



School is busy with children learning their dances for the festival at the end of term as well as preparing for the Great Exhibition which you can read about later. We are currently taking part in the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel as we encourage families to choose active methods of travel wherever feasible to support wellbeing and help our environment. Please remember that the bus bay at the front of school is only for school transport in the mornings and after school. Please do not use it as a drop-off or turning area for the safety of the children. Thank you!

Attendance

Regular attendance at school ensures that children get the best possible start in life. Good attendance supports learning, the development of social skills and friendships, as well as building good habits that are essential for adult life. Research clearly demonstrates the link between regular attendance and educational progress and attainment.

Our target is to achieve 96% attendance for the school. The current position is shown in the information below.

	Today	This Week	This Term	This Year
All Classes	98.94	97.88	96.70	94.71
Curlew	100	100	97.78	96.82
Kestrel	100	100	95.01	95.47
Lapwing	97.22	94.44	98.53	97.09
Pipit	96.43	92.86	94.46	92.80
Skylark	100	100	97.84	96.33

Local History Club

The Local History Club members began their walk on Dryburn Moor and followed the line of one of the flues from the chimney to Allen Mill. The flues were built almost 200 years ago to take the fumes from the smelt mill at Allen Mill the two and a half miles to the chimneys on Dryburn Moor. The weather was perfect for the walk and everyone enjoyed the refreshments on offer at our destination



Some reminders about our Whole-School visit to Beamish on Thursday.

Please arrive at school by 8:45. Children will be taken in and registered before getting on the bus for 9:00.

Children should wear school uniform and should wear comfortable shoes for walking around. Trainers will be fine on this day.

All children will need a packed lunch. Please let school know if you require a school packed lunch.

Please only bring the things you will need for the trip. Lunch, water bottle and something for the bus such as a book or small non-electronic game like Top Trumps.



It's not too late to make a contribution to support this visit. Many thanks to all those who already have.

Comic Relief

The final total raised by our Comic Relief efforts was £225. Many thanks to everyone who made cakes, donated for non-school uniform and helped to 'bling' those wheels.



Hexham Book Festival

Years 1-5 enjoyed a visit to Hexham Book Festival this last week to see different authors talking about their books and writing. Hopefully a few young people have been inspired to write their own stories as a result!



Wellies

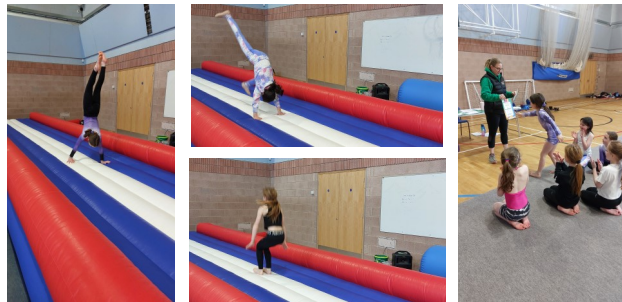
Lots of wellies and lost property were reclaimed during or after parents' evenings. We do still have lots of wellies left over which we have now put into our Welly-Swap shed.

If you need the next size up wellies or wish to have another pair for school, please see Karen in Pipits or come to the school office. We'd rather they were reused than thrown away.



Sporting Endeavours

Year 4 gymnasts travelled to Haltwhistle to take part in a friendly competition with other local schools. They each learned two routines which they performed in front of judges to earn themselves a certificate. They also got to take part in trampolining and had a go on an inflatable tumbling mat which was great fun for safe practising.



Easter Egg Competition

Our annual decorated egg competition is back for another year! If you would like to, you can decorate a hard boiled egg to enter the competition and potentially win a chocolate egg. Entries should be in school for the final day of term and will also be displayed as part of the Great Exhibition, mentioned later in the newsletter.



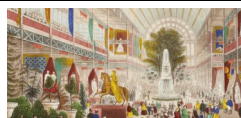
Many thanks to the Co-op for providing prizes for the competition.

Great Exhibition

You have been invited by their Royal Highnesses, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, to attend the Great Exhibition of 1851! To conclude our Victorians topic this term, pupils from Kestrel and Curlew classes have organised this small scale version of one of the great spectacles of the era. The event will take place from **2.15 until 3.30 on Friday 11th April**. There will be exhibits from around the British Empire, including the latest in Victorian technological innovations. Also a number of famous visitors from the worlds of literature, science and high society. Rumour has it, we may even be graced by royalty. We hope this will be a fun way to conclude the Spring Term and that you will be able to join us.

There will be tea, coffee and cakes. The children's decorated Easter eggs will also be on display, having been judged earlier in the day.

All are welcome from the whole community so please spread the word.



Dates For Your Diary

3rd April	Whole School visit to Beamish
7th April	Reception / Nursery Stay & Play
8th April	Dance Festival 2:30 (Note new date)
	Parents welcome to come and watch in the Sports Hall.
10th April	Science Day
11th April	Great Exhibition
12th April	Easter Holidays
28th April	Teacher Training Day
29th April	Summer Term Starts
1st May	School Photos
2nd May	School Photos
12th May	KS2 SATs week
12th May	School Swimming starts
24th May	Half Term Holiday

AONB

Curlew Class have been working with local artist Jessica making clay pots. They have been exploring a theme about adders, which are becoming increasingly scarce. Their finished work will displayed as part of a bigger project in the future. Once we have more details we will let you know. In the meantime, there is some information about other events connected with the project at the end of the newsletter.



Pottery open day

Saturday 3 May 2025
10am to 4pm
Alston Pottery



**North
Pennines**
National
Landscape



Drop in to Alston Pottery to learn about adders in the North Pennines and to try your hand at pottery by adding coils to a collaborative pot. Children are welcome to make their own small clay pot.

Parking is available on site, please follow the signage. Alston Pottery, The Old Brewery, Alston, Cumbria CA9 3RP

Scan the QR code to find out more about adders in the North Pennines.



The Adders Up project is led by the North Pennines National Landscape team and funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Northumbrian Water's Branch Out Fund.



Pottery open day

Saturday 5 April 2025
10am to 4pm
Alston Pottery



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