

KEEPING IN TOUCH



Message from Mr M

Junior Duke Crazy!

The launch of Junior Dukes has gone crazy in school with over 100 applications to sign up. This is a really exciting new adventure at Le Cateau which is being led by Mrs Hellens.



The first sessions get underway after the Easter Holidays and we will be communicating the arrangements prior to the end of this term.

We can't wait to get going with this new adventure!

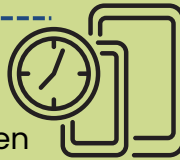
Lovely To See You!

STEM Week is always an action packed week at Le Cateau with our Parent and Child Sessions always a popular event. This year has been no different and we are grateful to the vast number of you who managed to attend the sessions with your child. There was a real buzz around school and we hope you enjoyed getting involved!



Screen Time Worry

There is a huge concern nationally regarding the large amount of time children are spending on devices.



This is something we have significant worries about in school as we observe the way in which children's behaviour have changed over recent years.

Having spoken to several parents and pupils over the last couple of weeks, there is clearly an obsession with devices leading to constant battles.

I have been hugely shocked by the number of hours pupils are spending on devices with many spending 5-6 hours each day! At weekends, this increases to over 10 hours! Pupils are sharing that they have their devices in their bedrooms all night and examples of them accessing them during the night.

This is having a huge impact on the development of children with their social and emotional skills really suffering. The parents I have spoken to are also finding it increasingly challenging with meltdowns at home. We all need to act to help our children!

Pre-loved Uniform Hub

The Hub is open every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings at the start of the school day.

The Hub has a range of items of uniform that are in really good condition so head along and see what you can pick up for a very small fee.



Orchestra Visit

Our EYFS and Year 1 children are in for a real treat next week as they spend a morning working with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. The team are set to join us once again and share their talents with the children as well as getting them involved. This takes place on Tuesday 17th March!

Bake Sale

Well done to a group of Year 6 pupils who planned, organised and delivered a Bake Sale this week raising money for Cancer Research. Poppy B, Auden D, Lola L, Emily D, Ava N and Henry L have worked really hard and wanted to do their bit for charity.

The group have been really proactive in setting this up and seeing their confident approach to organising this event was a great.

They had a clear plan and knew what they wanted to achieve resulting in a total of **£100** raised.





Safeguarding

Weekly Message from Mrs Cafferty



School Anxiety and Refusal

If your child is feeling anxious about school, it can be exhausting for both of you.

Many parents in this situation describe feeling very worried about their child, and overwhelmed by the pressure to get their child to school and get on with their day.

Even when your child does get to the school gate, you might be left worrying about how they'll cope.

Strategies you can try at home

- Create a morning routine or timetable
- Recognise small achievements e.g. getting dressed, teeth brushed etc.
- Think together about how your child can manage their anxiety
- Encourage them to do things that help them relax
- Try to take the pressure off - consider simplifying or ditching tasks that are not essential

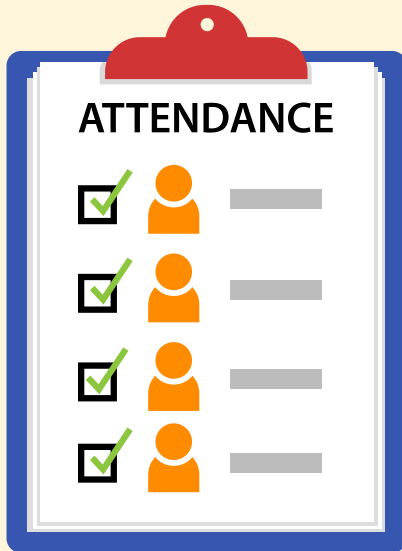
More details and ideas on this subject can be found on:





Attendance Matters

This weeks attendance winners are



Whales
with an amazing
100%



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 **680 minutes** of lost learning due to lateness. We have had **43 pupils** arriving late this week!

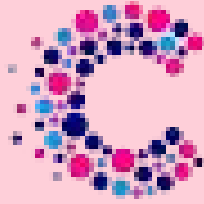


Absences

All absences need to be reported by **9 AM** to the **school office**. Messages passed through the teacher don't always make it to the office.



Y6 Bake Sale for



CANCER
RESEARCH
UK



Celebrating
STEM
WEEK



Having issues getting your child to read?

Want your little one to develop their language and communication skills, so they make better progress?

Then this is the club you need!

Read with Me!



We are offering a chance for your child to stay after school and read with an adult and/or another child, to develop their love of books! Parents and carers who wish to join us are most welcome.

When? Thursdays from 3:20pm until 4:00pm (**First session starts 19th March 2026**)

Where? Meet through the double doors just past the office reception desk; next to 5S classroom

Who? Spaces are available for up to 16 pupils in Years 3 and 4.

First come-first served! You will receive an invitation/permission slip in the upcoming week. Just complete and return it to your child's/children's teacher to reserve a place.

Looking forward to reading soon!!



WE ARE RECRUITING...

AN ADVANCED TEACHING ASSISTANT FOR OUR FOUNDATION STAGE 1 (NURSERY)

33.75 HOURS PER WEEK

MONDAY TO FRIDAY 8.30AM - 4.00PM

(INITIALLY FIXED TERM UNTIL JULY 2026)

START DATE: AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

PAYPOINT: GRADE E / SCALE POINT 6 - 9

(£25,989 - £27,254 FULL TIME EQUIVALENT)

CLOSING DATE: SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2026

INTERVIEW DATE: WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH 2026



Considering applying? For further information, please contact Mrs Galloway regarding the role. For an application pack, please email: admin@le-cateau.n-yorks.sch.uk All applications should be accompanied by a letter of application.



JUNIOR DUKE AWARD

WORLD-LEADING CHILDREN'S LIFE SKILLS
AWARD

**DEVELOP CONFIDENCE, INDEPENDENCE,
RESILIENCE AND WELL-BEING**

At our school, we are offering the well-established Junior Duke Award to our pupils. It is a life skills Award for children aged around 3 to 13. It helps children to learn to look after themselves and raises awareness of cultures, traditions and how to appreciate and protect our world. For each of the primary-school year groups, there is an age-appropriate workbook which has clearly explained challenges. Thereafter, there is a portal for the two Senior Duke levels. There is one level per year. Although some of the skills may be touched on in school, it is hoped that children will spend time completing the challenges with parents, friends and grand parents. On completion, the school will award the children with their well-earned certificates and badges.

The ten different levels:

- Nano Duke Micro Duke
- Silver Mini Duke Gold
- Mini Duke Bronze
- Junior Duke Silver
- Junior Duke Gold
- Junior Duke Platinum
- Junior Duke Silver
- Senior Duke Gold
- Senior Duke
-

WHY CHOOSE TO TAKE THE JUNIOR DUKE CHALLENGE?



In our fast-paced world, as adults, many of us find that it's simplest and quickest to do things for our children rather than giving them the time to learn, try, fail, make a mess then, finally, master the skills. We must embrace the madness and the mess because children aren't little for long! It's also tempting to help children as soon as they look as though they are about to fail because we want them to feel success rather than the frustration of not managing a skill...yet. That is why we are choosing to offer the Junior Duke Award to our pupils this year. We would really like your help, time and guidance with it to allow children to get out of their comfort zones to learn to grasp skills like washing their sheets, cooking dinner, doing the shopping and building fires. We know that sometimes it's hard to stand back and allow them to make mistakes (especially if they may be in danger!) and to give them the responsibility to do certain things independently, perhaps failing a few times on the way to success. However, we also know how empowered children feel once they learn new skills and, as we know, future employers look to employ well-rounded people with hard skills as well as the soft skills required for many tasks in the Junior Duke! Once a child has learned a skill such as how to make a cup of tea, it's something they should do regularly forever more. Therefore, we hope you will help by gently pushing your child to learn new tasks and to keep working to improve on them. Who knows, they will hopefully discover they have new passions and talents!





FS1 Bears

Next week we will be reading 'Oh, Carrots!' by Mariajo Ilustrajo. This is a story about a little rabbit and a talking carrot. You can hear the story here.



We will be planting carrots, eating carrots, printing with carrots and even making our own talking carrot!

Just a reminder that forest school will now take place on Monday- am Friday- pm



Caterpillar Room

This week has been STEM week and we have enjoyed a range of activities linked to STEM, including taking part in a smarties maths challenge where we focused on colour matching, we have looked at the parts of a plant and on Tuesday we planted seeds in toilet roll tubes, we loved having you join us for that.

There has been so much enthusiasm and excitement from all.

Next week we will be carrying on our topic of spring has sprung as well as continuing to follow the childrens interests. We will be looking at the book 'The tiny seed' by Eric Carle. We will be planting beans and we look forward to watching them grow. On Friday 20th we will be celebrating 'The Hungry Caterpillar' day and we will be making some fruit kebabs to enjoy.

In EPIC next week we will be creating some large scale artwork using our feet.

FS2 Mice & Hippos

Our STEM week was a fantastic success! The children loved taking part in the Smartie challenge in maths, where we explored different ways to record and present their results. We also had a very successful parent and child challenge, where families creatively changed and adapted a toilet roll holder to make bug hotels and bird feeders. In science, the children enjoyed investigating which paper towel had the best absorption, while learning and using scientific vocabulary.



What a great week for all!

News from the Nest



This week we have explored all the different mini beasts as we enter Spring. Maths we focused on shapes and our writing 1-10 skills.



Next week we will be looking at the term 'one more and one less' in Maths. We will continue to focus on our writing skills throughout Maths and Literacy, whilst enjoying our favourite Spring books and enjoying the outdoors.

PE- Thursday
Forest School- Friday





The week in Year 1

This week the children have had a great week of STEM activities. The children have had great fun exploring a wide range of activities linked to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

In English the children have been learning about the importance of clear instructions. They have enjoyed instructing their friends.

They then finished the week off by writing clear instructions. Our STEM activities have included a smartie activity, where the children have been counting colours, adding and subtracting and creating bar charts. The children have enjoyed our whole school challenge of finding the most absorbent kitchen roll. They enjoyed predicting a result, conducting the investigation and documenting their findings.

We finished the week off with a wonderful visit from the Rotton Rotters. The children learnt all about the importance of reduce, reuse and recycle and enjoyed a smoothie made from a bike.

Don't forget



PE: Monday - Outdoor - Health and well-being
Tuesday - Indoor - Ball skills (Hands)

Our Year 1 production is:

**Tuesday 24th March 9:15am and
Thursday 26th March 2:15pm**



Special shout outs for Year 1:

To all the Year 1 parents who attended our wonderful parent/ child activity afternoon. It was a very successful afternoon with lots of amazing creative masterpieces.



This week in Year 2

We've had a fantastic and successful STEM Week in school! The children have enjoyed exploring a wide range of activities linked to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. We hope you've had the chance to see some of the photos on Seesaw or have heard the children excitedly sharing what they've been learning. A big thank you to those who joined us for our Bug Hotel building session—it was wonderful to have families involved.

Next week, we return to our normal timetable.

At some point, all children will complete a short reading and maths assessment, which will provide us with valuable information about their progress this year.

In English, we will begin a new focus, reading a book based on the true story of a man who built a submarine for his daughter.

In Maths, we will continue our work on 2D shapes and their properties.

In History, we will explore what happened after the Great Fire of London and how we know so much about this event.

Shout out this week goes to:

Sangsen in 2W for his enthusiasm and impressive knowledge in all things science this week. Well done!

2R:***Ethan*** and ***Ezmae-Lily***

PE:

***Wednesday afternoon - indoor
Friday afternoon - outdoor***



Year 3 Heart & Aces & Incredible Llamas



Dear year 3

This week has been STEM week in school and we have taken part in a variety of exciting activities. We started the week becoming 'horse riding pros'!

We looked at the symmetry and Maths used in the jockey's jackets and also got the chance to ride a 'test horse'.

We became 'Dengineers' and designed our own themed dens. We used calculators to explore hidden messages and used the computers to do some coding. As well as a 'smarties' maths challenge and a toilet tube marble run/maze.

The whole school completed a science investigation to see which paper towel was the most absorbent. Have a look at Seesaw to see some photos and our results. We used the skills of measuring, fair testing, observing and recording during this experiment.

Friday was our Egg drop challenge and we thoroughly enjoyed inviting you in to complete this with us, we hope you enjoyed it too. Luckily, some eggs managed to be saved.

Shout outs!

3IL - Daisy and Louie for excellent teamwork creating a lego marble maze.

3HA - Tobi for excellent calculator maths and Emilia for super horse riding.

Dates for your Diary:

Friday 13th March - Come and join us for our egg drop challenge.

3IL please join us at 9.15am and 3HA join us at 11am

Egyptian Exhibition - Tuesday 17th March

Discovery museum trip - Thursday 19th March in the afternoon - A gentle reminder that payment is now due for this.



Year 4 Butterflies & Tigers



This week, pupils have enjoyed a variety of activities linked to STEM. We have made volcanoes and watch them erupt, did fun maths with a packet of smarties, tested different types of paper towel to see which was the most absorbent, made movable Lego robots and much more! STEM week is always an exciting and fun week and this week was no exception! All pupils have demonstrated excellent knowledge, work very well in teams and shown great curiosity and enthusiasm to find out more!

Next week, we will continue to learn about fractions in maths, we will complete our setting descriptions in English and begin to look at using speech in writing.

On Thursday we will celebrate the end of our topic, The Romans, and host a special Roman Day in school. Pupils will make shields, feast at a Roman banquet and find out how Romans lived. In science we will use classification keys to identify different species of animals.



Well done!



Congratulations...

We would like to say a huge congratulations to all Year 4 this week for a brilliant STEM week.

Don't Forget:

Roman Day Thursday 19th March
Hadrian's Wall: Thursday 26th - Friday 27th March, 2026.



Year 5 Hummingbirds

& Stars

What a fantastic week of STEM we have had!

We have all enjoyed a variety of activities including making bird feeders for DT, comparing life cycles for science and of course our Smarties maths challenge!



For our computing link, we became coders and worked together to create different programs!

Upcoming Events:

Cinema visit Wednesday 25th March.

Easter service in Church 2.30pm – Friday 27th March

Half term breaks up Friday 27th March

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

Shout out:

5S – Aria S for a fantastic sewn penguin!
Albert for working independently to create his final product.

5H – Jack for his Axolotl stuffed toy & Harrison for his extremely accurate scientific knowledge and explanations during STEM week.

Year 6 Hawks & Heroes



Reminder for parents:

Outdoor PE – Thursday

Indoor PE – Friday

A massive thank you to Mr Buxton for creating some super storage for the playground equipment and teaching Year 6 pupils some DIY skills along the way.



Well-done to Poppy B, Auden, Henry L and Ava N for organising and running a cake stall for Cancer Research.

Thank you to Mrs Biggins for making bow ties and handkerchiefs and selling them to raise funds for the Year 6 playground project – a massive £65 raised!!!

16th April – Afternoon Tea on board the Titanic.

Please can we ask for a £3.00 donation per child, to allow the children to make their own sandwiches and cakes for the afternoon tea. Please give to your class teacher.

- Please remember to sign your child's reading book.
- Homework given on a Friday
Due in the following Thursday
- Fruit and Vegetables only at break times – health hearts and brains!