



“Inspiring Learning”

HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

So, here we are at the end of a very long, but very successful half-term! We're proud of the fact that we've been able to offer a broad and balanced curriculum from September. I know I echo the thoughts of all staff when I say how impressed we are with the way our children have settled back into school and how they have accepted all of the very different rules and routines. At the minute, school is a very different place to what it normally is and their positivity and resilience never ceases to shine through.

It's been a busy run-up to the end of term with preparations being finalised to roll-out our 'catch-up' plans on a wider basis. This term, extra support has varied from increased teacher support within lessons, to more bespoke individual intervention outside of lessons. Assessments and class work from this half-term have been used to create further intervention for a wider group of pupils. Finer details will be shared after the holidays.

I hope you all have a wonderful half-term and enjoy spending time with loved ones. Stay safe.

Lindsay Hamilton

What a team!

Year 7 have enjoyed participating in team building activities in PE. The emphasis of their lessons was to develop communication, teamwork and problem solving. The class worked brilliantly together to use logic and strategy to solve tasks and had fun in the process!





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SCHOOL NEWS AND EVENTS



After hours and hours of counting, the grand final total is finally in! We are thrilled to announce that we have raised £1800.00 through our sponsored walk. This is a staggering amount and reflects the fantastic support we have across our whole community. As a staff, we are quite overwhelmed and would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who has supported this cause. The class who have raised the most (on average per pupil) are Y6. Here they are enjoying some treats from their own pamper day.

However, we couldn't let all of the other wonderful efforts go unrecognized and so today we have all had a fun afternoon to celebrate the end of a very successful (if very long) half term! A visit from the ice cream van was most welcomed this afternoon by pupils, and staff!



We had a wonderful surprise earlier this week when we received a letter from Mr Eric Henderson. Mr Henderson was once the Headteacher of Bellingham Middle School in the 1990s. He had seen our fundraising efforts in the Hexham Courant and having being reminded of the wonderful support our middle school has from the community, sent us a very generous donation of £200.00! This now takes our grand total raised to over £2000.00. This is incredible and I've said it before, but feel it needs saying again: we are so lucky to be part of a supportive, caring community.



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A fond farewell...

It is with a heavy heart that we say a fond farewell to our wonderful SENCO, Mrs Robinson, who leaves us at the end of the Autumn term. Mrs Robinson will be a big miss for everyone here at Bellingham Middle School, especially for our pupils. She has supported many, many children and their families over the years and has had a positive impact with everyone who has worked with her. She writes:

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge **thank you** to Bellingham Middle School. I arrived in Bellingham just over six years ago, when I had only recently moved to Northumberland, and I didn't have a clue about life 'over the border'. Without the support, friendships and laughs that I found at Bellingham Middle, I would have never been able to find my feet. I have gained an abundance of experience within education and I have truly loved my place of work. I feel I have been on a non-stop rollercoaster ride with BMS, but the last few years are ones I will cherish and fondly look back on with love and laughter. I will miss the school and all those within in it very much; however, my family and I have now moved out of the area (I'm finally back over that border!) and it would no longer be feasible for me to travel to Bellingham on a permanent basis and therefore this is now the right time for me to move on. I wish all staff, pupils and parents at Bellingham Middle School the very best for the future.



...and a warm welcome!

Following our recent interview process, I am delighted to announce that we have appointed a new SENCO. Mrs Victoria Parkinson will join us in January as a permanent member of staff and has the pleasure of becoming the new class teacher for our delightful Y5 children. Mrs Parkinson, currently at Corbridge Middle School, has a wealth of teaching experience as well as supporting pupils and families with varying needs. She writes:

From the minute I visited, I felt at home immediately and know that the ethos and values of Bellingham Middle school fit so closely with my own. It was an absolute pleasure to meet some of the children and staff, and it is evident that the school has a strong sense of community and achievement. I cannot wait to start getting to know the pupils and their families and look forward to meeting you all!

Mrs Parkinson will be visiting frequently during the next half term so that she can get to know our pupils and to ensure transition is smooth.



This means that we will also be saying farewell to our wonderful Mrs Clay at the end of the Autumn term. She has been covering Mrs Robinson's maternity leave and has done a fantastic job in welcoming our Y5 pupils into Bellingham Middle School. Her warm, caring manner has meant that pupils have settled quickly and have gelled together as a real team. We know she will be greatly missed by pupils and parents.



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A reminder to our Y8 parents that the deadline for applying for Y9 school places is 31st October. You’ve still got time. If you haven’t yet applied for a school place for your child, you can do so by clicking on the school portal link below where you will be required to create an account. This will then enable you to apply for a Y9 place.

[Northumberland School Portal](#)

It can be confusing at the minute to keep up to date with the latest rules and restrictions regarding Covid-19. We feel the diagram below is clear and good at answering some frustrating questions!

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North East Regional Covid-19 Tier-2 Restrictions

These are the restrictions that now apply across County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, South Tyneside, Northumberland, North Tyneside and Sunderland.

Social & family gatherings at home Not permitted Fines in place	Social & family gatherings outdoors Rule of six outdoors with social distancing in place.	Indoor venues Including pubs and restaurants Only with people from your household or support bubble	Hospitality Table service only Face coverings to be worn unless seated Closed 10pm - 5am 	Takeaways Closed 10pm - 5am 10pm to 5am delivery service only
Public Transport Use only if essential Mandatory face coverings Walk or cycle if possible	Informal childcare with family or friends You can link with one other household so that parents of children under 14 can work	Childcare Separated parents Children of separated parents can continue to move between households	Sporting events No spectating including professional or semi-professional sports	Leisure centres, gyms and pools Open Check with venue for any restrictions
Organised sport / licenced physical activity Allowed outdoors. Indoor activity must follow social distancing.	Long-term residential care venues Visits suspended apart from critical or compassionate grounds	Weddings Limited to 15 guests	Funerals Check with your funeral director for restrictions on numbers	Workplace Work from home where possible. Travel in and out of the affected areas for work is permitted
Over 70s and medically vulnerable Shielding not in place Limit your social contact to reduce your risk	Hospital visits Check with your local hospital	Holidays Only with people from your household or support bubble	Schools, early learning and childcare services Open with Covid plan Face coverings for Year 7+ in all communal areas	Education Schools and FE colleges open with Covid plan. Restrictions for Universities
Indoor Cultural Venues Museums, galleries, etc. Check with venue Safety measures in place Mandatory face coverings	Religious venues Open for services and prayers	Work inside homes Permitted with safety measures	Retail & close contact services Hairdressers, salons, etc. Open Safety measures in place Mandatory face coverings	Enforced restrictions in place Limitations/restrictions in place Some changes in operation apply



Visit your local council website for the latest information

Have a lovely half term and stay safe!





FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND KEY DATES

Mon 2nd November

Teacher Training Day – no pupils in school

Tues 3rd November

Start of second half of Autumn term

Fri 18th December

End of Autumn term