



Dear Parents/Carers,

We've had a flying start to our final half-term of the year and it's definitely going to be a busy one! Thank you to all who returned their slips expressing an interest in next year's residential visits – they're certainly very popular which is great. Preparations for our Y8 prom have begun this week, with pupils themselves designing and making decorations for our school hall. If anyone has any 'casino-themed' props at home we could borrow, then we would love to hear from you.

Staff are busy preparing final assessments and reports, ready to share at the end of this term. End of year reports will be posted home during the week beginning Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July.

As a school, we're having a big push on attendance during these final few weeks and are working closely with our attendance officer, Rachel Bell. Please could we ask that, where possible, medical appointments are made outside of school hours and pupils are only allowed to stay at home in response to genuine illness. As you can see from the chart below, every day counts.

Have a lovely weekend!



Lindsay Hamilton

### Attendance this week:

**95.3%**

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.**



## Super Signals!

Y5 had great fun making semaphore signals as part of their Cryptography unit in Computing. They were very good at having conversations with each other through code – just like signallers at sea!







## Staffing Update



We are delighted to announce that we have recently appointed a Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) to begin in September. Mrs Urwin will be supporting pupils in the classroom, as well as delivering some small group interventions. She will also cover members of staff when they are out of school, reducing the need for us to use supply staff. Mrs Urwin writes:

*"I am looking forward to working in such a lovely setting after having worked in the city for the past year. I am also especially looking forward to meeting all of the staff and students at Bellingham Middle School, having already had the pleasure of teaching the lovely Y6 group on my interview day. I am sure we will all have a great time learning together from September."*

## Theatre Sans Frontieres!

KS2 really enjoyed this afternoon's performance of Les Olympiques des Animaux! This was a fantastic opportunity to enjoy upbeat entertainment based around the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, with wonderful songs in French to learn. Vive les Olympiques!







## Dates for your diary...

Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2021	Y6 SATs week
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	Post-SATs treat – Y6
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2021	Transition Day (Haydon Bridge Partnership)
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	BMS Sports Day
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	KS2 Visit – Hexham Book Festival
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	Y8 Prom
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021</b>	<b>Final day of summer term</b>

With different variants causing concern, it's more important than ever to ensure twice-weekly testing continues. We're really proud of our pupils so far in terms of their regular, consistent testing. Let's keep it going. Please see the reminder below should anyone test positive.



## Covid-19 Rapid LFD home testing for students



### Positive home test

If your home test is positive you should follow stay at home guidance and self isolate. You should also book a confirmatory PCR test.

If the subsequent PCR test result is negative you can stop self-isolating. If the PCR result is positive you should continue to self-isolate for a total of ten days from the first positive result via your test at home.

Inform the school ASAP after the positive home test so close contacts can be identified and advised to isolate.



### Negative home test

If you have a negative home test result you can continue to attend school unless you have individually been advised otherwise by NHS Test and Trace or Public Health professionals (for example as a close contact).

Report your test result even if it is negative.



If you need further help visit [www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-self-test-help](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-self-test-help)

