



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you've all had a great week! As part of the government's Step 3 roadmap, the guidance around wearing face coverings in education has changed. From Monday 17 May, face coverings are no longer required to be worn by pupils in classrooms or communal areas, or by staff in classrooms. Face coverings should however still be worn by pupils in Year 7 and above when travelling on school transport. This guidance may change in future in response to any localised outbreaks, including variants of concern. We will keep you up-to-date. The full, updated government guidance can be accessed [here](#).

In preparation for Northumberland County Council's SEND Ofsted inspection, the inspectors are keen to understand the views of parents and carers through an online survey. This survey is available now and will remain open until the 18th May. You can access it through the following link:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/NorthumberlandRe-VisitLASEND/>

Have a lovely weekend!

Lindsay Hamilton

Attendance this week:

96.3%

Thank you! We really appreciate all your efforts in getting to school on time, ready to start our day promptly.



Did you know...?

Attendance	Description	Approx. days lost per year	Approx. weeks lost per year
98 – 100%	Excellent	0 to 4	Less than 1
95 – 98%	Good	5 to 9	1 to 2
93 – 95%	Satisfactory	10 to 13	2 to 3
90 – 93%	Unsatisfactory	14 to 19	4 to 6
>90%	Persistent Absence	More than 19	More than 4

**The government expects your child's attendance to be 95% or better.
Schools are held to account for your child's attendance.
Please remember holidays in term time will be unauthorised.**



Perfect Pop-Ups!

What better place to study landscapes than here in Bellingham? Our talented Y5 pupils have merged their study of landscapes along with their paper-engineering skills to create some wonderful pop-up art!





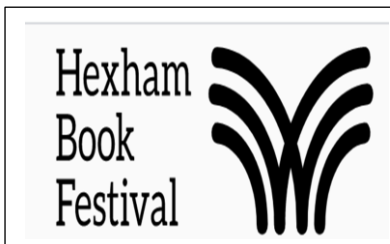
Staffing Update

We're very sad to announce that Madame Grey will be leaving us at the end of the summer term to pursue some new, exciting adventures. Having taught at BMS since 2009, Madame Grey has enjoyed many years of working with our wonderful pupils and their families and we will miss her greatly. I am delighted to announce that we have recruited a new French teacher for September. Miss Jessett will join us, and has recently returned to the UK after teaching French in Belgium for several years. She writes:



Bonjour!

Bonjour tout le monde. I am delighted to join the Bellingham Middle School community. I hope my love of the French language will enthuse each learner from Year 5 to Year 8; I'm excited to explore quirky Francophone culture and vocabulary with you in lots of creative ways. Thank you for the warm welcome and I look forward to meeting you all soon. A très bientôt!



We're thrilled to have been able to secure tickets for our KS2 pupils for this year's Hexham Book Festival. On Thursday 8th July, pupils will be able to see award-winning author Frank Cottrell-Boyce who will introduce pupils to his exciting new novel, Noah's Gold, which is packed with mystery, adventure and laughs. Frank will be live and available to answer all of our pupils' questions. We're sure they'll have many because his novels are popular reads at BMS!



Frank Cottrell-Boyce

We would like to reassure you that Hexham Book Festival events will be delivered with safety in mind, and in full accordance to the Government guidelines available at the time. Further details will be shared nearer the time.



Bellingham's Got Talent!

Jensen treated Year 6 to a very impressive display of ventriloquism last week with his very own dummy, Danny. Ventriloquism is really difficult to master and Y6 were highly impressed with Jensen's skills. He had the class in stitches with his own unique retelling of Little Red Riding Hood. Thank you for sharing, Jensen. You're a star!





With the May half-term holiday approaching, North Tyne Youth are excited to share the news that they will be trialling face-to-face youth clubs that week! All details can be found on this page.



May 2021 half-term What's On

**TUESDAY 1ST JUNE @
RTC Otterburn**
<Just £1 per young person>
6.00-7.00: Juniors Club (8-11s)
7.15-8.15: Seniors Club (12-18s)

**THURSDAY 3RD JUNE
@ Reed Hall
Bellingham**
<Just £1 per young person>
6.00-7.00: Juniors Club (8-11s)
7.15-8.15: Seniors Club (12-18s)

TUESDAY 1ST JUNE @ RTC Otterburn **Discover & Explore: Creative Family Art Day** **(organised by RTC)**

Come and join us all at the RTC for some hands-on charcoal art, outdoor games and a chance for families to catch up with one another. Bring a drink, and don't wear white! Families with children aged 8-16 can book a morning slot (10.30-12.30) or an afternoon slot (1.30-3.30). For more info and to book, get in touch with Georgie at the RTC: georgie.kenny@rtc sports.co.uk. £2 activity donation per child.

We are so excited to be returning to our regular venues to try out face-to-face youth clubs this May half-term. These clubs will give us a chance to find out what works and what we need to work on so we can hopefully restart youth clubs fully from June.

Get in touch via email (Lisa.Robinson@northtyneyouth.co.uk), or text or call (07826 020949) to find out more and sign up.

There will be maximum group sizes of 15 young people per session for the youth clubs: please book by **Tuesday 25th May** to guarantee your spot. We really don't want to turn anyone away at the door! We'll still be social distancing, washing and sanitising our hands lots, and over-11s will need to wear a mask indoors unless exempt. **We can't wait to see you!**



Dates for your diary...

Monday 17 th May 2021	National Child Measurement Programme (Y6)
Friday 21 st May 2021	HPV Vaccinations – Y8
Friday 28 th May 2021	Enrichment HW Reward - Afternoon
Friday 28 th May 2021	Break up for Half-Term
Monday 7th June 2021	School re-opens
Friday 11 th June 2021	Theatre Sans Frontieres – KS2
Monday 21 st June 2021	Y6 SATs week
Friday 25 th June 2021	Post-SATs treat – Y6
Friday 2 nd July 2021	Transition Day (Haydon Bridge Partnership)
Wednesday 7 th July 2021	BMS Sports Day
Thursday 8 th July 2021	KS2 Visit – Hexham Book Festival
Thursday 15 th July 2021	Y8 Prom
Friday 16th July 2021	Final day of summer term



CORONAVIRUS HANDWASHING REMAINS CRITICAL

- Keep a safe distance from others
- Limit contact with other people

For more ways to stay safe go to [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

