



Ellingham CE Primary School Friday Flyer

13.03.26

Executive Head Teacher Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

There have been lots of exciting things happening this week: Science Week activities; a Pele School Improvement Partner (SIP) visit; parent consultations and Mothers' Day tea and treats!

It has been a really tricky year avoiding Chicken Pox, flu and other bugs. Well done to our resilient duo (pictured), who are our last remaining pupils with 100% attendance this year: impressive immunity!

Our pupils are a true credit to the school: engaging, curious, and exceptionally well-behaved. I find it a genuine privilege to spend time in the classrooms and outdoors, witnessing firsthand their positive attitudes to learning, their instinctive care for others, and the pride they have for Ellingham.



Best wishes,

Diane Lakey



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Ask Better Questions

The art of asking questions is more complex than we might assume. Teachers ask hundreds of questions every day as they try to unravel what pupils are thinking. If we are to maximise the benefit of using questions to gather feedback, we should aim to ask a range of question types, from information recall to promote retrieval practice to higher-order questions which encourage the development of answers.



1. BE CLEAR

Ask questions which are clear and concise to reduce ambiguity and to ensure that pupils understand what type of response you are looking for. Repeat your question to provide clarity and give wait time.



2. PLAN AHEAD

When developing your scheme of work and planning a series of lessons, allocate time to discuss common misconceptions with colleagues. This will allow you to formulate questions to help dispel misconceptions pupils may have about your subject.



3. GIVE TIME

Give pupils time to process the question you have asked them and to think about their response. This will boost their confidence in sharing ideas without feeling that they are being put on the spot. Research suggests 3-5 seconds of wait time.



10. PRACTISE QUESTIONS

Make time to practise drafting and asking questions with colleagues. This can support the development of the clear and concise questions that you then ask pupils and reduce the potential for misunderstanding.



9. COLD CALL

Encourage pupils to share their ideas with the rest of the class by directing questions to specific pupils. For example, "What is the process of erosion, Tom?".



4. BUILD ENGAGEMENT

Take the time to build a classroom culture where pupils feel confident in sharing responses. You can do this by establishing expectations, and creating an environment where pupils feel that they can contribute without fear of retribution from their peers.



5. PROMOTE EXTENSION

Pupils will want to find the shortcut that allows them to provide the shortest response. Instead, encourage pupils to extend on their initial response by asking them a follow-up question, "Can you give me an example...?".



8. ENCOURAGE THEIR QUESTIONS

Build in time for pupils to ask their own questions, either to you, as the teacher, or to their peers. This will support their own development towards mastery in your subject.



7. USE LOW-STAKE RECALL

Use questioning to gather information quickly about what pupils have understood. This can be achieved through closed questions that allow you, as the teacher, to uncover any misconceptions and gaps in knowledge of the subjects you need to re-teach.



6. MOVE FROM LOW TO HIGH

Use lower cognitive questions to establish foundation knowledge recall, and then build on this by subsequently asking higher-order questions to deepen understanding.



The National College

This guide is part of The National College staffroom poster series. A collection of information posters for your school staffroom.



Meet the Expert: Michael Chiles
Principal Examiner, Curriculum Development Adviser and an experienced school leader.

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Attendance

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Splash	85	94
Space Base	88	94
Earth Works	80	88
Time Zone	88.9	92.2

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?

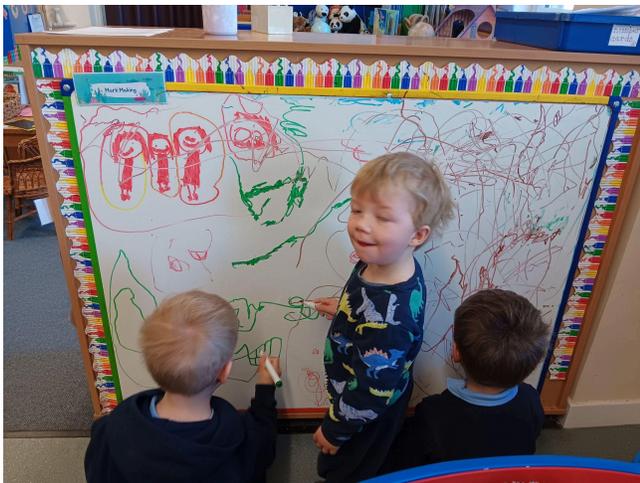
'Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing and wider development. Pupils with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE results. The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams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



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Splash Class

It has been a very busy week this week, with lots of fun getting ready for mother's day celebrations. Sadly the wind has been so high that we didn't get to the forest this week, but we are hoping to be back there soon. We found lots of great indoor activities and enjoyed our work about weather around the world. Everyone has worked super hard for their lolly stick challenges and we are very excited to see our mummies this afternoon.





Space Base Class

Space Base have been working hard this week. We have added sand to our continuous provision, and the children have really enjoyed exploring it. They have been using the sand to practise writing their letters and phonics sounds.

In after-school club, the children have been using a variety of equipment, such as the football nets and the javelins. This gave them the opportunity to try equipment they may not usually use and to have lots of fun.

This week we have also been creating gifts for Mother's Day. The children have really enjoyed making them and have put a lot of time and effort into their work.





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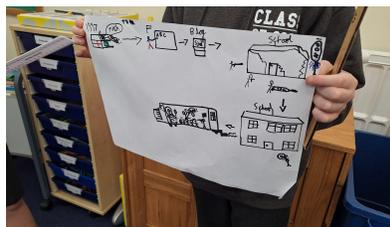
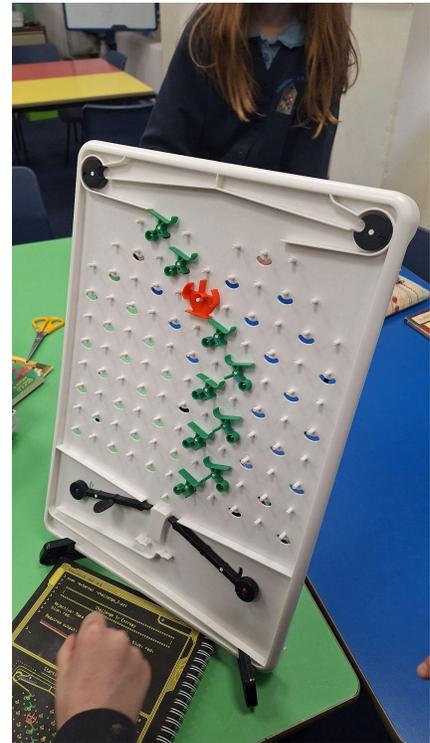
For Mothers' Day, we have been working on making boxes of love - the children have filled them with messages of thanks for all the things their mums do for them. They have thought of all kinds of things that mums do - from giving them hugs to buying them quad bikes.





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Earth Works have been experimenting with marble-powered computing. So far they have managed to make our mechanical computer produce a variety of coloured patterns. They also developed their team-working skills.



We have also been learning about Malala Yousafzai. The children made text maps and used them to retell the story of her life.



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Dates for your diary

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 Alnwick Playhouse for KS2
Wednesday 1st April	Billy Goats Gruff at Alnwick Playhouse for Nursery - Y2
Thursday 2nd April	Easter Service - Ellingham Church 9.30. Everyone is welcome.
Friday 3rd - Sunday 19th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 20th April	Return to school

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: George - For his great maths.

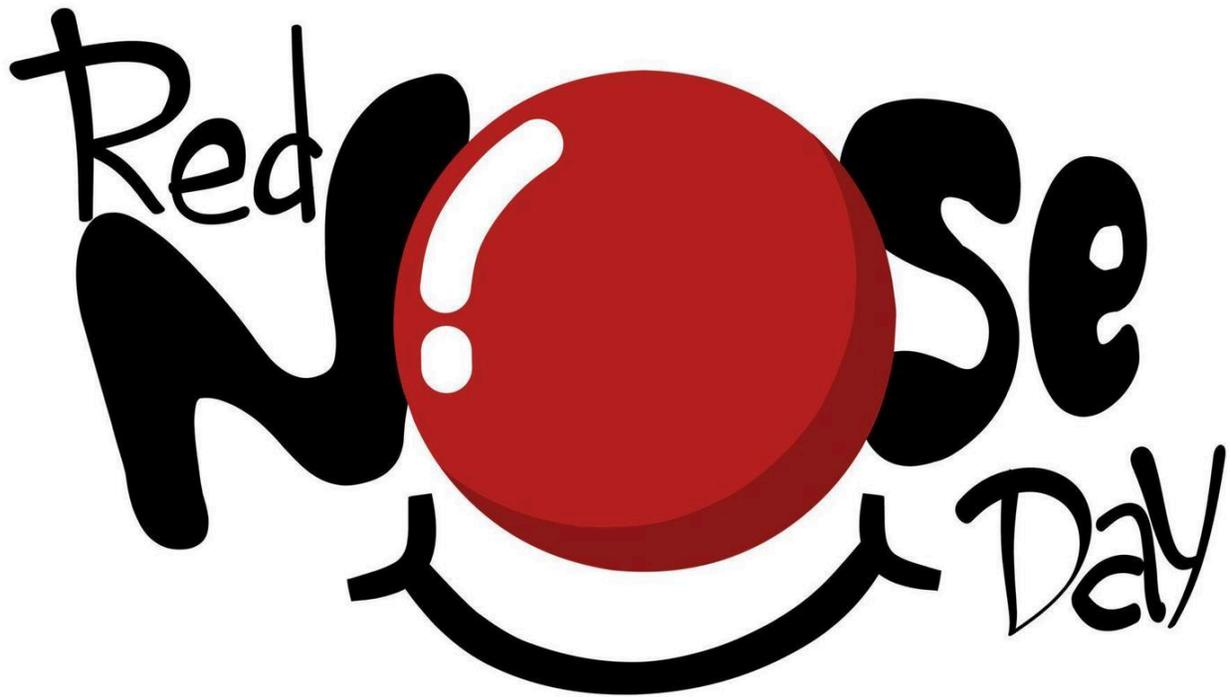
Space Base: Jess- For trying her hardest even when she may find things difficult.

Earth Works: Aimee for sharing her impressive subject knowledge with us in history.

Time Zone: Oakley for persevering with difficult maths problems and not giving up.



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Friday 20th March.

Wear something red and bring a donation for this fantastic charity.

Josie will be making her famous Red Nose Day biscuits!