



24th April 2026

Dear Parents,
This term is always extremely busy, with lots of exciting things planned for the children. We have added some more dates onto the calendar on the website and on this newsletter but there will be some additional events that need adding so please keep checking our website and our social media pages.



Right of the Fortnight

Over the next two weeks we will be exploring: **Article 28: The right to education** - Every child has the right to an education. As well as our Y6 class working really hard, the whole school are just showing us how hard they are working and making great progress every day.

Attendance Reminders



I just want to remind everyone how important attendance is. Most of our unauthorised absences are due to holidays and I just wanted to make you aware that these are now accrued over a 3 year period. If you choose to take a holiday of 5 days or more then you will be issued a fine; if this happens for a second time, the fine amount will increase. The third 'offense' could result in legal action. This being said, you do need to let us know when the children will be absent from school for a holiday (even if it is just for a day or two). There have been, and has always been, several instances where we have been informed that a child is ill or have a medical appointment but have, in fact, gone away for the weekend. It is best to be up front and honest about these matters as children invariably chat with their friends and teachers and say that they are going away. It also ensures that we are teaching our children to be honest and truthful. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Walk to School Week

Walk to School Week is the annual five-day walking challenge and takes place 18-22 May 2026. This year's challenge will see pupils set off on a special operation - codename **Mission Move**, to complete our five-day walking challenge. On the way, pupils will meet fun and friendly secret agents as they explore the many benefits of walking or wheeling to school.



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KS2 SAT Week – Monday 11th May – Friday 15th May **Y6 SATs**

This will be a busy week in school supporting Year 6 pupils with their Statutory Tests. The children have worked really hard all year and we are already so proud of them and we wish them every success. We welcome your support in ensuring pupils are in school on time each day and ensuring that children are well rested and prepared (early nights and calm mornings – UNCRC article 28).

Children will continue to be invited into school from 8:20am during this week where we will provide them with breakfast.

Open Afternoon – New & Existing Parents

We are looking forward to welcoming our new starters in September and we are planning an open afternoon on **Thursday 4th June at 1:30pm** so that parents and children have an opportunity to experience some of the activities on offer. We are inviting our existing parents to come and join in with some activities in the classes. There will be representatives from our school kitchen with samples of food and the uniform supplier will also be available with samples of our uniform. This is always a popular and well-attended event as pupils love to work with their parents in the classroom. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Year 5/6 Belfast Trip

On Monday 1st June, 26 of our Year 5 and 6 children will be heading to Belfast. The children are really excited and have a busy itinerary with lots of exciting events planned. They are looking forward to representing the school well and you can keep up with their adventures on the school's Facebook page.



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Dates to remember so far...

April

Thursday 30th - Y2 Class Assembly 9.15am
Thursday 30th - Y5/Y6 Outdoor and Adventurous
(Selected Children)

May

Friday 1st - Y2-Y6 Exploring Careers Day

Monday 4th - Bank Holiday School Closed

Wednesday 6th - Y4 Holy Island Visit

Friday 8th - Y2 Parent Storytime in our library

Week beginning 11th - Y6 KS2 SATs

Monday 18th May - Reception Parent Storytime in our library

Tuesday 19th - Animals About Town Nursery Visit

Wednesday 20th - Y4 Class Assembly

Thursday 21st - YR6 Croft Cart Race

Friday 22nd May - Reception Hall Hill Farm Visit

Friday 22nd May - School Closes for Half Term

June

Monday 1st - 3rd - Y5 & Y6 Belfast Residential

Thursday 4th - YR5 Class Assembly

Thursday 4th - Open Afternoon

Friday 5th - Bring a Thing - Non-Uniform Day

Monday 8th - Reception Ferryhill Library Visit

Wednesday 10th - YR5/6 Primary Athletics

Thursday 11th - Y2 Ferryhill Library Visit

Thursday 11th - Nursery Storytime in Nursery

Friday 12th - Bring a Bottle - Non-Uniform Day

Friday 12th - Y1 Parent Storytime in our library

Monday 15th - Y3 Ferryhill Library Visit

Thursday 18th - Summer Fair

Thursday 18th - YR5/6 Countdown Cricket

Thursday 18th June - Y1 Ferryhill Library Visit

Wednesday 24th - YR5 Big Debate

Thursday 25th - Y3 Parent Storytime in our library

Friday 26th - YR1 Trip to Discovery Museum

Tuesday 30th - Whole School Move Up Morning

July

Tuesday 14th - Nursery Beach Trip

Thursday 16th - Nursery Graduation & Stay and Play
9:30am

Friday 17th July - Last day of term

Scamps Holiday Club

Our Scamps holiday childcare will be available from 8.30am until 4pm (excluding bank holidays) during May half term. You will be able to book and pay from this on Compass from Monday 27th April. Our current prices are £14.00 per child per day or £44.80 for the 4 days if it is booked and paid for in advance with a discount for any siblings. This means that any sibling booked in for all 4 days would cost £40.00. If you are not registered with Scamps and would like your child to attend one or more of the holiday club days, then please contact the school office to request details of how to register and pay online. Please can we book no later than Friday 15th May - thank you!



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IMAGE-ALTERING FILTERS

From playful puppy ears on Snapchat to 'beauty mode' on TikTok, image-altering filters are now a routine part of how young people communicate online. While many are harmless, others subtly reshape people's faces and bodies. This can blur the line between reality and edited content, potentially influencing how children and young people see themselves and others.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- ALTERED BEAUTY STANDARDS**
Many 'beauty' filters smooth skin, reshape facial features, or adjust body proportions. Over time, repeated exposure to these filters can shift a child's idea of what is 'normal' or attractive, creating unrealistic expectations about their own and others' appearances.
- HIDDEN ADVERTISING**
Some filters are linked to beauty products or trends, subtly promoting third-party brands. Children and young people may not recognise this as advertising, while also sharing personal data – such as facial images and usage habits – with apps and third parties.
- PRESSURE TO LOOK PERFECT**
Filtered images can often attract more 'likes' and positive comments. This can encourage children and young people to rely on editing tools to gain others' approval, rather than feeling confident in their natural appearance.
- BLURRED REALITY**
As filters become more advanced and natural-looking, it can be difficult for children and young people to distinguish edited content from real life, especially when filters are used in everyday photos and videos.
- LOW SELF-ESTEEM**
Regularly viewing heavily filtered content can lead to comparisons with unrealistic images. This is linked to body dissatisfaction and reduced self-esteem, particularly among children and teenagers.
- SEXUALISED EDITS**
Certain tools can make users appear older or more sexualised. This may attract unwanted attention, increase the risk of images being shared without consent, and expose young people to unsafe interactions.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- START OPEN CONVERSATIONS**
Talk regularly about filters, such as how they work and why people use them. Ask the children and young people in your care how filtered images make them feel and encourage honest discussion without judgement.
- CHALLENGE 'PERFECT' POSTS**
When viewing content together, gently point out the signs of editing, filters, or posing techniques. This builds critical thinking and helps children and young people question unrealistic images.
- REINFORCE WHAT'S REAL**
Help children and young people understand that filtered images are digitally altered and are not an accurate reflection of real life. Emphasise that they don't need to meet these artificial standards.
- PROMOTE OFFLINE CONFIDENCE**
Encourage activities that build self-worth beyond appearance, such as sports, hobbies, friendships, and creative interests, so that confidence isn't tied solely to online validation.

Meet Our Expert

Parveen Kaur is a digital parenting expert and founder of Kids N Clicks, a platform dedicated to helping parents navigate the online world alongside their children. She is an expert contributor for Internet Matters, offering practical guidance on emerging online safety issues. Her insights have been featured by the BBC, The Telegraph, TalkTV, and other major media outlets, supporting families across the UK.

WakeUp Wednesday

The National College