



Dear Parents/Carers,

We've had a busy week with lots of visitors through the door! It was lovely to welcome Ant Kirkbride from Bellingham Parish Council into school for a tour and a chat earlier this week, and it was nice to showcase everything that is currently happening as well as our plans for the future.

At the time of writing this, I can happily say that we do not currently have any staff or pupils isolating as a result of Covid-19. Good news! You may be aware that as of yesterday, masks no longer need to be worn in communal areas around school. At present, and to hopefully maintain our low number of positive cases, we will continue to encourage their use by staff and pupils for the time being.

Thank you to those who have donated gardening equipment this week; our children are looking forward to putting them to good use.

Have a lovely weekend.



Lindsay Hamilton

### Attendance this week:

92%

Thank you! We really appreciate all your efforts in getting to school on time, ready to start our day promptly.

### Did you know...?



Attendance	Description	Approx. days lost per year	Approx. weeks lost per year
98 – 100%	Excellent	0 to 4	Less than 1
95 – 98%	Good	5 to 9	1 to 2
93 – 95%	Satisfactory	10 to 13	2 to 3
90 – 93%	Unsatisfactory	14 to 19	4 to 6
>90%	Persistent Absence	More than 19	More than 4

**The government expects your child's attendance to be 95% or better.**  
**Schools are held to account for your child's attendance.**  
**Please remember holidays in term time will be unauthorised.**



## Brilliant Badminton!

Badminton club started on Monday this week and we had an amazing turnout for it. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and there was no shortage of quality in the matches that were being played!



## Desperate for Dog Man!



We often have 'reading crazes' in school and our latest one is the 'Dog Man' series by Dav Pilkey! Children are going mad for them. They can't get enough. We're thrilled as they're making some of our most reluctant readers read! We've bought a set of them but there's still not enough to go around. If you happen to have some at home which are no longer needed, our children would be VERY grateful!





## School News

### Y6 SATs

Parents of children in Y6 are invited to attend an information evening on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 6:00pm. Staff will discuss what is expected of pupils along with ideas of how best to support children in the build-up to the examinations. Letters have been sent out and we'd be grateful if reply slips could be returned as soon as possible so that we have an idea of numbers.



We are proud to be celebrating LGBT+ History Month throughout February. This year's theme "The Arc is Long" is inspired by a Martin Luther King quote: '*The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.*' The quote is thought to mean that although it is taking a long time, we are curving/moving towards social justice and fairness. This theme provides us with the opportunity to explore the idea of social justice and changing attitudes towards LGBT+ people in school across a range of subjects. History Month is an opportunity for LGBT+ people to claim their past, celebrate our present and create our future, as well as discovering the amazing things that LGBT+ people have accomplished down the ages. Many young people are engaged in wanting to challenge the status quo, so giving them some examples of who has gone before can be both inspiring and educational.



A huge 'THANK YOU' to Mrs Canney who donated some lovely items for our breakfast club this week! A lovely surprise and very kind!



After lots of Covid disruption, I am pleased to announce that my meeting with Neil from The Boe Rigg is hopefully finally going ahead next week, where I can discuss the ideas shared at our parents' forum before Christmas. More details next week.



A gentle reminder, please, that pupils should not be wearing trainers to school. Pupils do now get changed before any PE lessons and should arrive in school wearing full school uniform. Rings are not part of our uniform and should not be worn to school; they are a potential safety risk. If you are experiencing problems with any part of your child's uniform, please pop a note in their school journal or give us a call.



**Northumberland  
County Council**

## **Benefits of registering for Free School Meals**

There are 2 types of Free School Meals:

- Universal Free School Meals – every child from the beginning of Reception until the end of Year 2 is eligible to a hot meal through a government funded scheme regardless of individual financial circumstances. You do not need to apply for this your child's school will make the appropriate arrangements for this.
- Income Related Free School Meals – **It is still essential that if you are entitled to income related free school meals you apply, as greater benefits will be received for your child, your child's school and yourself.**

**The approval of a Income Related Free School Meals application would entitle your child to:**

**Free milk** - in First, Primary or Special school, milk at break-time will be free for the time the child is entitled to free school meals. The child's school will make the appropriate arrangements for the free milk.

**Help with curriculum related residential trips or school visits** - The child's school will make the appropriate arrangements for this service.

**Help with music tuition and instruments** - Parents can claim a refund of £3.00 per session from the costs when 7 of the 10 classes have been attended by the student. The child's school will make the appropriate arrangements for this service.

**The above are not included in the governments universal free meals to children up to Year 2. To access these benefits families must be in receipt of a qualifying benefit and must have an approved Free School Meal claim with Northumberland County Council.**

If family circumstances don't change the claim will already be set up for children entering Year 3. The school will receive extra funding, which will benefit all children

**If you are in receipt of the following benefits:**

- Universal Credit with household income less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Child Tax Credit with NO Working Tax Credit (Income below £16,190)
- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Guaranteed Element of Pension Credit
- The Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 supported by a letter from the Asylum team

**PLEASE APPLY, TO BENEFIT YOU, YOUR CHILD, AND YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL**

For more Information contact the Free School Meals Team at Northumberland County Council

Apply Online on the Northumberland County Council Website [www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

Telephone: 0345 6006400

Email: [FSM@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:FSM@northumberland.gov.uk)



## Dates for your diary...

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February

Y6 SATs evening – 6:30pm

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February

School closes for half-term holiday

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February

School opens

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April

School closes for Easter holidays