



Dear Parents/Carers and Governors,

It is slightly surreal and tinged with sadness to be writing to all of you for the last time as Interim Head Teacher of Bellingham Middle School. Since I arrived here in 2016 I have loved every (well almost!) minute of being a member of staff here. Over that time, I have worked with hundreds of amazing children and many fantastic colleagues. One key factor that has always played a part of the school is the tremendous community support that has been offered from yourselves and the people of Bellingham. No matter how tough times have been – and they have been very tough at times – everyone has stuck together to help the school survive then thrive. I wish everyone associated with the school every single piece of success moving forward.

We are also sad to say goodbye to Madame Davis and Mr Davis, who have both served the school brilliantly in their time here. We wish them both all the best in their future careers. On the plus side we are delighted to be welcoming three new members of the teaching staff in the Summer term – Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Grey and Mr Ellison, who will fit right into the fabric of our amazing school.

Finally, I would like to pass on my best wishes to Mrs Powell who will be taking over my role from April. She has already met with staff, pupils and many parents. She has shared lots of exciting ideas that she has planned for the future and I can confidently say that the school is in safe hands under her leadership.

I hope everyone has a fantastic Easter and I will continue to be an advocate for Bellingham Middle School as I move to pastures new.

**Dan Ramshaw**

## Attendance this week: 92%

**Good attendance means...**

Being in school at least 95% of the time or 180 to 190 days





## World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day by participating in the nationwide Primary Stars Football Quiz. Many of our pupils and staff came suitably dressed as their favourite literary character.



## Something fishy

Year Five had a fab art lesson creating bioluminescent jelly fish with handmade scratch paper and carving tools. Awesome effort, they all look great!





## Sports Leaders

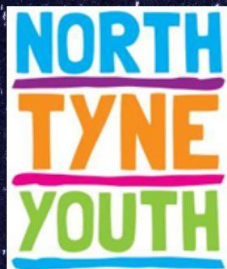
KS3 planned out games they could deliver with only select pieces of equipment, as part of their Sports Leader programme. They were then instructed to coach the games to their peers. It was fantastic to see the pupils take on responsibility and develop their leadership skills.



## Disability sports

KS2 have been learning how to teach participants with sight difficulties in PE. We were hugely impressed by their skills and maturity.





# Youth Clubs

## **TUESDAYS @ RTC OTTERBURN**

**6.00-7.15pm: Juniors (school years 4-6)**

**7.30-9.00pm: Seniors (school years 7-13)**

## **WEDNESDAYS @ REED HALL BELLINGHAM**

**6.30-8.30pm every first and third Wednesday of the month: Seniors (school years 9-13)**

## **THURSDAYS @ REED HALL BELLINGHAM**

**6.15-7.15pm: Juniors (school years 4-5)**

**7.30-8.30pm: Inters (school years 6-8)**

**AND OUR FRIENDS AT KIRKWHELPINGTON HOLD AN 8-18S YOUTH CLUB, EVERY WEDNESDAY 6.30-8.30PM IN THE MEMORIAL HALL!**

Email [Lisa.Robinson@northtyneyouth.co.uk](mailto:Lisa.Robinson@northtyneyouth.co.uk) or call/text/WhatsApp for more info and to register



# TWISTY ROADS EASTER EGG HUNT

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Find the Golden Egg hidden at the Egg Hunt and win a prize



## GOOD FRIDAY

(If Wet – Other arrangements will be made)

**2 DECORATED EGG COMPETITIONS**

(Age groups will be judged in the following groups)

3 -4 years, 5 – 9 years, 10 – 13 years)

Judging begins at the gate into Hareshaw Linn

at 2pm **PROMPT!!**

To be followed by the

***EASTER EGG HUNT***

***& EGG ROLLING COMPETITION***

(Please bring a hard boiled egg)



All Welcome

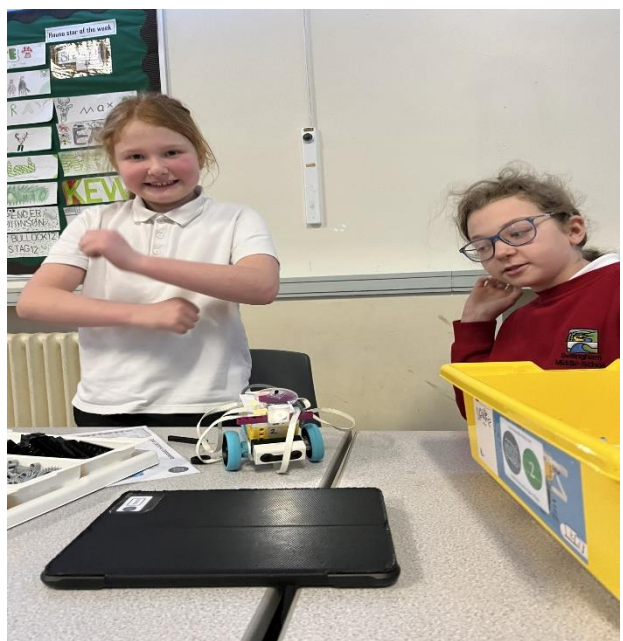
Bucket Collection



## STEM Challenge

Jack from EKO stem challenge visited us to build Lego robots.

The children worked in teams to use their engineering skills to build the robots, maths skills to calculate distance and angles and computing skills to code the robots. The children really enjoyed this opportunity and a lot succeeded to meeting the challenges to collect pretend rubbish and pretend nuclear waste.





## Creating a spectacle!

Last Wednesday we had a visit from Christina who works at The Old Glasses Shop in Bellingham. She talked about her career so far and how your skills can be transferable between jobs. Year 7 and 8 learnt about how important communication, organisation, patience and quick thinking is in all job roles.

Christina also shared that Careers aren't always learnt from school or university, experience is important in any job as it gives you confidence in dealing with people in any job.

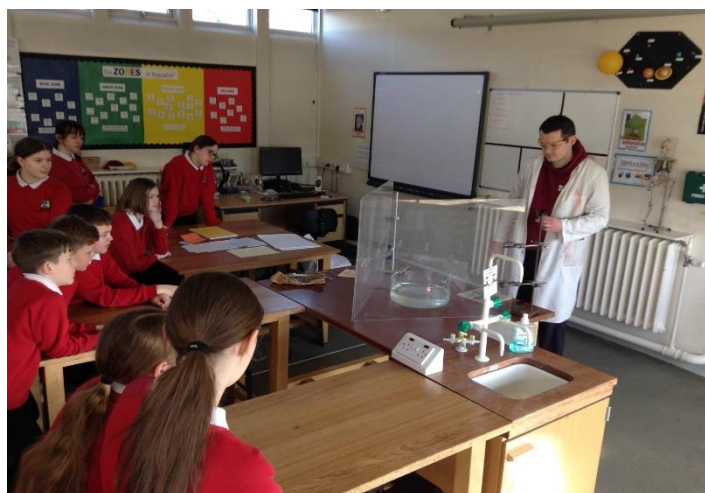
We would like to thank Christina for coming into school to talk to our KS3 pupils.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in talking to our pupils about your career please contact [middleadmin@bellinghampartnership.uk](mailto:middleadmin@bellinghampartnership.uk) to arrange a visit.



## Explosive science

Year 8 have been learning about Group 1 elements in the periodic table, investigating what happens when each of them react with water. Mr Ramshaw demonstrated the reactions of lithium, sodium and potassium, however was unable to get his hands on any rubidium and caesium! Just as well when the pupils saw the catastrophic effects of these metals when added to water, in the videos that they watched!





## Solving problems

Year 5 have been problem solving in maths. They have been practicing how to think about tackling a problem, then talking and listening to their friends and then having a go. Some pupils found it quite tricky when they didn't get the answer straight away, but with some perseverance they got there in the end.



## Breaking it down

Year 5 have also been working with the cuisenaire rods to explore equivalent fractions, percentages and decimals.







**FORTNITE BATTLE ROYALE**

'Fortnite - Battle Royale.' is a free to play section of the game 'Fortnite'. The game sees 100 players dropped on to an island from a 'battle bus,' where they have to compete until one survivor remains. The last remaining player on the island wins the game. Players have to find hidden items, such as weapons, to help them survive longer in the game.

To make the game more challenging, there is an added twist called 'the storm' which reduces the size of the island from the start of gameplay, bringing the players closer together in proximity. The game is available on PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Mac and iOS.

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
**12+**



## What parents need to know about FORTNITE: BATTLE ROYALE

### MICROTRANSACTIONS

Newly featured items are released daily and are only available to purchase within 24 hours of their release. These are cosmetic items, called 'skins,' 'gliders' and 'emotes,' which change the characters' appearance, but do not improve the game play. Once purchased, the player has full use of these in the future. The designs are attractive for players to purchase and even celebrities are endorsing them. Also available to purchase in the game is a 'Battle Pass.' When a new 'Battle Pass' is released, users can take part in a series of challenges, receiving more rewards (cosmetics) by progressing through different tiers. Whichever rewards they achieve can then be used in the game.

### HACKER ATTACKS

News site Forbes stated that it had seen "dozens" of online reports from people who said their accounts had been compromised by hackers, who had gained access to user's accounts in the game and accrued hundreds of pounds in fraudulent charges.

### NO PROOF OF AGE REQUIRED

Signing up to the game is relatively simple. Users have the option to log in with either their Facebook or Google accounts or their email address. When signing up with an email address, no proof of age is required. If your child is under the age of 12, it is important to check whether your child has the game downloaded.

### IT CAN BE ADDICTIVE

Games can last around 20 minutes but this varies according to the game. Children may feel angry if they lose the game and will want to continue playing until they achieve their desired result. The competitive nature of the game may make it difficult for them to stop playing halfway through as their position in the game could be affected.

### TALKING TO STRANGERS DURING SQUAD MODE

Interacting with other players in the game is part of the fun as players can communicate with their friends and other players in the game. Players will benefit from wearing headphones to hear footsteps from other players trying to compromise their game. Wearing headphones makes it difficult for parents to hear what exactly is being said and children may be exposed to inappropriate language. Fortnite includes really good reporting features for players either cheating or misbehaving, and works towards having one of the best online gaming communities.

### TALKING TO STRANGERS DURING SQUAD MODE

There are many accounts on Facebook and Twitter which claim to give away free money (known as 'V bucks') for games which will be transferred to their Xbox Live or PSN cards. Any giveaway promotion from Fortnite will be in the game. It is important to check the authenticity of these accounts before giving away personal information in order to claim 'V bucks.' The websites or accounts may ask you to share your account name and password in order to claim the money; if these offers seem too good to be true, they usually are.

### IT CAN BE PLAYED ON THE GO

The game was released on mobile devices in April 2018, meaning it can be played without the need for a home games console. Some schools have reported that the game is distracting their students whilst in the classroom. As the game is available outside of the home, parents may not be aware of how long their child is playing this game.

### 'FREE' TO PLAY

The game IS free to play. However, if playing on Xbox, you will need an Xbox gold subscription, which does require a fee.

### 'FREE' TO PLAY

PEGI has given the game a rating of 12+. Even though the game includes violence and weapons such as crossbows, grenade launchers, rifles, pistols, shotguns and more, PEGI say "more graphic and realistic looking violence towards fantasy characters is allowed. Any violence towards human characters is not look unrealistic unless it consists only of a slap or trivial injury such as a slip," making the game 'suitable' for children aged 12 and over.

# Top Tips for Parents

### LIMIT GAME TIME

Parents can use parental controls on Xbox and PC to limit the time a child is playing games on these devices. Be aware that the game is available on iOS and will soon be available on all mobiles. With this in mind, it is worth having a conversation with your child to discuss and agree how long you would like them to play the games for. Even though the games last around 20 minutes, it may be difficult to take them away from a game mid play. It may be worth imposing a limit on the amount of matches they play rather than a time limit.

### LOOK OUT FOR VBUCK SCAMS

It is important that your children are aware of the scams that they may come across online in association with the game. Open up conversation with them about scams and how they should never share their username or password with people in order to gain anything from the game.

### SHOW THEM HOW TO MAKE A REPORT

If your child believes a player is playing or talking inappropriately, you should advise them to report them. To report a player, you can use the in-game feedback tool located in the Main Menu of the game. Additionally, you can report a player in-game when spectating them.

### RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS



**Bellingham  
Middle School**



# Careers Fair 2024

***Could your organisation  
inspire our students'  
next step?***

Our students love to hear from people who have experienced the roles, industries and settings that they're considering for their future. Could your organisation help our students to Aim High with their ambitions and help shape their plans?

If you are interest in talking to our students, being part of our careers fair or have any questions please contact school on  
[middleadmin@bellinghampartnership.uk](mailto:middleadmin@bellinghampartnership.uk)  
or 01434 220235.



## Join Hexham Abbey Choir sing, learn, travel, enjoy



Hexham Abbey Choir an incredible opportunity for Boys & Girls of all ages!

Wednesday or Thursday 5pm - 7pm

+Sunday morning or evening each week

contact michael haynes - Director of Music

[michaelhaynes4@icloud.com](mailto:michaelhaynes4@icloud.com) 07763062983



## Turning Japanese!

Some lucky year 6s enjoyed a taster day full of Japanese culture, values and language at Durham University! The girls tried on traditional kimonos, took part in the tea making ritual and fixed broken tiles with gold as they learned that Japanese culture find beauty everywhere, even in something that is imperfect.



## Ground Force

We are so grateful to the wonderful helpers and students who worked tremendously hard in our garden last Friday. Lots of progress was made and the students are super excited to finish the planters ready for the spring term planting.





## Easter celebrations

Thank you to everyone who contributed cakes and attended our Easter Fair. We had fantastic prize winners for the Easter Cake competition and a lucky pupil won the Giant Octopus in the raffle! We raised a fantastic £340 which will go towards developing our school garden.





## School news

Breakfast Club is available to all pupils to access. It's also absolutely FREE! If you wish for your child to attend Breakfast Club, please can you contact Mrs Thompson directly on 01434 220235.



## Dates for your diary\*

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Start of Summer Term 1
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Y6 Pre-reading test
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2024	Cyber Security workshops
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2024	Y8 HPV vaccinations
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Y6 SATS week
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	NFU workshops
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	End of Summer Term 1

\*More dates will be added as term progresses