



April 2022 Newsletter



The Easter holidays are almost upon us and I feel it is definitely time for a well-earned rest. The summer term will hopefully be a time for some better weather and lots of opportunities to get out for some trips. We have put together a new calendar of dates for the next few weeks but there will be more to add so keep your eyes open for new events. We are currently in discussions with the Middle School about using their school field to host our sports day and we will let you know the date as soon as we can. Keep your fingers crossed for a sunny day!

Mrs Lizzie Jackson

Family Learning Sessions

As part of our PE offer, Newcastle United Foundation deliver a range of sessions to all classes across the year. From 25th April, our Year 3 and 4 classes will be taking part in some class based sessions which will focus on teamwork, healthy lifestyles and eating well. In addition to this, they are offering some sessions after school on a Monday night for parents and their children to take part in. These sessions will also include some sports activities. Sessions are open to parents and children in Year 3 and 4 and are free. There will be 15 places available so please contact the office by the end of term if you would like to book a space. Provision will be made for younger siblings during these sessions should you need it.



Fundraising

We are delighted to announce that your recent contributions have raised £78.59 for the Red Nose Day appeal and £100.50 for children's charities in Ukraine. We still have some sunflowers left for sale if you would like one. Please ask any member of staff. The Sponsored Reading Challenge also brought in £112.50 which will be used to buy some new books for our Story Station. Many thanks for your support.

Parent sessions

Thank you to those who were able to attend our parent/carer sessions with Reception, Year 3 and 4 this week. We hope that you enjoyed coming back into school and getting an idea of the types of things that we do. A reminder that next week is Year 1 (Tuesday 5th) and Year 2 (Thursday 7th). We aim to plan some more of these for the summer term.



Wrap-Around Care

Since the return following the school closures last year, we have noticed a significant decline in the number of children attending the wrap-around care offered by school. We do understand that some people found alternative options during the closures and that others have changed their working patterns or may continue to work from home.



We currently offer:

Breakfast Club from 8am Monday to Friday at a cost of £2.50 per session.

After school provision Monday to Thursday, £4 until 4:15pm and £6 until 5pm.

Spaces for both provisions can be booked on Eduspot by 3.30pm on Friday for the following week.

These are both not-for-profit offers, however the decline in numbers means that they are now heavily subsidised from the school budget. We will be reviewing attendance during the summer term and may need to decide about whether our current offer is financially viable in the Autumn term.

Story Station

We can now finally announce that our new Story Station has arrived. This is going to be a fabulous opportunity for the children to enjoy some quiet time reading and enjoying a wide variety of books. Our School Council have been tasked with canvassing opinions from their peers about what should be included and Mrs Hunter will be in charge of creating a shopping list!

Class photos

Children will be having their photos taken with their classes on Tuesday 26th April.

Please ensure that children have their school jumpers/cardigans on this day.



PE Days Summer Term

Reception	Tues	Thurs
Year 1	Mon	Tues
Year 2	Mon	Fri (swimming)
Year 3	Mon	Fri
Year 4	Mon	Thurs

Summer Fair

This year, we are pleased to be able to announce that our summer fair is returning and will take place on Friday 8th July. As we have done in the past, over the summer term we will hold a number of non-uniform days in return for raffle prizes/tombola stalls.



Attendance up to end of March 2022

Rec - 91.76%

Year 1 - 93.82%

Year 2 – 95.04%

Year 3 - 93.19%

Year 4 - 96.14%

Our school target for attendance is **96%**.

Well done Year 4!



Online Safety

Youtube is a very popular platform for adults and children alike. We use it regularly in school to share videos and music with the children. Due to the fact that Youtube allows advertising, it can sometimes be difficult to anticipate what might pop up next. Below is some useful information about Youtube and the different functions you can use as parents/carers to try and limit some of the inappropriate content that children can be exposed to.

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 chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Key Dates Summer 2022

Monday 25th April - return to school

Tuesday 26th April - class photographs

Thursday 28th April – Year 1 and 2 trip to Northumberland Zoo.

Monday 2nd May - school closed for Bank Holiday

Wednesday 4th May KS2 Beach School

Thursday 5th May KS1 Beach School

Friday 20th May - Year 2 trip to Clarty Commandos

Week beginning 23rd May - parents' evening appointments (in school)

Wednesday 25th May – Nursery parent session

Thursday 9th June - KS2 Countryside Day trip

Friday 10th June – Nursery balance bikes session

Tuesday 14th/Wednesday 15th June – Nursery stay and play sessions

Thursday 16th June – Careers day

Tuesday 21st/Wednesday 22nd June – Nursery stay and play sessions

Monday 30th May - half term holidays –school closed

Monday 6th June - children return to school

Friday 24th June - Year 4 trip to Clarty Commandos

Thursday 30th June - Amble First Jubilee Party (pm). Further details to follow.

Friday 1st July - school closed for Jubilee Bank Holiday

Thursday 7th July – whole school trip

Friday 8th July - Summer Fair

Tuesday 12th July- Nursery beach morning

Thursday 14th July – Reception beach morning

Thursday 14th July – Year 4 Leavers event

Tuesday 19th July - KS2 Beach School

Wednesday 20th July – KS1 Beach School

Friday 22nd July – Nursery leavers assembly 9am

Friday 22nd July - last day of term

We will endeavour to give as much notice as possible if there are any changes.