



**27.02.26**

## **Executive Head Teacher Update**

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Monday, we had shared staff training, with colleagues from Embleton and Longhoughton schools. This covered fire awareness, the use of extinguishers and the use of Google AI apps (Gemini and Notebook LM) to aid staff in planning, preparation and workload management. We used excellent resources prepared by the Pele Trust AI group. A very practical, useful day!

Unfortunately, Gabrielle Bassett has had to leave us at short notice. We are very grateful for her years of service to our school and community. We have adjusted staffing within school to cover the changes, so our youngest pupils will still have familiar faces and continuity.

We are looking forward to karate sessions starting next week, as well as swimming for years 3 and 4. ***Everyone will need a suitable PE kit on Mondays and Tuesdays.***

We are also looking forward to World Book Day on Thursday 5th March: sharing our favourite books and seeing which 'characters' turn up to school!

Best wishes,

Diane Lakey



# Ellingham CE Primary School Friday Flyer

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](http://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ADULT ANIMATED CONTENT

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Bright, bold, and widely shared, adult animated content is more popular than ever, but not always what it seems. These videos, which may appear cartoonish and harmless, often contain strong language, explicit themes, graphic violence, or dark humour. Many are accessible through platforms like YouTube, TikTok or streaming services, where filters may not catch them in time.

### MISLEADING VISUAL STYLE

Many adult animations mimic the colourful, exaggerated look of children's cartoons. This can easily mislead not just children, but also adults. Into thinking they're suitable for younger viewers. Without watching the content fully, parents or educators might approve a show or video that contains explicit jokes, graphic imagery, or highly inappropriate language, all disguised beneath a playful and fun visual style.

### EXPOSURE TO HARMFUL THEMES

A number of adult animated shows and online videos explore mature or disturbing themes, such as addiction, trauma, abuse, self-harm, or violence, and often do so in a stylised or humorous way. Younger viewers may not have the emotional maturity to process this content, leading to confusion, distress, or the normalisation of very serious issues that should be discussed in a supportive context.

### RISK OF DISTRESS AND FEAR

Some adult animations, especially horror-based content or 'creepypasta' style stories, include disturbing imagery, unsettling music, and sudden scares. These videos sometimes feature distorted versions of well-known children's characters, such as Sonic the Hedgehog or Peppa Pig, in frightening or violent scenarios. Children can be negatively affected if they come across this unexpectedly, leading to sleep disturbances, anxiety, or long-lasting fears, especially if children have existing worries or sensitive personalities.

### INFLUENCE OF EDGY HUMOUR

Dark, edgy humour is common in adult animation and often includes jokes about topics like sexism, racism, mental illness, or abuse. When children hear these jokes, they may repeat them without fully understanding their meaning. This can lead to inappropriate behaviour in school or online spaces, and in some cases, it can reinforce harmful stereotypes or desensitise children to real-world injustice and discrimination.

### ALGORITHMIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Video platforms are designed to keep users watching by suggesting similar content. If a child watches one mature animation, they may quickly be shown more, including even darker or more extreme videos. These recommendations are based on viewing patterns, not age-appropriateness. Without strict settings in place, this can lead to a rapid spiral into unsuitable, upsetting, or even harmful content online.

### DESENSITISATION TO VIOLENCE

Stylised violence in animation is often exaggerated and constant. Repeated exposure to it can reduce a child's emotional response to harm, making aggression or cruelty appear entertaining or acceptable. Over time, children may become less empathetic or more tolerant of harmful behaviours in real life, especially if they see others online reacting with humour, memes, or praise for violent characters or scenes.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### LEARN WHAT CHILDREN ARE WATCHING

Take time to ask children what they're watching and who their favourite creators are. Sit down and watch a few videos to get a full understanding. This helps you spot inappropriate content early and shows children that you're interested and engaged in their online world, not just policing it.

### TALK ABOUT WHAT'S APPROPRIATE

Keep communication open and non-judgemental. Talk about why certain themes or jokes are not appropriate for children, even if they appear in animated form. Help children understand that just because something is popular or shared widely, it does not mean it's suitable or safe. If they've seen something upsetting, respond calmly, offer reassurance, and explain things in an age-appropriate way.

### USE PLATFORM SETTINGS WISELY

Make use of built-in safety tools like content filters, restricted mode, and age settings on platforms such as YouTube, Netflix or TikTok. Turn off auto-play where possible and regularly review what children are being recommended. Although these settings aren't foolproof, they add an important layer of protection and help reduce the risk of children encountering disturbing or adult content accidentally.

### ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Help children think carefully about what they watch. Talk about the difference between fictional exaggeration and reality, while helping them question why certain content is made. Is it informative, entertaining, or meant to shock? This builds digital resilience and encourages them to make safer choices in future, rather than simply following viral trends or peer pressure to watch mature content.

### 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. We offer memberships and packages to 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

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# Ellingham CE Primary School Friday Flyer

## Attendance

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Splash	68.8	95.8
Space Base	81.3	95.2
Earth Works	85.4	88.2
Time Zone	97.2	92.1

**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

This week, we have really embraced the outdoors. We were excited to see the sunshine for a bit although the rain did return in time for our outdoor day on Thursday. The polycrubb was a wonderful shelter though and we enjoyed exploring in there. Outside we were building a willow teepee which everyone helped with. We are hoping to grow some plants up the outside to make a living den for our children to play inside. It was great finger gym and muscle building exercise adding all the willow and weaving it in. We have also been weighing using a balance this week, and writing about when we were small compared to how grown up we all are now.





## Space Base Class

It has been a busy first week back for Space Base. We have welcomed Reception into our computing lessons, and it has been great to see the children supporting each other when they need help.

In after-school PE, the children have been playing different sports such as javelin, basketball and hockey, which they have thoroughly enjoyed.

In science, Space Base learned about the difference between renewable and non-renewable energy before going on to make their very own wind turbines.

We have also been comparing different countries and developing a great understanding that every country is different. The children decided they wished it was hotter in England!





## Key Stage Two: Time Zone and Earth Works

Key Stage 2 have been working on making masks. Here are our completed masks! This was a great learning experience, exploring new techniques and materials, and we produced some great artworks!



In Earth Works, we compared soil samples and profiles, looking at their appearance, texture and components.





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In Time Zone French, we recapped our weather vocabulary for our unit on Weather Around the World.



We launched our new Science unit on Powering the Future by exploring the use of gears in wind turbines to generate electricity.





# Ellingham CE Primary School

## Friday Flyer

### Dates for your Diary

<b>Thursday 5th March</b>	World Book Day - come dressed as your favourite book character, make sure the costume is suitable for outdoor play.
<b>Thursday 12th March</b>	Parents Evening - details have gone out via Parentmail.
<b>Friday 13th March</b>	Mothers' Day treats in school 2 pm-3 pm. More details to follow.
<b>Monday 16th March</b>	Easter RE project for KS1 and Reception
<b>Friday 20th March</b>	Red Nose Day - wear something red if you would like to and donate to this wonderful charity.
<b>Friday 27th March</b>	Interactive Science at Alwick Playhouse for KS2
<b>Wednesday 1st April</b>	Billy Goats Gruff at Alwick Playhouse for Nursery - Y2
<b>Thursday 2nd April 9.30am</b>	Easter Service at St. Maurice's Church  (Break up for the Easter Holidays.)
<b>Monday 20th April</b>	Return to school.

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.

Please be aware that from April 2026 our Nursery and Wellies&Wonder rate will rise slightly to £6.00 an hour.

A morning session until 12.00 noon will be £19.50

A morning session until 1.00 pm will be £25.50

A full day session until 3.15 pm will be £39.00

The whole school Nursery - Y6 starts Karate lessons after half term. We will run a Karate club after school for Y3 - 6, on a Monday night if there is enough interest. Please speak to Kathy.

**There are still appointments available for Parents Evening on Thursday 12th March.** Please speak to Kathy.





# Ellingham CE Primary School Friday Flyer



**AGES 5-12**



**FROM £25 PER DAY**

*Multi-Sport*

## **EASTER HOLIDAY CAMPS 2026**

*@ Morpeth Cricket, Hockey & Tennis Club*

### DATES & TIMES

WEEK 1

THUR 9TH & FRI 10TH APRIL

10:00-15:00

WEEK 2

14TH, 15TH & 16TH APRIL

10:00-15:00

*Early drops offs & late pick ups available 09:00-16:00*

SIGN UP OR FOR MORE INFORMATION →





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