



Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been another busy week here with lots of meetings. Our curriculum leaders are currently busy meeting leaders at Haydon Bridge High to look at aligning curriculum and moderating assessments. I had a very positive meeting with the Headteacher, Michael Smith, to pencil in some great transition opportunities for our Y8 pupils later this year. I would like to thank the wonderful team at The Heritage Centre who were incredibly helpful and supportive when I met them yesterday. They have provided us with a wealth of resources to enrich our history curriculum, and we've also planned a great day's visit for our Y6 children after half-term. We are so lucky to have such a valuable resource on our doorstep!

With Safer Internet Day approaching, we'll be including lots of useful top tips for parents about various social media sites. This week, we've included essential information about YouTube. At the time of writing this, we do not have anyone (pupils or staff) isolating with Covid-19. Great news!

We've got some essential work planned for school over the half-term holidays. I'm pleased to say that our MUGA is being fixed and we'll be having some necessary tree work completed too.

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.**



## Extraordinary English!

Y5 are thoroughly enjoying reading the classic novel, *Street Child* by Berlie Doherty – an emotional tale set against the backdrop of a very tough, Victorian London. Armed with their own fabulous ideas and creative writing tools, pupils have been penning their very own Victorian stories littered with barefoot, homeless children, dangerous jobs and nasty, cruel masters. Tissues at the ready...!



*The darkness clung to Jim as he climbed up the dusty chimney. He gave another cough as more dust settled on his lungs. His knees were scratched and sore from the rough, brick walls. "Hurry up, you lazy lout!" shouted Bob, his master. This was Jim's second year as a chimney sweep. His master was terrible. He would shout at Jim and beat him regularly, leaving him cold, tired and hungry.*

**Laelah-Rose**

*Knock! Knock! Knock! A heavy hand banged on the old, mahogany door. Lily and Jenna shook because they knew it was their landlord. They'd had to spend their only shilling on last night's supper – a meat and potato pie. Money was tight. Both girls knew they owed lots of rent. If it wasn't paid, it would be the workhouse for them!*

**Maisie**



*Harry ran off with the cold, silver shilling in his hands. A swift, warm breeze blew into his face, and he smelt the fresh pies on the counter. Eagerly, he walked across soft, yellow straw that was laid across the floor. Harry put his shilling on the counter.*

*"One gravy pie please," asked Harry.*

*The woman grabbed his shilling and handed the pie to him. When he turned to leave, a crowd of children blocked the door. Harry clutched his hot, steaming pie.*

**Alice**



*Snow fell heavily across the fields. A blanket of white covered everything, as far as the eye could see. The cockerel woke Farmer Jim up early so he rushed outside to give the cockerel what for! However, when he got outside, he soon saw that all of his sheep were gone. Jim was fuming. He got straight on his horse and rode to the village...*

**George** (who never wastes an opportunity to write about farming) 😊



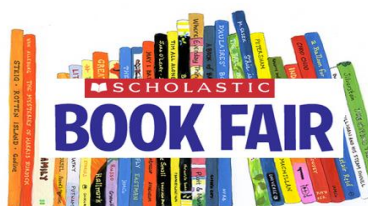




## School News



There will be a new school lunch menu available after half-term, with some of our firm favourite options as well as some new ones. Neil (The Boe Rigg) has kindly agreed to host a 'Parent-Pupil Taster Afternoon' on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 1:30pm. Parents are invited into school where they'll be able to try some of the options from the new menu, alongside their children. Obviously, it's really important that we have accurate numbers for this event, so if it's something you'd like to attend, please complete the online form [here](#).



We will be hosting a book fair from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April. Pupils will be able to peruse at their leisure and hopefully choose a riveting read for the Easter holidays!



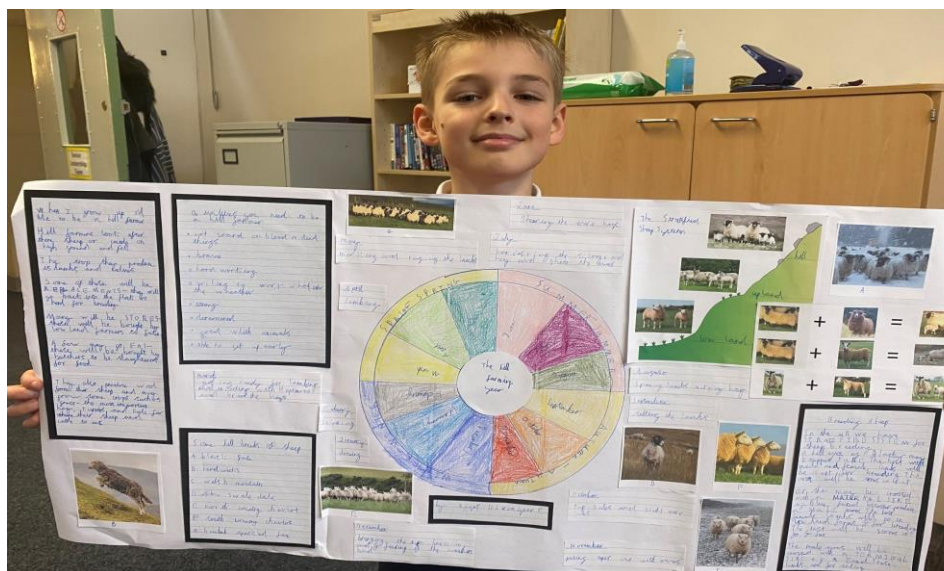
A huge, THANK YOU, to our very own Mrs Ingledew who answered our plea for more 'Dog Man' novels. Her kind donation has meant that we have a lot less pupils this week fighting for a copy!



### Would your child like to learn how to play the acoustic guitar?

We have places available for one-to-one and/or small group tuition (maximum of 3 pupils) during the summer term. Prices start from £6 per 30-minute lesson. These lessons are on offer to all pupils across the school. For more information and/or to register your interest, please contact our music teacher, Ms Esposito, at:

[sharon.esposito@bellinghampartnership.uk](mailto:sharon.esposito@bellinghampartnership.uk)



It's clear to see where Angus' future career path is heading! He has worked incredibly hard on this half-term's enrichment homework and has created a wonderful, informative piece of work all about hill farming, which is also beautifully presented. Well done, Angus!





At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps that we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

### CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

### SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

### HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

### TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

### SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from changing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.

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CENSORED

### CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.

### TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.

### MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.

### CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

### LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

### Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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#WakeUpWednesday





## Dates for your diary

Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Y6 Parents SATs evening – 6pm
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	School closes for half-term holiday
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	School opens
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Heritage Centre Visit – Y6
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Inspiring the Future – online careers event (Y8)
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Mental Welling / Body Image workshops (Y5 – Y8)
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Visiting author (Dan Smith) – writing workshops
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	School Lunch Taster Afternoon – parents & pupils
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Wellbeing Week – PE kit every day (Y5 – Y8)
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Book Fair – in school all week
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	School closes for Easter holidays