



Embleton Vincent Edwards CE Primary School

Friday Flyer

16 October 2026

Executive Headteacher Update

As we reach the end of our seventh week this half term, we are heading into week eight, making this the longest half term in our school calendar this year! A huge well done to all our children and staff for their continued hard work throughout what has been a positive and busy start to the year. I am sure everyone is looking forward to a well-deserved break and there is certainly plenty to celebrate as we look back on everything achieved.

It has been another lovely week at Embleton and I would like to start by celebrating our wonderful children, who continue to be such fantastic ambassadors for our school. Last Friday, Starfish and Puffins visited Alnwick Playhouse to watch the performance of *Hay!*. The staff at the Playhouse were quick to praise how well-behaved and polite our children were, which is always wonderful to hear. We also welcomed Open the Book into school this week and they commented on how quietly and respectfully the children always come into the hall. Well done, everyone! These comments reflect the positive attitudes and values we work hard to develop every day and the children should be incredibly proud of the impression they leave on others.

On Wednesday, we were delighted to welcome Mrs Blain, Deputy CEO of Pele Trust, into school. She was amazed by how hard the children were working and the progress that has been made since the beginning of term. This was fantastic feedback and a real testament to the dedication of our staff and the enthusiasm of our pupils. It is important that we take time to recognise just how much can be achieved in a relatively short space of time and visits like this provide a valuable opportunity to celebrate the improvements taking place across our school.

There is plenty of excitement ahead for Starfish next week, as they will be welcoming some very special visitors into school – some real-life superheroes! I am sure the children will have a fantastic time meeting them and learning more about the important work they do.

A quick reminder for families using our childcare provision: due to staffing requirements, all spaces must be booked and paid for no later than the end of the first week of each month. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us ensure that staffing arrangements can be planned effectively.

We rounded off the week with our Outstanding Achievement Assembly and Hot Chocolate Celebration, giving us another lovely opportunity to recognise the children who have gone above and beyond and celebrate their hard work, effort and achievements. These moments are always a highlight and it is wonderful to see the pride our children take in their learning and successes.

Have a wonderful weekend and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for our final week.

Mr Shaw - *Next week I am planning to be in school on Thursday.*



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Safeguarding

Embleton School is committed to keeping all children safe. Our staff regularly participate in safeguarding training and are fully aware of how to keep our pupils safe and what signs to look out for. Our pupils know they can share any concerns and we have robust policies and procedures in place which underpin safeguarding. It is our paramount priority to keep all children healthy and safe. Remember our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) in school are **Mrs Popay and Mr Shaw**.

CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

- 1 VALUE ALL READING**
When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.
- 2 WIDEN THE SELECTION**
Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.
- 3 GIFT A BOOK**
One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.
- 4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS**
Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authorly and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.
- 5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE**
Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.
- 6 TALK BOOKS**
There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.
- 7 RECOMMENDATIONS**
As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.
- 8 GO DIGITAL**
With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like Polydio and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.
- 9 RECONNECT**
There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever; it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.
- 10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE**
Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.



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Attendance

As parents and carers we want to share our attendance figures because it is you who can make the big difference. Our children are entitled to a full and balanced education and at Embleton we feel we provide one of the best experiences possible.

Current Whole School attendance is 92.5%. Our target for Whole School Attendance is 97%

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Starfish	90.3%	91.0%
Puffins	100%	95.2%
Seals	99.3%	94.8%
Orcas	76.1%	88.0%

Did you know? Each pupil has 175 non-school days a year to spend however they like. The table below shows the significant impact of absence over time.

Days of school add up to lost learning						
Days in school	190	186	180	175	171	170
Percentage attendance	100%	98%	95%	92%	90%	<90%
	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Caution	Cause for concern	Serious concern

Absence Procedures If your child is ill, please keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school. Please notify us by phone call or email before 9.15am if your child is to be absent, and continue to inform us on a daily basis if they continue to be ill.

What are the risks of missing a day of school? 'Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing and wider development. Pupils with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE results. The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments.' The Education Hub - Department for Education.



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Classroom Updates - Starfish Class

Another busy week in Starfish class. What a fab lesson the children had with Callum on Monday. They absolutely loved having a football each, practising stopping with the ball with their foot and they did brilliantly putting the bibs on and off - well done Starfish! In the tuff tray this week we have been using the tweezer scoops to fill the measuring cylinders, it was quite tricky but our perseverance paid off. We have also been using shaving foam as 'cement' to build walls with the bricks-it was great fun and the classroom smelt lovely! In maths we have been learning about shapes and have been looking for shapes in the environment - we were amazed at how many we found! We have loved our Superhero topic this half term and are looking forward to finding out about real life superheroes next week.





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Classroom Updates - Puffin Class

It was lovely to see some of the Puffin parents during parent consultations on Tuesday evening. It was fantastic to hear such positive comments about the great start the children have made this term so far. It was also great to hear them enjoying the units this half term too; especially our history on The Great Fire of London! Keep up the enthusiasm Puffins! Well done.

This week we warmed up our football skills with Callum, learning passing techniques and discovering which part of the foot gives us the best control. Back in the classroom, we explored germs, using the pepper and water experiment to see firsthand why washing hands with soap is a true superpower. Science didn't stop there—we continued exploring our senses with a brisk "hearing walk" to the quarry on Thursday, where we tuned in so carefully we even caught the local goats crunching away on branches! In English, we finished and edited our recounts of *The Baker's Boy and the Great Fire of London*, and I've been thrilled to see how independent their writing has become. Finally, in maths, we've been building our confidence with part-whole models and using concrete representations to build mathematical fact families. What a busy, brilliant week!





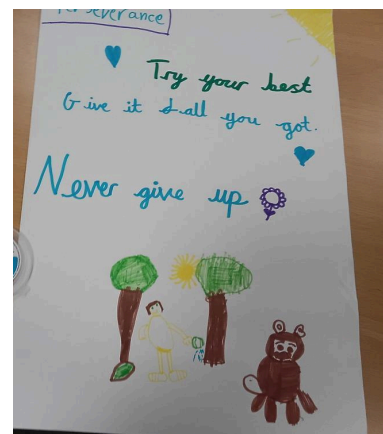
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Classroom updates - Seals Class

What a thoughtful and hard-working week we've had in class!

In English, the children have been looking closely at text types, analysing the key differences between recount writing and descriptive writing to understand how tone and structure change depending on our purpose. In Geography, we turned our eyes to physical and human landscapes by comparing Northumberland to Scandinavia. The children weighed up the geographical features of both areas to decide which locations would offer better conditions for setting up a settlement. We also spent important time focusing on digital and personal well-being. In Online Safety, we learned how to communicate safely using our school 360 Gmail accounts and discussed the "Rings of Responsibility" thinking carefully about how we keep ourselves, our local community and the wider online world safe. Following on from this, our PSHE lesson explored the concept of community, looking at what brings people together and celebrating all the different communities we belong to.





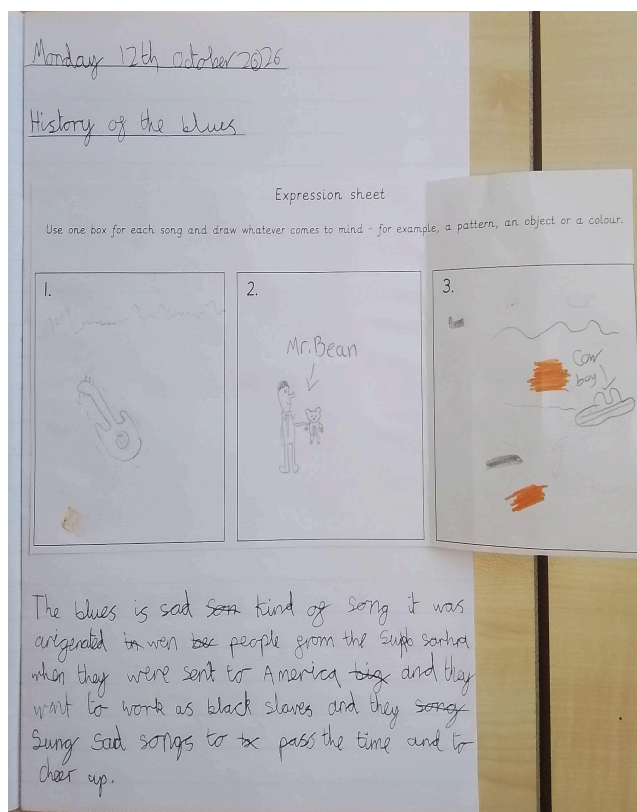
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Classroom updates - Orca Class

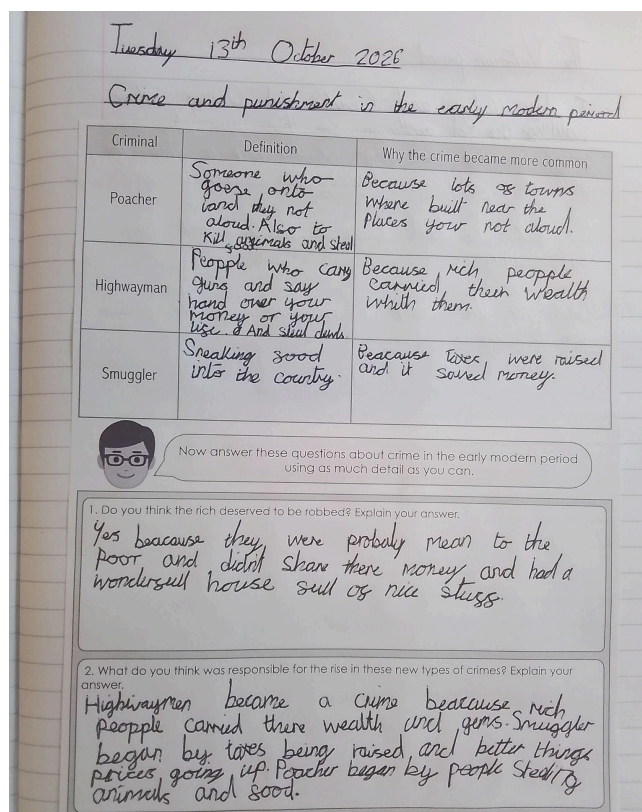
Another fine week had by all in Orcas! We have finished reading Holes in English but have plenty of work left to do on it. The children absolutely amazed me this week with their P.E.E. (point, evidence and evaluation) paragraphs. It bodes well for their assessment essay next week. Year Six have come to grips with long division and can solve problems using division. Meanwhile, Year Five have finished addition and subtraction block and did well in their end of block assessment.

Plenty of great artwork has been completed in the style of Georges Seurat. In music, we looked at the roots of Blues music and had fun drawing the first thing that came into their minds whilst listening to three pieces of music.

Orcas worked so hard in History, learning about crime and punishment in the early modern period and the Victorian era. In French we've looked at illness and after a hard workout at the quarry on Thursday I expect to hear lots of "J'ai mal aux jambes."



Beatrice's work on the blues in music.



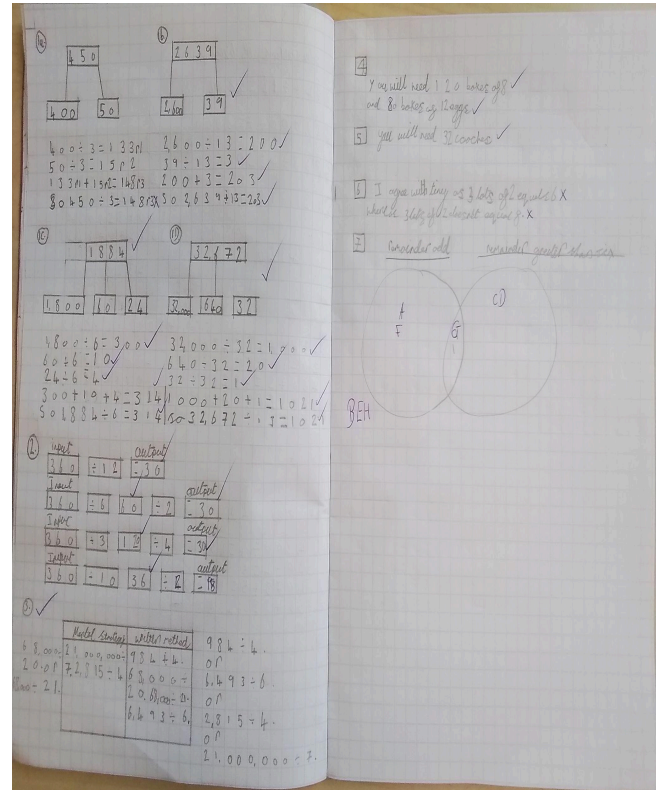
Rosie Brealey's crime and punishment work.



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Pointillism portrait by Rosie Benson.



Aidan's solving problems with division.



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Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 20th October: 3:30 – 5:30pm	Puffins, Seals and Orcas Parent Consultations
Wednesday 21st October 8.30am - 9am	Starfish Class Stay and Play (pre school children welcome)
Friday 23rd October	Teacher Training Day - School Closed
Monday 2nd November	Teacher Training Day - School Closed
Wednesday 4th November	8.45am Orca class assembly Seals - Alnwick Playhouse (Instrument Stories) Starfish and Puffins - Ignite RE workshop
Monday 9th November	Bags to school (bags to the Creighton Hall before 9am please)
Thursday 12th November	8.45 Open the Book Seals and Orcas - Ignite RE workshop
Wednesday 2nd December	Trinity Tots into Starfish Class
Monday 7th December	Christmas play dress rehearsal
Wednesday 9th December 2pm	Christmas Play
Thursday 10th December 2pm	Christmas Play
Monday 14th December	Starfish and Puffin Christmas party
Tuesday 15th December	Seal and Orca Christmas party
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day
Thursday 17th December 9.15am	Carol Service - Holy Trinity Church
Friday 18th December	Last day of term - School closes 1pm

PE Days for the whole school are Monday and Thursdays.

Please send your children to school wearing their PE kits on their PE days. KS2 Children either remove earrings or bring earring tape for PE. Thank you



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Stars of the week

Names:

Starfish: Evie

Puffins: Kalani

Seals: Joseph

Orcas: Emily H.



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Northumberland Family Hubs

What's On this half term holiday - 26th-30th October 2026

No booking required



Alnwick Family Hub

Monday 26th Oct

Halloween Story Stay & Play (ages 0-5 years) 10-11am

Bumps to Babies - Caring for your Baby 3-5pm

Tuesday 27th Oct

Baby Stay & Play (0-12 months) 10-11.30am

Well Baby Clinic & Feeding Friends Please see the back on how to book well baby clinic 10-11.30am

CAIM Stay & Play (0-5 years, additional needs and disabilities) 10-11am

Thursday 29th Oct

Family Fun Stay and Play 10-11.30am

Alnwick Library Story Stay and Play 2.00-3.00pm

Friday 30th Oct

Family Fun Stay and Play @ RAF Boulmer 10-11.30am

Outdoor Explorers Stay and Play 1.30-2.30pm

St Michaels School Site, Howling Lane, Alnwick NE66 1DJ
01670 620 430

Berwick Family Hub

Tuesday 27th Oct

Family Fun Stay and Play 10-11.30am

Bump & Buggy Walk Leaving from Berwick Family Hub at 1-2pm

Bumps to Babies - Baby & You 3-4pm (Welcome Session to attend with your new baby)

Wednesday 28th Oct

SEND Family Chill Out (Additional needs and disabilities) 10-11.30am

Well Baby Clinic & Feeding Friends Please see the back on how to book well baby clinic 1-2.30pm

Thursday 29th Oct

Baby Stay and Play (0-12 months) 10-11.30am

Halloween Movie session (All ages) 1.30-3.00pm

Ladywell Place, Tweedmouth, Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 2AE
01670 620 461

Hadston Family Hub

Monday 26th Oct

Family Fun Stay and Play 10-11.30am

Bumps to Babies - Caring for your Baby 3-5pm

Tuesday 26th Oct

Bump and Buggy Walk Leaving Hadston family hub at 11.00am

Family Fun @ The Radcliffe Club Amble 1.30-3.00pm

Wednesday 27th Oct

Calm Stay and Play (0-5 years) 10-11.30am

Thursday 29th Oct

Sensory Stay and Play (0-5 years) 10.00-10.00am

Friday 30th Oct

Baby Stay and Play (0-12 months) 10-11.30am

Well Baby Clinic & Feeding Friends Please see the back on how to book well baby clinic 10.00-11.30am

Halloween Movie Session (All ages) 1.30-3.00pm

Hadston Family Hub Bondicar Road, Hadston, Morpeth NE65 9SR
01670 624500

Radcliffe Club Amble Charles Rd, Amble Morpeth NE65 0RA

Wooler Family Hub

Friday 30th Oct

Stay and Play @ Wooler (0-5 years) 10.00-11.30am at Wooler Fire Station

Wooler Fire Station 28 South Rd, Wooler NE71 6NJ
01668 283430

Find us on Facebook: **North Northumberland Family Hubs**

Become a Family Hub Member! Scan the QR code or visit: nland.cc/threg

Find us online! Scan the QR code or visit: nland.cc/familyhubs



Please get in touch for more information about our groups, sessions & digital offer



Sign up for a group or session



Online What's On Guide

Well baby Clinic
To book an appointment, please contact the team via the SPOC number on 0300 373 2488, Health Chat on the app or by emailing hdtf.spcnorthumberland@nhs.net

Parent Support & Skills

Workshops and discussions helping parents and carers strengthen relationships and support their children's wellbeing.

Togetherness

Free digital programme providing tools to support parents/carers & young people at each developmental stage togetherness.co.uk access code - HADRIAN

Sleep Workshop

Support & guidance available from trained sleep awareness practitioners

Dad Pad

The essential guide for new dads developed with the NHS

Dad Talk

Online workshop for dads, during pregnancy and beyond

Healthy Relationships

Support to reduce conflict and improve everyone's lives

Young Peoples offer

Sessions for young people at the family hub offer

Family Fun

A fun session for the family to come along and join in with some fun activities. No booking required

Additional Needs &/or Disabilities

Supportive sessions for children and young people with additional needs, and their families, to connect, relax, and share experiences.

Empowering Parents & Carers Programme

Supportive wellbeing course for parents/carers of children with additional needs and/or disabilities

SEND Family Chill Out

Regular relaxed after school sessions for all of the family. Parents/Carers are required to stay for the session

Calm Stay & Play

Quieter sessions, with no booking required

Early Learning & Play

Fun and engaging sessions helping you support your children's learning and development through everyday activities.

Brilliant Babies

Specially designed supportive groups for families with young babies

Terrific Toddlers

Meet other families with toddlers at these social sessions with topical themes

Early Communicators

For children between 15-36 months who are experiencing some difficulties with their understanding and/or use of language

Stay & Play

Regular fun sessions, with no booking required

Baby Support & Early Parenting

Friendly sessions for new and expectant parents to connect, learn, and explore their baby's growth and development together.

Building a Brain

A bitesize online workshop exploring brain development

Bumps to Babies

Antenatal workshops to prepare for babies arrival, mums, dads, partners and grandparents are welcomed.

Feeding Friends

NHS partner support with breastfeeding and more

Understanding Children's Behaviour Workshop

Advice on how a child's developmental stage influences behaviour and to recognise how adults can help children regulate their own behaviour

Weaning Workshop

A guide to starting solid foods with your little one

Toilet Training Workshop

Practical advice for parents and carers beginning the toilet training journey

Wellbeing Service

Tailored support for Mums or Dads living in Northumberland who are expecting a baby or have a child under 2 years of age.



INFORMATION SESSION • PARENTS & CARERS

Supporting Your Child's Mental Health and Wellbeing

Navigating your child's emotional wellbeing can feel complex, but you don't have to figure it out alone. Join an Educational Psychologist for a supportive, evidence-based session designed for parents and carers.

- What mental health looks like in growing children and young people
- Practical strategies to build emotional resilience at home
- How to spot when extra support might be needed

THURSDAY

12

November

Duchess's High School, Alnwick

Starts 4pm

WEDNESDAY

18

November

Ponteland Primary School

Starts 4pm

WEDNESDAY

25

November

John Spence Community High School

Starts 4pm