



Ellingham CE Primary School **Friday Flyer**

06.03.26

Executive Head Teacher Update

Well done to everyone for their wonderful World Book Day costumes. There were many amazing home-made character creations. It was great to share our favourite books, characters and reasons why we love reading. I enjoyed listening to key stage 2 pupils have a reasoned debate as to whether 'Reading was an appropriate hobby.'

The parent's guide I have shared this week is all about encouraging children to read. We were fascinated by Canon Tony's collective worship on the theme of books, where he shared the facsimile versions of the Gospels of St. John that were given to the British military to take with them into conflict.

If you are a current Y5 parent/carer, please let us know your thoughts on the proposed residential visit to France in 2027- thanks. We are currently exploring residential options for Y3/4 pupils.

Next week, we are looking forward to celebrating British Science Week.

Best wishes,

Diane Lakey



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Attendance

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Splash	70	94.6
Space Base	81.3	94.5
Earth Works	92	88.4
Time Zone	97.8	92.3

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

What a lovely week. We had sunshine and lots of outdoor play, we made maps of our walk to forest school, and practised making 10 in maths. Our cafe this week had lots of pretty coloured drinks to practice pouring and we can all pour our own milk out at snack time now. We also had the tools and lots of wood to play with. We lit the fire at Wellies&Wonder and enjoyed fresh pancakes cooked and eaten in the warm sunshine. Well done with all the amazing World Book Day costumes. Your children looked fabulous and we had a great time reading all their stories.





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Space Base enjoyed World Book Day.

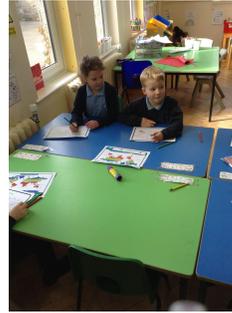




Space Base Class

Space Base pupils have had a lovely week. As always, they have been working very hard. In geography, we have been learning about hot and cold countries. In computing, we have been practising writing our names on an app called Paint, and the children loved using the different colours and brushes.

This week we also celebrated World Book Day. The children had such fun on Thursday and all looked amazing! We read lots of their favourite books and talked about why reading is important.





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Key Stage Two: Time Zone and Earth Works



Time Zone and Earth Works had some great costumes for World Book Day. Time Zone took turns to tell us about the book related to their costume: what it was like and why they had chosen it. They also took questions from other children.



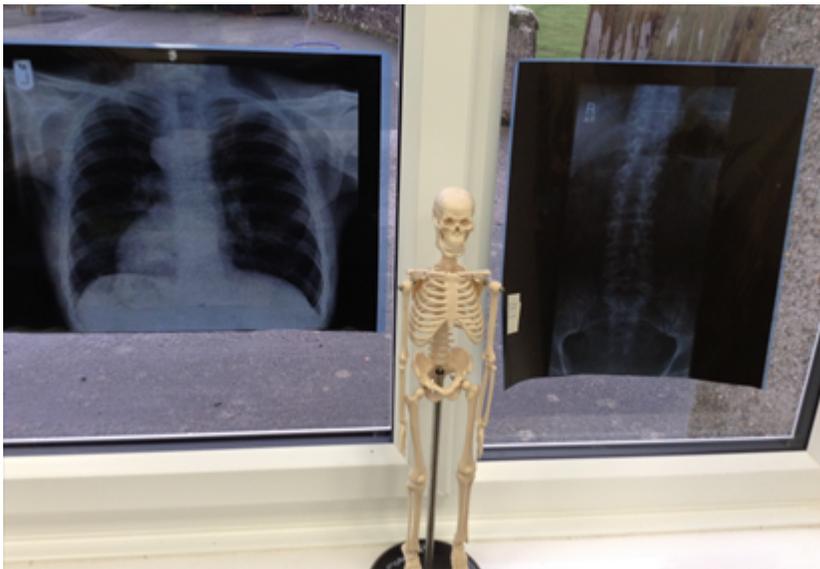
Earth Works had an election as part of our lesson on democracy. Each child produced a manifesto and presented it to the class. There were some interesting policies, such as banning cars and vehicles and walking everywhere, getting rid of all factories and only coming to school for one day per year. The

vote was a tie, so India and Louie were both elected as co-prime ministers.

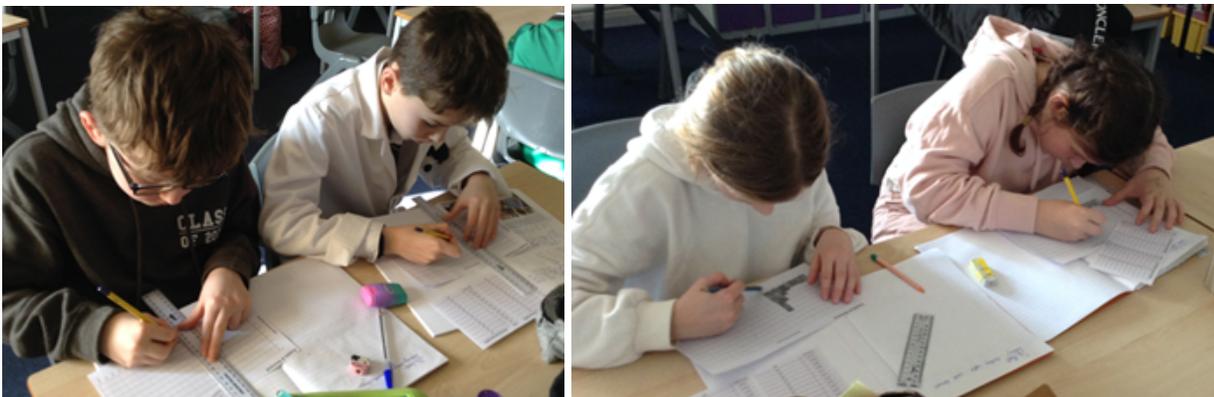


Ellingham CE Primary School Friday Flyer

In Earth Works, we introduced our new Science unit on Structure and Nutrition by finding out about the human skeleton, exploring its functions and starting to name some of our main bones.



In Time Zone, we worked as data analysts, exploring the need to balance supply and demand in providing electricity to a town. We investigated how and why demand varies during the day, and used the data to produce and analyse bar graphs.





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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 CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

1 VALUE ALL READING

When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.

2 WIDEN THE SELECTION

Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.

3 GIFT A BOOK

One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.

4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS

Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authorly and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.

5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.

6 TALK BOOKS

There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.

8 GO DIGITAL

With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like PolyIno and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.

9 RECONNECT

There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever; it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.

10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

Meet Our Expert

Carl Pattison is a literacy advisor and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.



See full reference list on our website



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Dates for your Diary

Thursday 12th March	Parents Evening - details have gone out via Parentmail.
Friday 13th March	Mothers Day treats in school 2 pm-3 pm. Details at the end of this flyer
Monday 16th March	Easter RE project for KS1 and Reception
Friday 20th March	Red Nose Day - wear something red if you would like to and donate to this wonderful charity.
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.

The whole school Nursery - Y6 started Karate lessons after half term. We will be running a Karate club after school on Mondays. Please speak to Kathy.



Stars of the week

Names:

Splash: Kitty for managing so well with a broken thumb.
Daisy for tying her shoe laces.

Space Base: Otto- For always having a positive attitude to learning and trying his hardest.

Earth Works: India for excellent use of Talk Tactics in our oracy lesson.

Time Zone: Thomas for working independently on his bar chart in science.



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Tea & Treats
for Mother's Day!

Join us in school for a cuppa and cake...
...and for your child to give you their card!

Friday 13th March
2pm - 3pm
We look forward to seeing you!