



Dear Parents/Carers,

Hard to believe we're almost at the end of yet another half term! We've been busy this week starting our work celebrating LGBT History Month in PSHE. A big 'thank you' to Ebony, Grace and Sophie who have offered to collaborate all of our work and produce a long-lasting display in school. Mrs O'Kane has also been busy this week preparing lots of tasks focusing on Safer Internet Day. Pupils have looked closely at various social media sites in terms of age-restrictions and have revised some important tips about staying safe online.

Thank you to those who responded to our announcement about governor vacancies. This has been very positive and we look forward to welcoming new members in the near future. Can I remind anyone interested in attending our 'Taster Afternoon' on Wednesday 9th March that you need to complete an online form [here](#) by next Friday (18th) so that we have a clear idea of numbers.

Have a lovely weekend!
Lindsay Hamilton

Attendance this week:

91.6%

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.**

Absences add up! Missing just 2 days a month means a child misses 10% of the school year.



Y5 Scientists

Y5 have been putting their scientific skills to the test this week! After learning about absorbency, they have investigated which type of paper towel was most effective in absorbing liquids. Mr Ramshaw was most impressed by their teamwork and ability to conduct a fair test with validity.



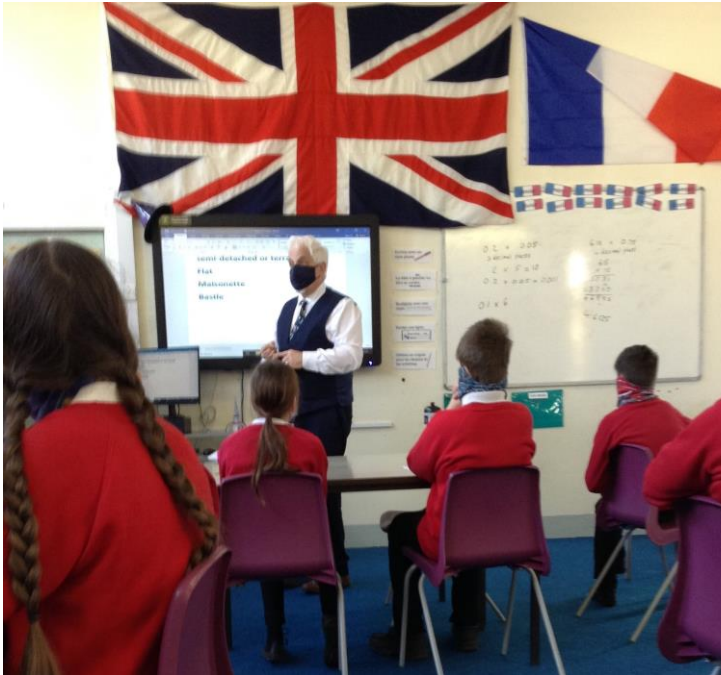
Y7 Science

Y7 have been learning about the particle model. Last week, they were given the task of presenting the particle theory and how particles interact in all three states of matter. The ideas they came up with were very imaginative, interactive and informative. Mr Ramshaw and Mrs Ingledew were both impressed by the efforts and knowledge displayed. Well done, Y7!





Geography Enquiry



We were delighted to welcome Marc Hydleman from Pattinson's Estate Agents, Hexham, who came to talk to our Y8 pupils about the property market in Bellingham. Y8 have been looking at how the population of Bellingham has changed over the years for their fieldwork investigation in Geography. Marc was able to answer all of our queries and was informative about how COVID has changed the price of properties and migration to the area. Very topical and very relevant!



Safer Internet Day!

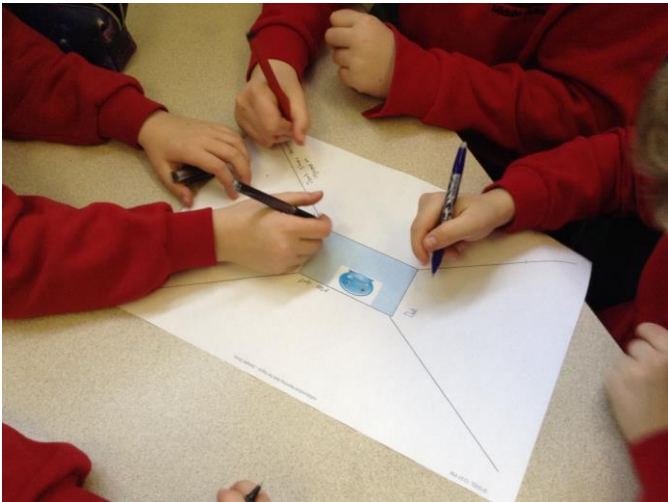
Pupils have been taking part in all sorts of various activities this week, all geared towards promoting an awareness of safety when going online.



Here are Y5, guessing the appropriate age for various social media sites. They were quite shocked at the results!



In Y6, the children were presented with 3 different symbols that linked to being safe online, 'Flag it, zip it and block it'. They collaboratively devised as many ways as possible in which the symbol referred to online safety. After sharing their thoughts, Miss Pearson then revealed the purpose of each symbol and Y6 were then able to see if their ideas matched.



Important messages we are sharing and promoting...



Zip it

Keep your personal stuff private and think about what you say and do online.



Talk it

Limit your screen time and talk to adults about what you do online.



Block it

Block people who send nasty messages and don't open unknown links and attachments.



Guide it

Have control of your digital footprint. Check parental controls and antivirus software on devices and routers.



Flag it

Flag it with someone you trust if anything upsets you or if someone asks to meet you offline.



Model it

Have role models that use the internet positively. The internet is an amazing tool if used correctly and safely.



Dates for your diary...

Thursday 17 th February	Y6 Parents SATs evening- 6pm
Friday 18 th February	School closes for half-term holiday
Monday 28 th February	School opens
Monday 28 th February	Heritage Centre Visit – Y6
Thursday 3 rd March	Inspiring the Future – online careers event (Y8)
Friday 4 th March	Mental Wellbeing / Body Image Workshops (Y5 – Y8)
Monday 7 th March	Visiting author (Dan Smith) – writing workshops
Wednesday 9 th March	School Lunch Taster Afternoon – parents & pupils
Friday 18 th March	KS3 STEM – Sea Cadets Workshops
Monday 28 th March	Wellbeing Week – PE kit every day (Y5 – Y8)
Monday 28 th March	Bikeability Week (further details to follow)
Monday 4 th April	Book Fair – in school all week
Friday 8 th April	School closes for Easter holidays