



Dear Parents/Carers and Governors,

Welcome back after Easter!

I am delighted to be taking over the reins from Mr Ramshaw at Bellingham Middle School. I am looking forward to getting to know the children and their families during what is going to be a very busy summer term. It is an important time for our Year 6's with their impending SATS so I wish them well in their preparation and applaud the hard work that I see going on in classes for this and the dedication of the BMS teachers who do so well to support them. I am certain that they will take it all in their stride.

In their penultimate half term at BMS, our Year 8 children will engage in a number of exciting transition experiences which have been arranged with Haydon Bridge High School and Hexham QE. When events have been confirmed they will be added to our dates for the diary section of our newsletter.

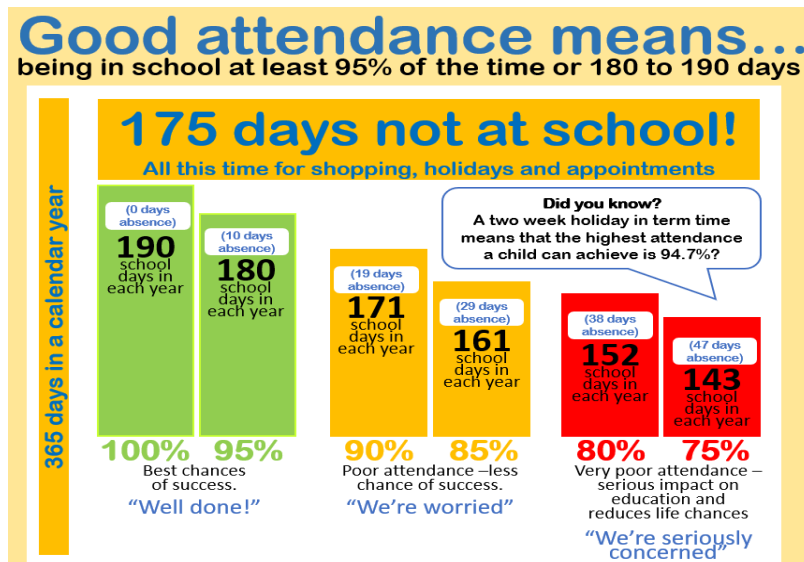
This week Year 5 and 6 join our Primary school friends in Year 3 and 4 on an exciting trip to attend the Hexham Book event at the Queen's Hall with Clare Balding to hear about her new book Animal All Stars.

Our newly styled newsletter will be sent out every second Friday. Events and activities highlighted are correct at the time of print but may be susceptible to change.

Attendance

Year 5 - 86.8%
Year 6 - 93.3%
Year 7 - 92.1%
Year 8 - 94.2%

Please report absences to the office at the earliest opportunity. Please also notify the school office if pick up arrangements change for your child.



Dates for the Diary

Thursday 2nd May
Year 5 Swimming

Friday 3rd May
Year 8 HPV vaccinations

Monday 6th May
School closed to Children and staff (May Bank Holiday)

Thursday 9th May
Year 5 Swimming

Monday 13th May
Year 6 EGPS SATS

Tuesday 14th May
Year 6 Reading SATS

Wednesday 15th May
Year 6 Maths SATS

Thursday 16th May
Year 6 Maths SATS
Year 5 Swimming

Monday 20th May
NFU workshop

Thursday 23rd May
Year 5 Swimming

Friday 24th May
End of Summer 1

Monday 3rd June
Beginning of Summer 2

17th - 19th June
KS2 residential

10th - 12th July
KS3 Residential

P.E. Day and Swimming

All children should bring their P.E. kit (red t-shirt and plain black shorts, tracksuit or leggings) to school on Wednesday this week. If children are not participating in PE they must have a signed note from home.

Swimming: Year 5 will go swimming at Wentworth Leisure Centre on Thursday afternoon.



Uniform

Uniform reminder: Red school jumper with logo, plain white polo top, black school trousers (not leggings, denim, skinny or tight fitting), black knee length school skirt (not tight fitting), black shoes (not canvas or trainer types)

The Internet and Us - Social Media Input, Years 5 and 6

Northumbria Police's Prevention Through Education Team visited our school on Tuesday 23rd April to deliver sessions to students in years 5 and 6. The sessions aim to help students understand the appropriate use of social media platforms and the consequences of posting negative/inappropriate content. It also includes discussion of the sharing of inappropriate images via digital messaging and social media.

The following weblinks contain information which will help you to keep your child safe and support this important messaging at home:

[Use Parental Controls to Keep Your Child Safe | NSPCC](#)

[My Life Online - Conversation Guide | Childnet](#)

[Nude selfies: a parents' guide \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](#)

Sharing Images - Years 7 and 8

Northumbria Police's Prevention Through Education Team visited our school on Tuesday 23rd April to deliver sessions to students in years 7 and 8 on the risks and consequences associated with the sharing of inappropriate images via text message and social media.

The purpose of the session is to equip children with the knowledge and skills to protect themselves, and to make them aware of how these images can be used to exploit young people. The session covers:

- * what is an inappropriate image?
- * why young people send inappropriate images
- * consequences
- * the law
- * where to find help and support when images have been shared

We hope you will support this important messaging at home. To help you to do that, please visit the following weblinks: [Megan's Story](#) - a teenager's experience of sharing an inappropriate image of herself

[Nude selfies: a parents' guide \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](#) It's important that young people know that there is a way to get their image removed as this may encourage them to seek help if it has happened or does happen to them:

Visit [Report Remove | Childline](#) for more information.

School Council

This week, part of our meeting involved Ms Esposito and our School Council Reps checking out progress being made in the PE Hall. Pupils were interested to learn from Mr Lowery, how much work is involved in replacing the floor. Hopefully we will have this much loved space up-and-running soon.

Breakfast Club

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.

KS2 Residential - Kingswood (17th June - 19th June)

Please can all medical forms be returned to school before the 6th May.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Powell (Interim Executive Headteacher)