



Dear Parents/Carers,

We have a bumper bulletin this week, showcasing all of the incredible activities and events we have crammed into the past seven days.

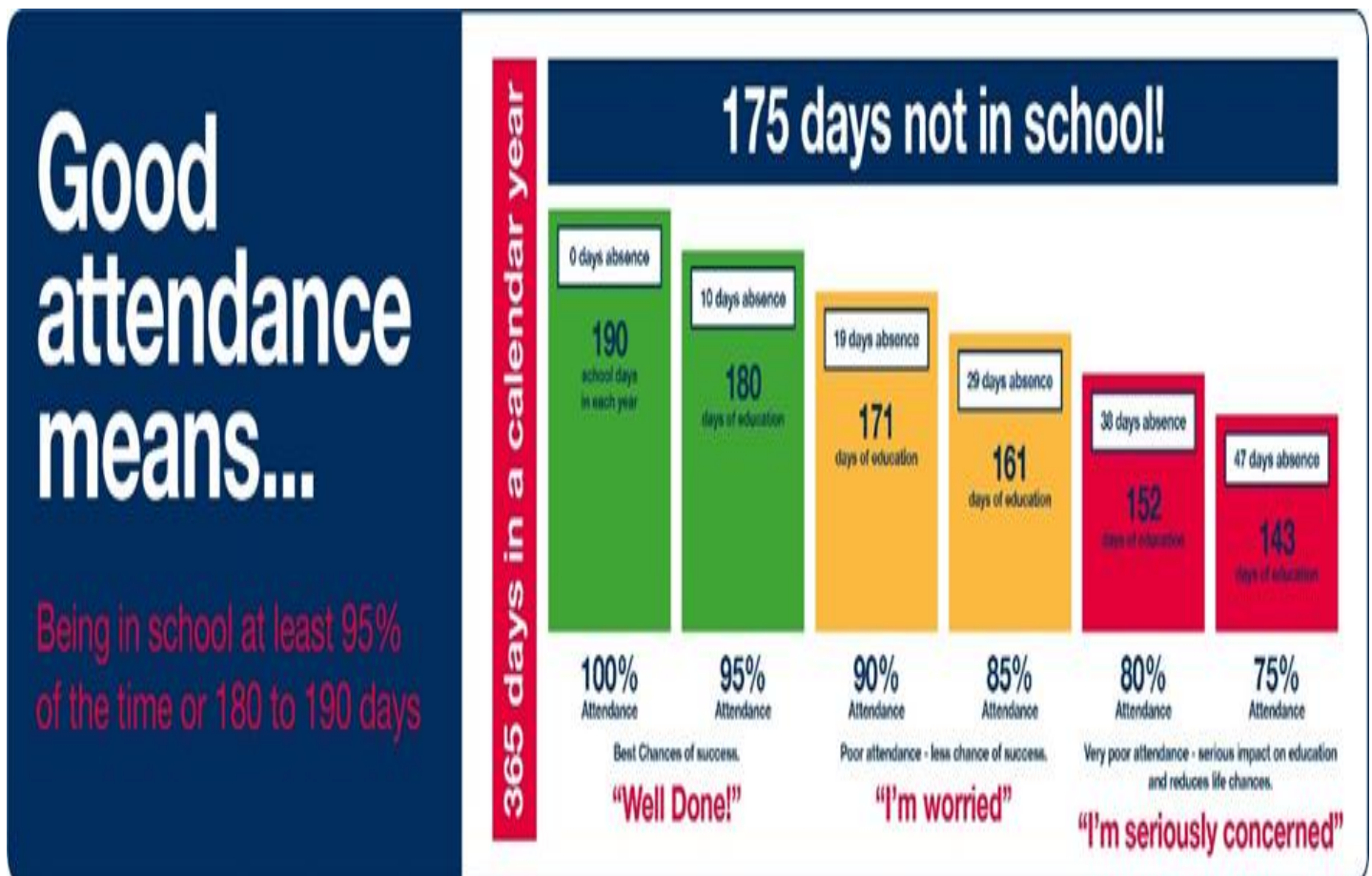
Last week we were delighted to employ Ms Taylor as our new English Lead. Ms Taylor comes here with experience of teaching English across all year groups and has shared some exciting ideas on how to move forward with the curriculum. She will be starting with us after Easter.

Sadly, at Easter we will be saying goodbye to Miss Pearson as she moves on to another job. Miss Pearson has been an amazing member of staff over the past couple of years, teaching a wide variety of subjects and being a fantastic Year 5 form tutor. She will be missed by all of us and we wish her the best moving forward.

The next day of NEU strike action is scheduled for Tuesday 28th February, this is the first day pupils are back after the holiday. We will keep you updated on our plans over the next week.

Dan Ramshaw

Attendance this week: 92.8%





Staying safe online

To celebrate Safer Internet Day we completed a variety of activities.

KS2 were part of Google's first live national interactive virtual Safer Internet assembly, they tested their knowledge about online safety through different scenarios, including safer sharing, scams and cyberbullying.

In the afternoon, Year 8 participated in a digital leaders activity. They developed their graphics skills by creating a magazine cover for an internet safety magazine, developed the video editing skills by producing a short video about how to connect with others without using the internet, as well as a website which showcased both of their projects.

To end the day everyone was involved in a class game of 'Being Online' bingo and a 'How well do you know me' quiz.



-  **BE SHARP** and Think Before You Share
-  **BE ALERT** and Check its For Real
-  **BE SECURE** and Protect Your Stuff
-  **BE KIND** and Respect Each Other
-  **BE BRAVE** and When in Doubt, Discuss



Internet Safety Top Tips

These top tips have been written for you (parents and carers) to help you support your child to stay safe and happy online.

This Safer Internet Day make space for....

Make space for regular conversations about life online

Talk openly and frequently about what you are doing online and encourage your child to do the same. Talk about the positive experiences you can have online, share what you have done when you have come across content you did not want to, and how you dealt with the situation.



Make space for enjoying and exploring the online world together!

Play games, watch videos, and express an interest in your child's online life. Celebrate all the opportunities that technology has to offer, and show them what a great space the internet can be when used responsibly.

Make space for working as a family to agree expectations for going online

Talk to your family about the role technology plays in your lives. Establish rules and expectations that encourage meaningful use of technology, in the same way you set boundaries in other areas of your children's lives. It's important to review these regularly and adapt them for each member of your family.

Make space for learning about the apps, games and websites your child is using

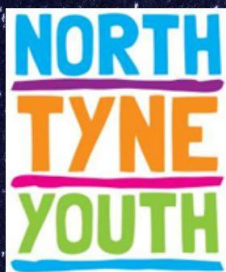
There are lots of tools and guides to support you with keeping your child safe on whatever apps, games and websites they are using. Research age ratings, privacy settings, and safety features (like the block and report button) so that you are best placed to help your child should anything go wrong.

Make space for supporting and reassuring your child if things go wrong

Remind your child they can talk to you about anything. If something goes wrong, listen and respond with reassurance and kindness and stay calm. Work with your child to find solutions to the problem, perhaps by using the block and report tools or seeking advice from your child's school.

For more information and advice linked to Safer Internet day 2023 visit:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023/parents-and-carers>



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!

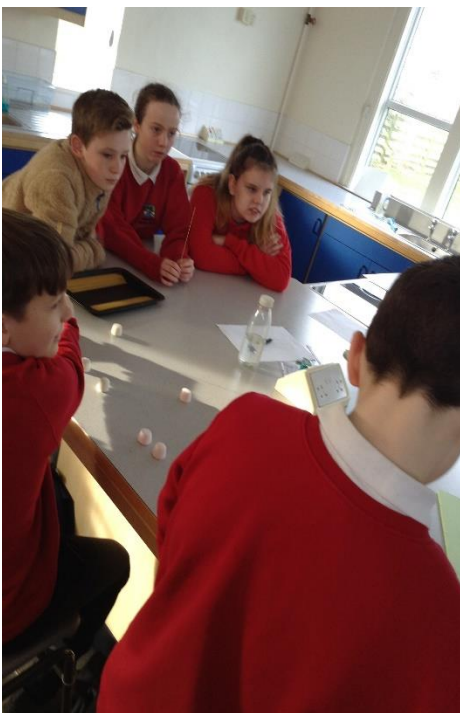
Email Lisa.Robinson@northtyneyouth.co.uk or call/text/WhatsApp for more info and to register



Build it up!

Wednesday saw KS3 thinking like engineers. They worked on developing many skills including: teamwork, communication, organisation and problem-solving skills as well as using their knowledge of 2D and 3D shapes.

They had to work together to plan and make the most interesting and tallest tower. Mrs Batey and Mrs O'Kane were very impressed with everyone as they showed great resilience when their towers didn't go to plan. A well done to Jacob, Robert, Isabel and Zoe for winning the competition.





VALENTINE SCHOOL DISCO

On the Wednesday 15th February, 2023

£1.00 Entry Fee

Sweets and drinks will be available to buy so bring plenty
of money

6-7.30pm

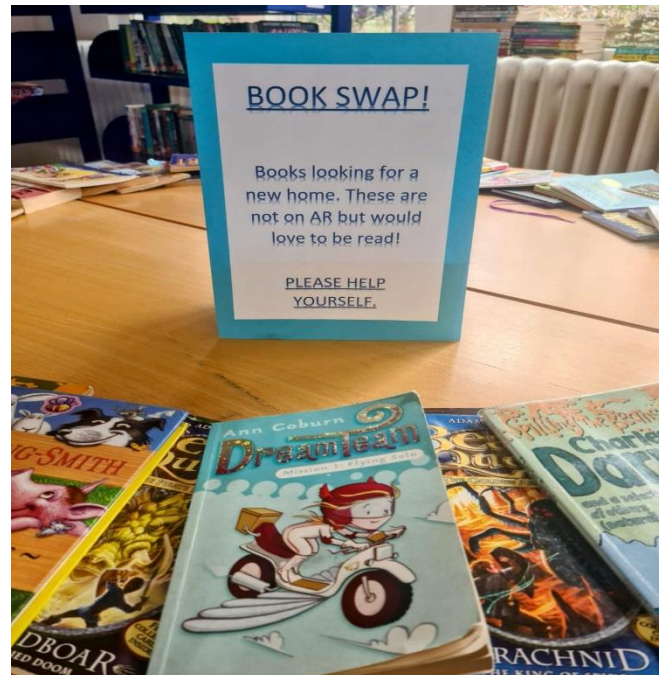


Books, glorious books!

The library has taken delivery of some super new books!

Titles include Spaceboy, Bad Nana, the Treehouse series and the One Of Us Is lying book set. More books are being delivered this week! These books were funded by our amazing coffee afternoon in October and suggested by form classes.

The library also has a table full of books looking for a new home, please help yourself! If you have a book or two you've finished with, then pop them in for others to read. Let's share the book love!



Hacking away

The year 7s have been in the DT room sawing, sanding and filing away. They have learned about design and product development and are busy creating either a book holder or a phone stand based on the designs of Keith Haring. Watch this space to see the end result!





Saturday Karate

There was a fantastic turnout for the Seiken Ryu Karate taster Day, last Saturday at BMS. Thank you to Wayne for putting the event on and to Mrs Fletcher, Mrs Ions and our ex pupils, Lucy and Sam, for helping out! A big well done to Hugh, who was awesome at inspiring the younger ones.





Applications have opened for the 9th series of Junior Bake Off; a Channel 4 programme that celebrates the culinary talent and ambition of the younger generation in Britain.

With this in mind, Channel 4 are contacting schools in the hope that we can help them spread the word regarding this exciting opportunity.

They are looking for young budding bakers between 9-12 years old.

Filming would take place from July 2023, but applications close on Sunday 12th March 2023.

Interested bakers can apply online at - www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk

JUNIOR BAKE OFF

...IS LOOKING FOR THE UK'S
BEST YOUNG BAKERS
AGED 9 - 12

WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE
SUNDAY 12th MARCH 2023**

Enquiries:
applyforjuniorbakeoff@loveproductions.co.uk



School news

Breakfast Club is available to all pupils to access, especially as the mornings get more wintry. 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 13 th February 2023	Y5 visit to Bellingham Heritage Centre/Hareshaw Linn
Tuesday 14 th February 2023	Careers Event
Wednesday 15 th February 2023	Valentine's Disco
Friday 17 th February 2023	End of Spring Term 1
Monday 27 th February 2023	Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 28 th February 2023	Proposed NEU Strike Action (<i>plans to be circulated in due course</i>)
Wednesday 1 st March 2023	Y6 Parents SATS Meeting