Weekly Newsletter

Friday 16th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, our Y6 children along with Mrs Long, have relaunched 'The Shack' for children in KS2. This is an opportunity for them to purchase an item to have as a snack during their morning break. Items are all priced at 50p and the money raised, goes back into school to purchase the prizes for our Dojo shop. This is also an opportunity for our older children, to develop their understanding of running a business, carrying out stock takes and handling money.

Our team captains will be running our Dojo Shop which will be open next week for children to spend their points, at break times. They have the option of redeeming their points towards an item or saving their points to 'buy' something of a higher value.

A reminder that we have our school discos next week for KS2 children. Fancy dress is optional but we kindly ask for children not to wear masks or bring toy weapons. There is also a non-uniform day on Friday 23rd where fancy dress is optional, again with no masks or toy weapons.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Swinbank







PUMPKIN CHALLENGE

We need your help to decorate our school for our discos this week!

Can you, with the help of an adult at home, design and carve your very own pumpkin?

Then bring it into school on Wednesday 21st October where it will go on display!



https://kellslaneschool.co.uk

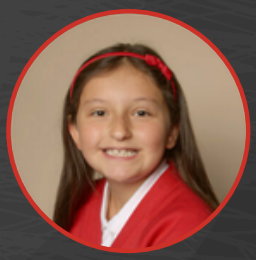
Character Development

Brave Curious Resilient Empowered Ambitious Find your Remarkable

Emerald	Sapphire	Ruby	Amber
5100	3500	3700	5500

Hope ever one has had an amazing week. Well done Amber for getting the most team points. We are excited for the dojo shop to be opened and we hope everyone is excited too. If anyone is signing up for Rocksteady, we hope you love it!





Head Boy & Girl

CLASS dojo SHOP

NEXT OPEN:

19th October



Y2 & Y3 Rocksteady



Year 2 & Year 3- There are spaces to join the Rocksteady bands - click the link (photo) for more information.

Focus Value

Brave

See more from the past week here -

Click Here

Sporting Achievements

Find your Remarkable



A huge well done to this Year 2 pupil who received a bronze medal in a regional acro competition.



A big congratulations to this Year 6 pupil who performed at the Newcastle Dance Centre specialising in Ballet, Tap and Latin.



A big congratulations to this Year 2 pupil who received a silver medal at her gymastics competition and for playing her first tennis tournament and winning.



A big well done to these boys from Year 4 who achieved their next belts with distinctions for Karate.



A huge well done to this Year 5 pupil who received a medal at the Basketball camp at the Eagles Arena.





Well done to the pupils from Year 4 and Year 6 who attended the Gateshead Primary Schools cross country. The children did so well and ran in tough windy conditions.



Curriculum



Nursery



This week in Nursery, we have been delving further into our interest in the season of Autumn, through the stories Leaf Man and We're Going on a Leaf Hunt.

The children went on a leaf hunt around the school grounds and found interesting leaves to bring back into Nursery to use for leaf crowns and making leaf people and animals.



In Maths, we have been using conkers to complare amounts and using the language more than, fewer than and the same.

During Squiggle Whilst you Wiggle, we have been further practising criss-crosses and circles, this time using paint pens on fabric to turn into curtains for our performance area outdoors!















Reception

It's been an exciting week in Reception. We've had visits from staff who work in our school to discuss their role and what they do to help us. Mrs Long had a chat about her job and we decided that she has a very important job in school.

We loved having our parents visit our classrooms. We'd made biscuits in class and decorated them together.

In **Maths,** we have continued to understand number and talked about how 5 is composed. We've also compared amounts using more, less, greatest, fewest and least language.

In **English,** we've shared, discussed and acted out Gruffalo's Granny. It's been lovely to share this exciting new text which we're sure will become a firm favourite.




Curriculum



Y1

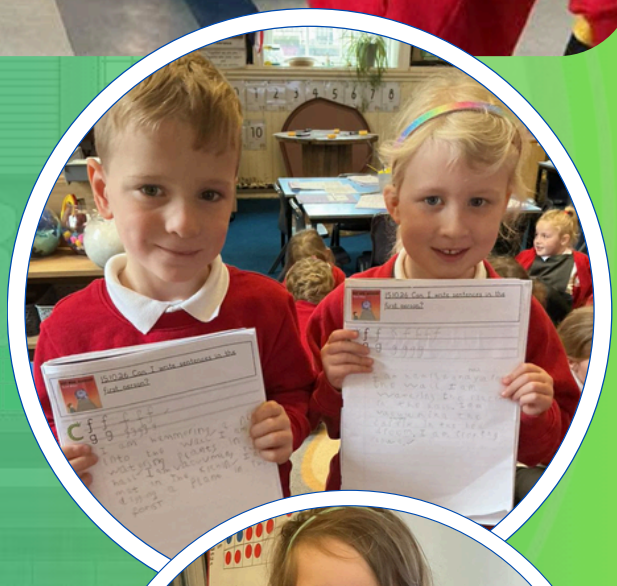
In Maths, we have focused on number bonds to 10 and then moved onto addition.

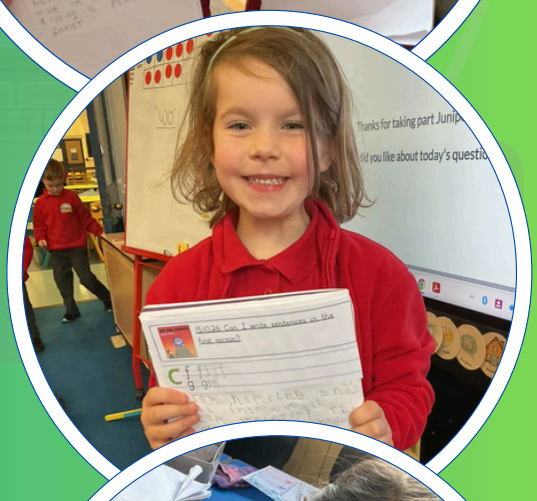
In **English** we have started reading a brand new text, Not Now, Bernard by David McKee. We analysed the front cover to predict what the story might be about.

In **Computing**, we have completed our unit about technology around us learning the parts of computers, laptops and tablets and learning how to drag to draw and begin typing on a keyboard.

In **Science**, we have started our new animals unit by looking at the features of mammals, and finding out that humans are mammals too.

In **History**, we have been looking at old photos to see how Low Fell has changed.







Curriculum



Y2



In **English** we have been exploring the poem Someone, by Walter de la Mare. We used our imaginations to think about colours, shapes, and feelings that appeared in our minds when listening to the poem.



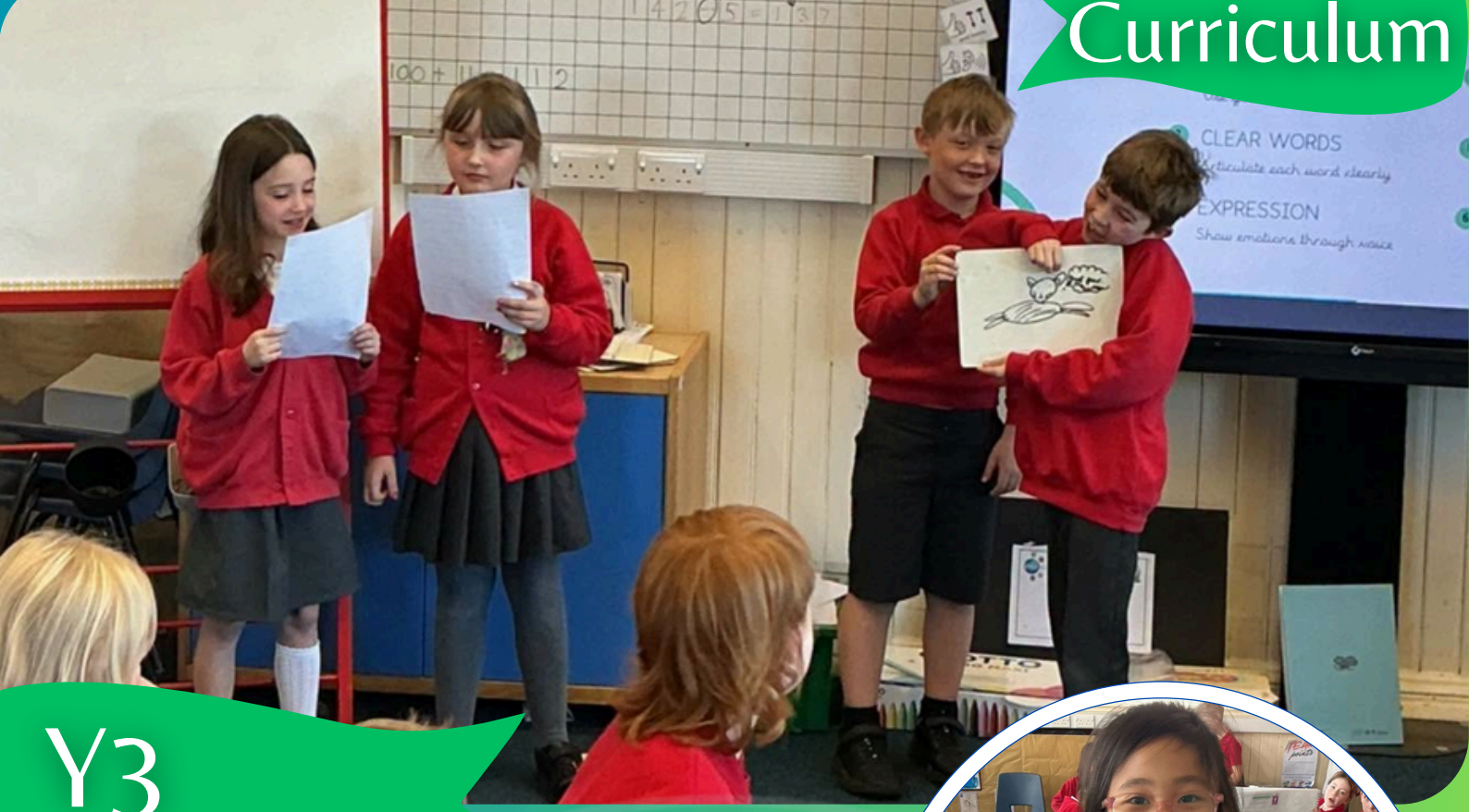
In **Maths**, we have been adding and subtract 10 from a given number. We have worked hard to find our remarkable ad show when this task gets more difficult mathemtically.



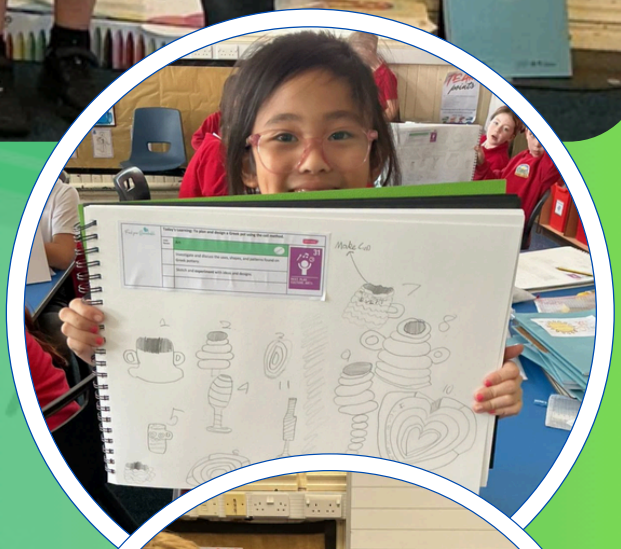
In **Geography**, we have started our new topic, Beach Detectives, by labelling the seas and oceans around the UK and the four countries that make up the UK.

In **Art**, we have been using our watercolour skills to create some paintings inspired by Claude Monet.

Curriculum



Y3

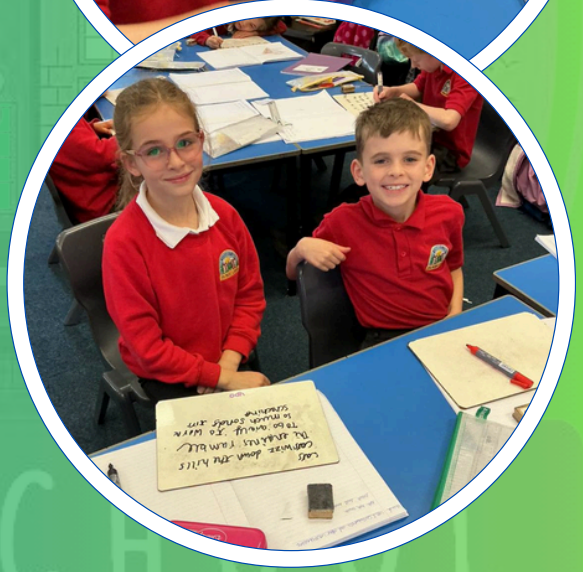


In **English** we have been using our senses to write our own poems, linked to The Magic of the Brain by Jenny Joseph.



In Maths, we have been adding numbers and looking at adding across 100's barriers.

In **History**, we have started our new topic, Great Greek Rivals, by placing Ancient Greece on a timeline and finding out what BC means.



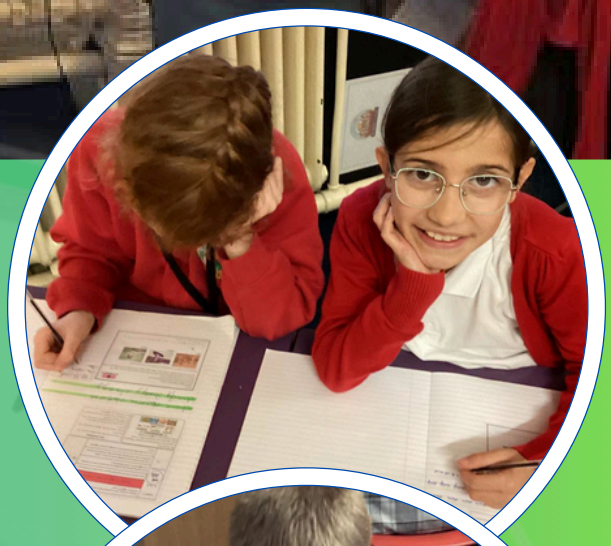
In **Art**, we have been exploring the shapes and patterns of Ancient Greek pots and sketching designs for our own coil pots.

In **Science**, we have been learning how our skeleton supports and protects our body, such as the skull protecting the brain.

Curriculum



Y4



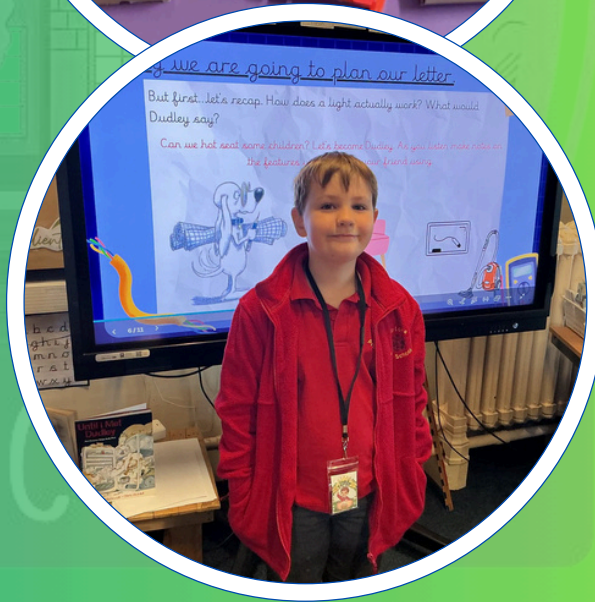
In **English** we have been planning a letter to inform, linked to our class text Until I Met Dudley.



In **Maths,** we have been subtracting a 4 digit number from another 4 digit number. We've checked our answers using the inverse operaton.

In **Computing**, we have been learning how to tell whether information and images online are reliable or fake.

In **Music** we continued developing our skills in playing the xylophone. We practised playing simple melodies, following musical patterns and recognising different notes.



In **Science**, we have been sorting animals into groups by their features.

Curriculum



Y5





In **English** we have been reading and analysing the poem, The Tyger, by William Blake. We made predictions about the poem and came up with our own rhyming couplets.

In **Maths,** we have been finding multiples, common factors and learning about prime numbers.

In **History**, we have started our new topic, When the Romans Came, by learning what an invasion is and how invasions have changed over time.

In **DT** we made a poke bowl native to Hawaii. We learned all about chopping, slicing and dicing and followed the safety rules very well. T



Y6

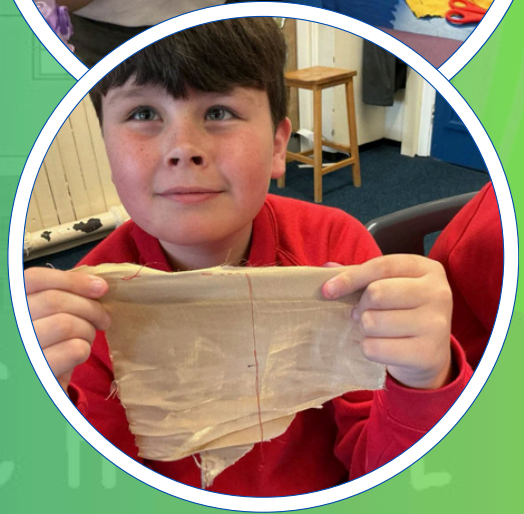


In **English** we have been using drama to explore character thoughts and feelings, linked to our class text Beowulf, by Michael Morpurgo.



In **Maths**, we have been dividing using short and long division. We've then moved onto order of operations using the BIDMAS rule.

In **History**, we have started our new topic, World at War, by exploring the causes of war.



In **Science**, we have been comparing animals' features and sorting them into groups.

In **DT**, we have been practising sewing techniques to start our textiles unit in DT. We have been experimenting with running stitch, back stitch and whip stitch.

500 Words Writing Competition



The 500 Words writing competition is now open, and we would love to see some of our Kells Lane writers have a go! Each year a handful of our pupils enter, and it is a brilliant chance for children to be brave, get creative and write their very own story of no more than 500 words.

Entries are written at home, in children's own time. The competition website has everything you need, including the competition details, terms and conditions, ideas for inspiration and helpful learning resources.

We would love to see what our writers create too! You can email their stories to the school office (KellsLane@klps.org.uk), for the attention of their class teacher, or bring in a printed copy, and we will share them in school.

Entries close at 9pm
Friday 6th November 2026

Find out more and enter here:
bbc.co.uk/teach/500-words

23
CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

INCLUSION & SEND





SEND HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES

IN GATESHEAD





Looking for fun, inclusive activities this half term?

There are lots of exciting opportunities for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) across Gateshead and the surrounding area. From swimming and creative arts to music and social activities, there's something for everyone!

Activities for children and young people aged 0–25

CREATIVE & ARTS ACTIVITIES

- Inclusive art workshops
- Creative sessions at the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art
- Artist-led activities through the Baltic Stars Programme

MUSIC & PERFORMANCE

- Accessible Inclusive Music (AIM) online choir
- Music and performance opportunities with Aukestra

SPORT & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

- Dedicated SEND swimming sessions
- Inclusive leisure opportunities across Gateshead

SOCIAL & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- SEND-friendly groups and clubs
- Opportunities to meet new friends and build confidence

FIND OUT MORE

Visit the Gateshead SEND Local Offer and SEND Activities Directory for up-to-date information on local activities, support services, sessions, locations and booking details.

Inclusive Activities for All

www.gateshead.gov.uk/localoffer

Gateshead Council

Here for you

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

MANAGING DIGITAL BOUNDARIES FOR CHILDREN UNDER FIVE

Screens are part of everyday life, but they should not take over early childhood routines. For under-fives, healthy digital habits are built through simple, steady boundaries that protect sleep, play, connection, and development. Current UK guidance advises avoiding screen time for children under two – except for shared activities such as video calls – while children aged two to five should ideally have no more than one hour a day.

1 ASK A GROWN-UP FIRST

For under-fives, autonomy is important, but not when it comes to choosing digital content. Establish an 'ask a grown-up first' rule early, whether at home or in an early years setting. Adults should choose the video, app, or game, therefore helping children avoid unsuitable content and understand that devices are tools to be guided, not toys to control.

2 PROTECT SLEEP BUFFERS

Screens can make it harder for young children to wind down, especially when content is bright, noisy, or fast paced. Aim for a screen-free hour before sleep or start with 30 minutes if that feels more realistic. Use this time for calming routines such as stories, bath time, quiet play, or cuddles, helping children recognise that bedtime is approaching.

3 CO-VIEW AND CHAT

Screen time is safer and more meaningful when adults are involved. Sit with children, even briefly, and talk about what they're watching. Ask simple questions like, "What can you see?" or "How does that character feel?" This turns passive viewing into shared interaction, supports language development, and helps adults spot adverts, unsuitable content, or confusing messages.

4 KEEP DEVICES HIDDEN

Young children are more likely to ask for screens when they can see or reach them. Keep devices out of sight when they're not being used, and consider casting content to a shared screen instead of handing over a phone or tablet to a child. This reduces private scrolling, supports shared viewing, and helps adults stay in control of what appears next.

5 PLAN THE TRANSITION

The hardest part of screen time is often stopping. Before the screen goes off, tell the child what's coming next and offer two acceptable choices, such as blocks or drawing. This gives them a sense of agency without removing the boundary. A planned next activity prevents a sudden gap, which can quickly become frustration or distress.

6 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children notice adult habits long before they understand adult explanations. If they're expected to put their screens away, they need to see adults doing the same thing during meals, play, and conversations. Create a shared 'phone home', such as a basket or shelf, to show that technology has a place in daily life but does not need constant attention.

7 MAKE SCREENS PREDICTABLE

Young children do not always understand minutes, but they quickly learn patterns. When screen time happens at a regular point in the day, it becomes a routine rather than a negotiation. Use the same start and finish signals each time, such as a timer, goodbye wave, or tidy-away moment, so children know what to expect next.

8 CREATE SCREEN ZONES

Physical boundaries help children understand digital boundaries. Keep screens out of bedrooms to protect their sleep and away from tables to preserve mealtime connections. Choose one agreed 'yes space', such as a shared living room area or supervised classroom corner. This makes limits feel less personal and more like a clear family or setting routine.

9 USE SIMPLE SCRIPTS

Transitions are easier when children hear the same calm language each time. Use short, repeatable phrases such as, "First tidy, then tablet," or "When the timer beeps, we stop." Avoid long explanations during emotional moments. Simple scripts reduce negotiation, help adults stay consistent, and give children clear expectations they can gradually understand and follow.

10 PRIORITISE SLOW CONTENT

Not all screen time feels the same to a young child's brain. Fast-paced clips, loud sounds, and rapid scene changes can make it harder for some children to settle down afterwards. Choose slower content with simple stories, gentle voices, and natural pauses. Think of digital content like food, with more calm, nourishing choices than fast-paced, digital 'sugar rushes'.

Meet Our Expert



Neha Agarwal is the founder of Cyber Ved Kids, an innovative educational initiative that transforms complex cybersecurity concepts into engaging, age-appropriate adventures for children aged 3-10. With her unique background leading cybersecurity services for corporates and serving as an expert panel advisor on Internet Matters, Neha brings corporate-grade cybersecurity expertise to the early years world.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 01.07.2026

DIARY DATES

Any changes/updates will be highlighted in green

Autumn Term	
Tuesday 1st September	Inset day – no children in school
Wednesday 2nd September	Start of new term for children
W/c Monday 7th September	Y6 Elm Bikeability week
W/c Monday 14th September	Y6 Larch Bikeability week
Wednesday 16th September	EYFS/Year 1 – Animals About Town (rearranged visit from summer term)
Wednesday 16th September	Year 2 – Reading in Year 2 -session for parents 5pm
Thursday 17th & 23rd September (info to follow)	Photographer in school – individual and sibling photos
Wednesday 7th October	Y5 visit to the Centre for Life
Wednesday 7th October	Kells Lane Fundraising Group AGM 7.30pm The Black Horse, Low Fell Everyone welcome
Thursday 8th October	Y3 visit to Beamish Museum
Wednesday 14th October	Reception Stay & Play *(1 parent per child)* Early reading session for parents 1.45-2.15pm Stay & Play session 2.15 - 3.15pm Sign up information to be sent out
Thursday 15th October	Reception Stay & Play *(1 parent per child)* Early reading session for parents 1.45-2.15pm Stay & Play session 2.15 - 3.15pm Sign up information to be sent out
Wednesday 21st October	Y3 & Y4 Halloween Disco
Thursday 22nd October	Y5 & Y6 Halloween Disco
Friday 23rd October	Last day of term – non uniform day *(1 donation per family please)*
Half Term (Monday 26th – Friday 30th October) 31st October – deadline for secondary school applications	
Monday 2nd November	Inset day – no children in school
Tuesday 3rd November	First day of term
Tuesday 3rd November	Y5 visit to Segedunum
Monday 16th November	Odd Socks Day – all children invited to wear odd socks to mark anti-bullying week
17th, 18th & 19th November	Parents Evenings
Friday 20th November	Children in Need- children are invited to wear pyjamas to school to raise money for the charity
Wednesday 25th November	Choir Christmas Tree Light Switch On
Wednesday 2nd December	Reception (Cedar) Nativity performance for Cedar parents/carers (3 tickets per child) 2.30pm

Find your Remarkable

Thursday 3rd December	**Reception (Holly)** Nativity performance for Holly parents/carers (3 tickets per child) 2.30pm
Monday 7th December	**Y1 Poplar** Christmas Crafternoon – 1 parent per child 2.30-3.30
Monday 7th December	**Flu Immunisations**
Tuesday 8th December	**Y1 Juniper** Christmas Crafternoon – 1 parent per child 2.30-3.30
Wednesday 9th December	**Y3 & Y5** watching pantomime performance at The Little Theatre
Wednesday 9th December	**Y2 Beech** Christmas Crafternoon – 1 parent per child 2.30-3.30
Wednesday 9th December	**Year 1 & Year 2** watching Christmas performance of Tinsel Tally in school
Wednesday 9th December	Christmas jumper day
Thursday 10th December	**Y2 Rowan** Christmas Crafternoon – 1 parent per child 2.30-3.30
Thursday 10th/Friday 11th December	Elfridges Christmas Sale for children (information will follow)
Thursday 10th December	**Reception** watching Christmas performance of The Littlest Elf in school
Monday 14th December	**Reception & Y4** Christmas Parties. *Children come to school in party clothes*
Tuesday 15th December	**Y1 & Y5** Christmas Parties. *Children come to school in party clothes*
Wednesday 16th December	**Y4 & Y6** watching pantomime performance at The Little Theatre
Wednesday 16th December	**Nursery & Y3** Christmas Parties. *Children come to school in party clothes*
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Dinner day
Thursday 17th December	**Y2 & Y6** Christmas Parties. *Children come to school in party clothes*
Friday 18th December	Last day of term – non uniform day *(1 donation per family please)*
Spring Term	
Monday 4th January	First day of term
Tuesday 12th January	**Y1** Phonics screening information session for parents 5pm
Wednesday 13th January	**Y6** – SATS meeting for parents (no children to attend) 5pm
Wednesday 20th January	**Reception Cedar** Stay & Play session (1 parent per child) 1.30-2.00pm early maths information session 2.00-3.15pm Stay & Play
Thursday 21st January	**Reception Holly** Stay & Play session (1 parent per child) 1.30-2.00pm early maths information session 2.00-3.15pm Stay & Play

Friday 15th January	Reception Application Closing Date
Friday 12th February	Last day of term – non uniform day *(1 donation per family please)*
Half Term (Monday 15th – Friday 19th February)	
Monday 22nd February	First day of term
Friday 5th March	World Book Day – *children to dress as their favourite book character*
Wednesday 10th March	Y3 & Y4 Easter Disco
Thursday 11th March	Y5 & Y6 Easter Disco
16th, 17th,18th March	Parents Evenings
Monday 22nd March	Reception & Apple Egg Decorating (1 parent per child) @2.15pm
Tuesday 23rd March	Y1 Egg Decorating (1 parent per child) @2.30pm
Wednesday 24th March	Blossom Egg Decorating (1 parent per child) @2.15pm
Wednesday 24th March	Y2 Egg Decorating (1 parent per child) @2.30pm
Thursday 25th March	Last day of term – non uniform day *(1 donation per family please)*
Summer Term	
Monday 12th April	First day of term
Monday 19th April	Y5 Spring Showcase for parents @2.45pm *2 parents per child*
Tuesday 20th April	Y4 Spring Showcase for parents @2.45pm *2 parents per child*
Wednesday 21st April	Y3 Spring Showcase for parents @2.45pm *2 parents per child*
Thursday 22nd April	Y1 Spring Showcase for parents @2.45pm *2 parents per child*
W/c Monday 10th May	Y6 SATS week
Tuesday 18th May	Y4 Robinwood Residential meeting for parents 5pm
Wednesday 19th May	Y6 London Residential meeting for parents 5pm
Friday 28th May	Last day of term – non uniform day *(chocolate or bottle donation for summer fair tombola)*
Half Term (Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June)	
Monday 7th June	First day of term
W/c Monday 7th June	Y4 Multiplication Check week
Wednesday 9th June	New Nursery Parents Welcome Meeting @5pm
W/c Monday 14th June	Y1 Phonics Screening Check week
Monday 7th June SPORTS WEEK	Sports Day – Confirmed 9:30-10:40 - Year 3 and 4 11:00-12:10 - Year 5 and 6 12:30-13:40 - Year 1 and 2

Children should come to school in PE kit all week (please wear team colours)	14:00- 15:10- Reception
Wednesday 16th June	New Reception Parents Welcome Meeting @5pm
Monday 14th – Wednesday 16th June	Y4 Residential to Robinwood
Monday 14th – Thursday 17th June	Y6 Residential to London
W/c Monday 28th June	Whole school transition week
Wednesday 30th June	Y2 & Y3 Summer Disco
Thursday 1st July	Y4 & Y5 Summer Disco
Friday 2nd July	Parents to meet new class teachers @2.45pm (1 parent per child)
W/c Monday 5th July	End of Year Reports to be sent home
Wednesday 7th July	Y2 (Rowan) End of Year Production performance for Rowan parents/carers *(3 tickets per child)* 2.45pm
Thursday 8th July	Y2 (Beech) End of Year Production performance for Beech parents/carers *(3 tickets per child)* 2.45pm
Friday 9th July	Summer Fair
Date to be confirmed	Y6 End of Year Production @ 5.15pm
Wednesday 14th July	Reception graduation @ 2.45pm
Thursday 15th July	Y6 Leavers Assembly @ 5pm
Friday 16th July	Last day of term – children to wear school uniform. *Children may bring a toy (not electronic)*