



Dear Parents/Carers

We have had a fantastic start to the Spring Term so far. The children have been working hard not only taking responsibility for their learning but also the wider school. Our Student Council have been busy focusing on how to help children feel **Safe to Learn** and will be leading whole school assemblies in the next few weeks. Our Eco Ambassadors have set out their action plan for the remainder of the year and over the next few weeks will upload their action plan to our website so that you can see what they are focusing on. Our play leaders have been doing a great job supporting active lunchtimes and have recently placed an order for new equipment.

In the Autumn term the Student Council conducted a pupil survey to find out what the pupils of Wylam First School felt would improve their school. Once it was established that a swimming pool and a trampoline park were not going to be possible, the children decided that what they really wanted was a quiet zone/outdoor classroom on the school grounds that could be used for calm and quiet play during break and lunch time but also as a learning zone. This was put forward to the PTA at their recent meeting and will be the focus of their fundraising activities. The PTA will be sending out information soon on all of the events they have planned for the year.

World Book Day is on **Thursday 2nd March**. At Wylam First School we will be celebrating books and reading throughout the week with a range of activities, including welcoming parents into school each morning to read to children. You will receive further information about our World Book Week shortly. On World Book Day we are welcoming children to come to school dressed as their favourite character from a book. I can't wait to see who the children decide to be.

You should now have received the targets that your child is working on this term for English and Maths. If you have any questions about the targets set or would like any further information then please contact the class teacher.

News

School Governor

We have a vacancy for a Tyne Community Learning Trust governor representative for Wylam First School's Local Governing Board. We have a fantastic group of governors at Wylam First School who, alongside the Headteacher, are responsible for the quality of education in our school and the personal development, behaviour and welfare of pupils and staff. If you would be interested in becoming a governor then please contact the school office.

PSHE AND RHE Parent Workshop

On Thursday 16th March at 9:15am we would like to invite you along to our parent workshop where we will explain our PSHE (personal, social, health education) curriculum and our RHE (relationships and health education) curriculum. Miss Dodds will explain our learning focus, how we deliver our programmes and the policies that support and underpin our curriculum. You will then be invited into class to spend some time in class with your child. The Student Council, Eco Ambassadors and Play Leaders will also be available to talk to you about the important role they have in our school.

STEM Focus + British Science Week

As you know one of our curriculum priorities is STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths). Next half term, to coincide with British Science Week, we will be planning a range of STEM activities for the children to get involved with. The theme of British Science Week this year is 'Connections' - more information regarding this can be found [here](#) . During next half term we would love to invite any parents/carers or anyone from the wider community who works in the STEM fields into school to talk to the children about what they do or to run a workshop. If you would like to come into school and talk to the children or are able to run a workshop then please contact the school office.

NSPCC Parents Online Safety Workshop

On Wednesday 15th March at 6pm the NSPCC will be holding an online workshop in school for parents. This is to support parents to navigate the challenges of keeping their child safe online. This is an adult only session and we have arranged it for 6pm so that working parents can attend if they wish to do so. This meeting is provisionally booked and we will send out a form via Parentmail nearer the time to gather numbers of attendees.

Child Friendly Safeguarding Policy

The Student Council has evaluated our child friendly safeguarding policy and it is now on our website for you to look at and share with your child. The Student Council will be leading an assembly in the coming weeks to talk to the children about this along with being **Safe to Learn** and what that means.

Parents and Carers Evening

We will be holding our Spring term parents and carers evening on **Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd March**. During this meeting the staff will discuss your child's progress and you will have an opportunity to look at your child's books and ask any questions. You will be able to sign up for an appointment on Parentmail after half term.

Wild Passport

Our Wild Passports have finally arrived! The Wild Passport is a progressive outdoor learning curriculum which focuses on 5 key skills areas of learning:

- **Woodcraft**
- **Shelter**
- **Fire**
- **Nature**
- **Rope**

During outdoor lessons the children will work through the competencies and, once complete, will have their passport stamped. Some of the competencies can also be completed at home and may be sent home as part of the homework challenges.

Outdoor Learning

This half term our Reception and Nursery children are taking part in Wild About Adventure. They will be planting the new crops ready for our farmer's market in the Summer term and learning about growing healthy plants. They will also complete the first few tasks in their Wild Passport which will focus on **Nature** and **Fire**.

eSchools Lite App

You can now download our school website app to your mobile phone. The app is free and takes you to our school page where you can access the school calendar, newsletters, school website and our contact information. The key features are as follows:

- No login required – you just need to search for our school and subscribe
- **Newsletters** – Any newsletters uploaded to the homepage widget will appear on the app
- **Calendar** – All events added to the website calendar will be automatically available on the app
- **School website** – a link to the full mobile version of your school website
- **Contact** – The contact details for the school

Search for "eSchools Lite" in the **App Store (Apple)** or **Google Play (Android)** or use the handy QR code below and download for **FREE!**



Children's Cancer Run 2023

The 40th Children's Cancer Run will take place on Sunday 14th May. Runner entries are now open - please go to www.childrenscancerrun.co.uk to find out more and register to run for our school team. The more the merrier!

Have your say on improving emotional wellbeing and mental health support for children/young people

North East and North Cumbria NHS Integrated Care Board and Northumberland County Council are consulting on how to strengthen support for children/young people with emotional wellbeing and mental health needs. Northumberland's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy for Children and Young People 2022-25 sets out the local partnership's vision for the future and how it will address the need for children and young people to receive the most appropriate support at the right time.

NHS, public health services and practitioners who work across education, health and social care, and representatives from the voluntary sector have all worked together with young people and their families to produce the draft strategy. They are seeking further views before the final strategy is presented to the NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board for approval. You can read more and share your views [here](#). The closing date is **Friday 4th February 2023**.

School Calendar

Wednesday 1st February	NEU Teachers Strike - school will be open as normal
Friday 17th February	Last day before half term
Monday 27th February	Back to school
Wednesday 1st March	Y2 trip to Newcastle (Great fire of Newcastle and Gateshead)
Thursday 2nd March	World Book Day Launch of our Give a Book Campaign
Thursday 9th March	Y4 Gymnastics competition
Week beginning 13th March	Science Week
Wednesday 15th March	NSPCC online safety workshop - parents (6pm)
Thursday 16th March	PSHE and RHE parent workshop
Friday 17th March	Red Nose Day
Tuesday 21st March	Parents and Carers Evening
Wednesday 22nd March	Parents and Carers Evening
Friday 31st March	Last day of the Spring term - Easter Holidays

Monday 17th April	Back to school
Sunday 14th May	Childrens' Cancer Run

Best wishes.

S Gibbon
Headteacher