



# NEWSLETTER

16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## A message from our school leaders

This term, we are focusing on handwriting and presentation across the whole school. We want to ensure that the children are trying their best to form their letters and words accurately. This process begins in Nursery, and even our youngest learners are working hard to develop the correct pencil grip. We will also be introducing a few new incentives for the children, which will be shared in assembly on Friday.

You may notice some additional handwriting homework over the next few weeks. Please support us by encouraging the children to consistently produce work they can be proud of when completing tasks at home.

As we move into the spring term, we have still felt a cold chill in the air. Please ensure that children come to school dressed appropriately for the weather.

Thank you to the parents who attended our Y6 SATs information evening on Tuesday. Mrs Wharton enjoyed sharing examples of the upcoming tests and discussing ways families can support at home. We do prefer these meetings to take place face to face; however, if you were unable to attend, a copy of the PowerPoint will be available on request.

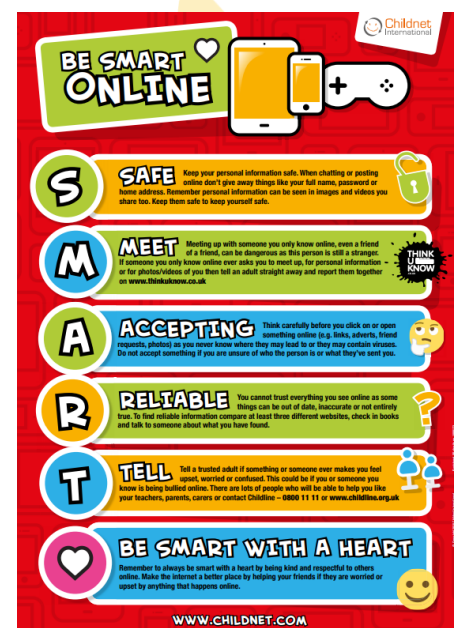
Finally, the school has been trialling a new interactive whiteboard meal-selection system for pupils, introduced as part of the ParentPay group. Each morning, children have been arriving in their classrooms excited to enter their meal choice for the day, using the new system. Early feedback has been very positive, and we hope that, in time, this will become a seamless and familiar part of our daily school routine.

## Reminders and Messages

- Please remember to bring water bottles into school every day.
- A reminder that we are a **'NUT FREE'** school.
- **POLITE REMINDER:** We are unable to read or answer messages which are sent through Class Dojo. If you need to contact teachers, please telephone or make an appointment at the office.

## Useful Online Safety Links

- [NSPCC](#)
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#)
- [Childline](#)



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

~THIS WEEKS ATTENDANCE~

Rec/Yr 1	95.2%
Yr 2/3/4	97.2%
Yr 5/6	98.7%



# NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?

## Nursery – Mrs Dobson

This week, in Nursery, we have been enjoying the classic fairytale, *Little Red Riding Hood*. The children have loved listening to the story and talking about the characters, especially Little Red Riding Hood, Grandma, and the very greedy wolf!

**Wondrous Words:** As part of our learning, the children were introduced to new wondrous words to support their vocabulary development. This week, we focused on: *whiskery*, *red*, *cupboard* and *greedy*. The children used these words confidently during story discussions and play activities.

The children re-enacted the story in the home corner, acting out different roles and developing their imagination and communication skills.

We explored red paint, using a variety of tools to paint in different ways and talk about texture and patterns. The children had lots of fun investigating repeating patterns, spotting them in activities and creating their own. We also practiced our cutting skills, helping to develop fine motor control and hand-eye coordination.

**Cooking Fun:** One of the highlights of the week was making delicious jam tarts to take to Grandma's house - just like in the story! The children thoroughly enjoyed helping to prepare the tarts and talked excitedly about hoping the greedy wolf wouldn't eat them on the way!







# NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?



## YrR/1 – Miss Humpherson, Miss Anderson and Mrs Niven

Reception have been enjoying the wonderfully silly book, *Dinosaurs Love Underpants* this week. The children have had great fun writing CVC words and short sentences inspired by the story.

They have been learning about palaeontologists and the important work they do. They even created their own salt dough fossils, which they were very proud of.

In PSHE, Reception have been taking on small challenges to help them understand that even when something feels difficult at first, perseverance helps it become easier - just like learning to ride a bike.

In maths the children have continued practising their subitising skills with numbers 0–5 and learning about how different parts make up the whole number.

Year 1 have completed their instructional writing this week on *How to Plant a Seed*. Their clear, well-structured sentences have really impressed us.

They have continued their history topic on *The Great Fire of London*, learning how the fire started and why it spread so quickly. They have also enjoyed ending each day by reading non-fiction books linked to the topic.

In maths they have been working with number lines to 20, using them to support counting, ordering, and understanding number size.

In art this week have been exploring shade and tint, experimenting with adding white and black to primary colours to create new tones. This learning will lead into next week's project, where they will create a painting using one colour in a range of shades and tints.





# NEWSLETTER

What have we been up to?

## Yr2/3/4 – Mrs Garnett, Mrs Aislabie and Miss Spenceley

This week has been filled with exciting learning experiences for our children!

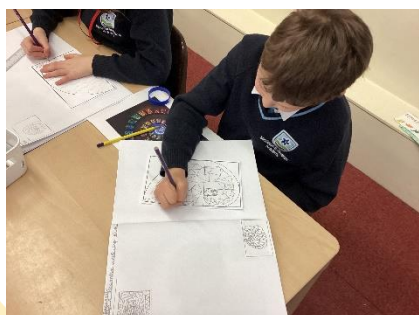
In English, the children have been thoroughly enjoying *The Firework-Maker's Daughter*. They have been exploring figurative language and using it to craft their own captivating opening paragraphs. We also delved into the world of conjunctions, discovering how they can help us extend our sentences and express our thoughts more clearly.

In maths, our Year 3/4 students have been focusing on multiplying by 10 and 100, using the place value chart to visualise their understanding. Meanwhile, Year 2 has been busy adding two-digit numbers, even crossing over the tens boundary—what a fantastic achievement!

Our geography lesson was particularly engaging this week, as we learned about tectonic plates and their role in shaping our land. The children discovered how these plates can lead to earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis, sparking some wonderful discussions.

Year 3/4 had their first swimming lesson this week and thoroughly enjoyed it! Miss Spenceley reported that they had a fantastic time, and their behaviour was exemplary - well done, everyone!

To wrap up the week, the children explored the Fibonacci sequence in their art lesson, creating beautiful motifs inspired by this fascinating pattern.





# NEWSLETTER

**What have we been up to?**

## **Yr5/6 – Mrs Wharton and Mrs Emery**

First and foremost, thank you to the Year 6 parents who attended the SATs information evening. It was lovely to meet with you and answer any questions or concerns you may have had. Your support is greatly appreciated as we work together to prepare the children for this important stage in their learning journey.

This week, we have continued planning our five-part narrative based on the events in the book *Time Travelling with a Hamster*. The children have been exploring the grammatical feature of fronted adverbials in more detail and are now beginning to incorporate these into their first drafts. It has been fantastic to see their creativity and confidence grow as they develop their ideas.

In geography, our focus this half-term is farming. This week, we explored the different types of farming found across the UK and drew conclusions based on the topography of the land. The children demonstrated excellent reasoning skills and enjoyed discussing how geography influences farming practices.

On Tuesday, Year 5 were very fortunate to spend the morning at Teesdale School and Sixth Form, where they took part in DT and Food Technology lessons. The children had a whale of a time and returned full of enthusiasm, eager for another opportunity to experience secondary school learning.

In science, the class investigated air resistance by creating paper helicopters. They tested whether the wingspan affected the rate at which the helicopters fell, and their predictions and observations led to some lively discussions about forces and motion.

Finally, on Thursday, the children thoroughly enjoyed their music lesson with Mr. Waite from Durham Music Service. They are learning how to mix music using Chromebooks, and it has been wonderful to see their excitement as they experiment with digital tools to create their own sounds.







# NEWSLETTER

Upcoming  
Events:

	Event
<b>JANUARY 2026</b>	
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Kurling + Boccia Festival, Yrs 1+2
<b>FEBRUARY 2026</b>	
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	'Open the Book' Assembly with The Pathway
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Sportshall Athletics, Yrs 5+6
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Safer Internet Day
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Valentine's Disco, FOMS
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Dance Festival,
<b>MARCH 2026</b>	
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> March	'Open the Book' Assembly with The Pathway
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
w/c 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Science Week
18 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Scholastic Book Fair, in school
w/c 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Shakespeare Week
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Girl's Football Competition, Yrs 4,5+6
Tues 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Tennis/Raquets Festival, Yrs 3+4
<b>APRIL 2026</b>	
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> April	'Open the Book' Assembly with The Pathway
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	School Breaks Up for Easter
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> April	School Re-Opens to Pupils