6. There is a possibility of an **After School Karate club on a Monday for Y3 - Y6**. Please let us know if anyone would like to take part. It will be run dependent on the number of children who sign up.

