

KEEPING IN TOUCH



Message from Mr M

Did You Know...



A recent poll of more than 7,000 teachers has revealed that 38% have dealt with pastoral issues involving WhatsApp this academic year.

Despite the social media app's minimum age limit of 13, the problem is most acute in primary schools, where 44% of teachers reported dealing with incidents involving WhatsApp, such as bullying, anxiety and friendship issues. These findings are a big concern and we are reaching out to parents to make sure your child is not using WhatsApp.

We have had previous incidents of pupils at Le Cateau using WhatsApp inappropriately which led to Police involvement!

Safer Internet Day - 10th Feb

Year 3 will be leading the whole school in a series of activities, workshops and assemblies next week as part of SAFER INTERNET DAY 2026.

This focussed day builds on our continuous e-safety learning that we deliver making sure our pupils are safe online! Have a chat with your child about what they already know



Power of Reading

The power of reading enhances cognitive function, foster empathy, and improves mental health, while also accelerating language acquisition and vocabulary development.

It reduces stress, increases focus, and boosts knowledge, making it a vital tool for lifelong learning and personal growth. Reading sparks imagination, strengthens the brain, and acts as a source of enjoyment.

We have seen so many pupils really engaging with our reading focus across school and benefitting from this focus.



Year 6 SATs Parent Events

Calling all Year 6 parents...



Year 6 teaching staff will be hosting a Parent Workshop providing key information about the Year 6 SATs which take place in May. The sessions outline the important ways in which you can support your child prepare for these assessments.

Tuesday 10th Feb @ 3:30pm Year 6 Block
Thursday 12th Feb @ 2:30pm School Hall
(enter via Breakfast Club door)

PARENT MEETINGS



- 24/25/26 February 2026
- Appointment times: 3:30pm - 6:30pm
- Face to face meetings take place in your child's classroom

We are pleased to host face to face Parent Consultation meetings with your child's class teacher.

Book your appointment via the ARBOR app.

NEED ASSISTANCE WITH BOOKING?

- 01748 832292
- admin@le-cateau.n-yorks.sch.uk



Key Stage 2 Snacks



The roll out of our play time snacks policy for Key Stage 2 has been well received this week and a noticeable difference with some pupils having a better focus having eaten something healthy! Only a small number of children have had to be reminded about what they are allowed to eat at break time! The school policy is; fruit and veg unless a reasonable adjustment has been agreed with a senior member of staff.

Safeguarding

Weekly Message from Mrs Cafferty



This week the children have been learning about Artificial Intelligence (AI) in assembly.

It was pleasing to see that many of the children showed an excellent awareness of what AI is; what it can do and what its limitations are.

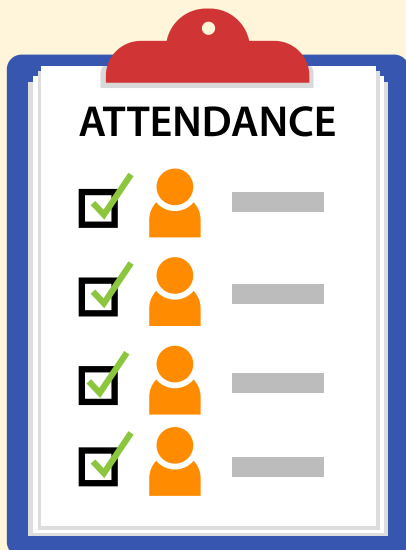
For more information and guidance about how to talk to children about AI, the NSPCC website is a great starting point:



<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-to-children-about-ai/>

Attendance Matters

This weeks attendance winners are



with an amazing

Lateness



Please do ensure that your child is at school on time as there are valuable learning opportunities set for before and during register time

This week we have had **209 minutes** of lost learning due to lateness. **38 children** were late this week



KSI STAR ASSEMBLY





KS2 STAR ASSEMBLY



Equally Important

Equally Different

5/6 DODGEBALL



3/4 DODGEBALL



PANCAKE DAY



Join us

ON: Tuesday 10th
February

for a **FLIPPIN'**
delicious lunch



NYES | Catering

PANCAKE DAY



Crispy Chicken Wrap

Potato Wedges

Pancake with Ice-cream

Join us
for a

FLIPPIN'

delicious lun h



NYES

R A B Y

February Half Term Space Adventure Trail

Family Saver Ticket

Online | £10.00

On Site | £12.00



Explore the great outdoors through woodlands to the waterfall, sparking your little ones' curiosity in all things astronomy and space along the way.

www.raby.co.uk/high-force highforcehotel@raby.co.uk 01833 662336

High Force Hotel & Waterfall, Alston Road, Forest-In-Teesdale, County Durham, DL12 0XH [f](#) [X](#) [@](#)

RABY

Half Term Family Explorer Ticket



Step back in time with
The Servant School at
Raby Castle



Explore The Plotters'
Forest Dragon Quest



Spot the majestic
Deer roaming in the
picturesque parkland



Seed Sowing
in the stunning
Walled Gardens



Exclusive Offer

10% off Family Explorer Tickets with the Code FEB10

www.raby.co.uk/events/family-explorer-tickets admin@raby.co.uk 01833 660202

Raby Castle, Staindrop, Darlington, County Durham, DL2 3AH



Terms and conditions apply.



FS1 Bears



This week we will be reading 'Love Monster' by Rachel Bright. The children will be creating their own Love monsters and making gifts and cards for valentines. In maths we will be looking at the numerals 1-5 and counting out hearts for the Love monster. You can watch the Love monster story here.



Forest Schools:

After half term Forest Schools will be moving from Tuesday morning to Monday morning.



Caterpillar Room

This week we have had so much fun blowing bubbles and using different resources to create different sized bubbles. We have been working hard with learning our colours and have been using our rainbow dominoes to sort and match colours as well as looking at numbers 1-5. Next week we will be reading 'My Snowy Valentine' by David Peterson. We will be creating our own valentines gifts and cards, enjoying lots of Valentines themed sensory trays and creating our own large scale footprint art like Jasper bunny from the story,

With the weather still being so cold please can we ensure children have a thick warm coat, hat and gloves everyday, we are outside in all weathers..



News from the Nest



Next week we will be reading *The Love Bug* with a Valentines Theme. In Math we will be revisiting colours with a colour hunt and sorting. We will be making yummy pancakes, the children will be measuring the ingredients and then decorating them for snack.

We will be making love potions- what will you put in yours?

We will be looking at who we love and the things that are special to us.

The children will enjoy and explore our fun messy tuff trays.

We have had lots of fun this term.





The week in Year 1

This week the children have been gaining a deeper knowledge of Neil Armstrong and his amazing achievements. They have enjoyed researching all about his life and his journey to become the first man on the moon. The children too pride in creating fascinating fact files on Neil Armstrong which were a pleasure to read. In Maths we are continuing to work on numbers to 40. The children have had fun consolidating their understanding of place value by engaging in a range of activities. The children have explored physical and human features of our local area in geography.

In Science, the children have been exploring different animal groups and identifying their significant features.

In Art, the children are continuing to explore sculptures and will be creating their own human sculpture from clay.



Don't forget



PE Monday - Outdoor - Ball skills
Tuesday - Indoor -Gymnastics

If your child wears earrings, please can we ask that these are removed before school on PE days, thank you.

As the weather can be unpredictable pupils need to bring a coat to school and appropriate outdoor clothing as we will be accessing the outdoor area as much as we can.

Special shout outs for Year 1:

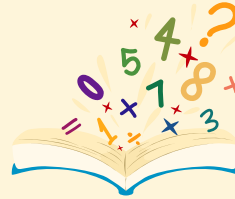
1E - Hunter, Kristina and Kai.

1C- All children for amazing independent writing.

1H - Umika, Miley and Sophia

This week in Year 2

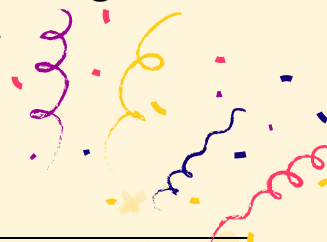
This week the children have been doing their Maths and English assessments. This will give us valuable information on your child's level of attainment which we can discuss at the upcoming Parents' Evening. Everyone has tried very hard and can be proud of what they have achieved. It is also a good exercise in exposing the children to a low key test environment, preparing them for as they progress up the school.



Next week we will return to normal curriculum lessons, and continue with our topic of inventors and in Maths we will start to look at money in what is the last week of this half term (half way through Year 2 already!).



already!).



Shout out this week goes to:

Shout out this week to

Oli B and Rhys in 2W for a fantastic effort in their Maths tests.

Arla in 2R for being Ready Respectful and Safe at all times (our school motto)



Year 3 Heart & Aces & Incredible Llamas



Well done everyone in Year 3 for their hard work! We have been focusing on improving our presentation and being more independent with our learning.

We are enjoying some fantastic teamwork in PE and learning all about working together.

In RE we have been looking at the features of a church and making our own stained glass windows. Our French this week has been continuing to learn the names of musical instruments.



3HA: Thea and Erin for their brilliant explanations in maths.

3IL: To all the children who attended dodgeball competitions for super behaviour and manners.

Reminder:

Bring in a jar and a shoebox if you have any - ready for some projects next week.

Tuesday 17th March - we will be inviting you all to come and view our Amazing Egyptian Exhibition in school in the afternoon.

Watch out for more details!

Thursday 19th March - we are hoping to visit the Hancock museum to support our learning in history. Watch this space for more details.



Year 4 Butterflies & Tigers

Year 4, have been finding out how the Roman Army was so powerful, successful and why they were one of the most feared armies in History.



In Science pupils have identified the function of the parts involved in the digestive system.

In Art children have used sketching skills to draw a Roman Soldier and will use this image to name the equipment that a Roman Soldier would wear.

In music, children are learning to play a repetitive tune and sing a song in rounds.

In PE, pupils are developing tactics in basketball to help them win a game situation.

Well done!



Congratulations...

Butterfly of the Week: Jale for excellent sentence work!

Tiger of the Week:

Tiger of the week is Vika for her brilliant learning in all areas.

Don't Forget

Tuesday am - Indoor PE
Friday am - Outdoor PE

Monday 9th February: Year 4 to work with an author in school.



Year 5 Hummingbirds & Stars



The children enjoyed their visit to Hopetown this week, they have learnt lots about the first modes of transport and George Stephenson which will help them with their history lessons over the next few weeks.

We have been learning about the Northern and Southern Hemisphere in geography and have been focussing on researching and comparing Japan and Chile this week.

In art, the children have created some beautiful blossom trees and had a go at making sculptures out of tin foil. They look impressive!



Upcoming Events:

5S Swimming every Wednesday
5H Swimming every Friday

Author visit Monday 9th February.

Cinema visit Wednesday 25th March.

Any money to be paid for swimming or trips can be paid via the school office or Arbor.

Shout out:

5S - Dylan for fantastic setting description!

Robbie and Izzy for brilliant questions in our history workshops!

5H – Leo and Leyla for always being ready, respectful and safe!

Year 6 Hawks & Heroes

We have a Titanic diorama activity planned for STEM week in March that involves every child needing a shoe box – please can you start to save your shoe boxes; a great excuse to go shopping! Potentially you may want some fabric, cardboard etc too.



We will be using short sections of the film Titanic to inspire our writing. If you do not wish your child to watch the film, please contact your class teacher.



Shout outs:

6RH

James and Henry: Always helping with the tidying up!
Theo: Supporting his peers with errors in their learning in a mature way.

6JH:

Summer – superlearner of the week for her fantastic writing
Isaac – much improved focus
Lewis – brilliant writing
Finnley and Quinn – great fraction work

Reminder for parents:

Outdoor PE – Thursday
Indoor PE – Friday



Tuesday 10th 3:30pm (Yr 6 block) Supporting your child with SATs meeting.

and

Thursday 12th February 2:30 (hall)