



Headteacher's Blog

17TH FEBRUARY 2025

Last Week's Round-up...

First of all, let's celebrate good attendance last week. Our whole school attendance was 95% which, for winter bug season, is pretty good going! Larch class were our top attenders with 98.6% - excellent effort. Let's see if we can get a 100% class this week!

Our UKS2 children had a busy and enjoyable science and space filled week. Staff were so proud of all the children for the curiosity and engagement they showed as they took part in live Q&A sessions online with a range of scientists as well as visiting the Life Science Centre in Newcastle. During their trip, and as part of their Space Explorers work, the children participated in live science shows, destination space workshops and sessions in the planetarium. Some particular highlights included the use of robotic arms to change solar panels on satellites as well as investigating the amount of liquid that could be held in an astronaut's nappy!

The children also used a chemical explosion to launch a rocket and this created an extremely loud bang! A special thank you to our parent volunteers for their help and support on this visit.

I was contacted by a resident of Park View last week about inconsiderate parking at drop off and pick up times. She sent pictures of cars that were blocking drives and causing difficulty for residents. Please, once again, can I ask that everyone parks with consideration. Roxburgh Place and Greenwell Lane car parks are a very short walk away from school and a great alternative to the very busy Swansfield Park Road area of town.



What's on this week...

It's KS1 who are heading out and about this week to enhance their curriculum experience. On Thursday, they will visit the Poison Garden at Alnwick Gardens as part of their English work based on the Poison Garden book that they have been focusing on this half term. Again, thanks to the volunteers who are supporting us on the day to enable this trip to take place. If anyone is willing to be part of our 'volunteer army' to accompany children on school trips, please pop into the school office and they will let you know how you can support us in this way.

To complete their Art curriculum work on cityscapes, UKS2 will be visited by local artist Sarah Farooqi this week. We are looking forward to displaying the children's finished pieces in our school gallery.

As we head into the half term holiday, a reminder that we'll be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 6th March. The children are invited to dress up, if they'd like to, and we'd like to have a costume swap shop before this. If you have any costumes suitable for swapping/donating, please drop them into school and we'll let you know when we're putting a swap stall up.

Wishing everyone a happy half term!





A HUGE WELL DONE TO...

*Anya Paterson, Indy Mudd-Hall, Elsie Wilkin,
Carson Duffil, Alice Mageean, Pippa Lsaac-Lawson,
Harper Willoughby, Elsie Joyce, Enya Wightman,
Elbie Raine, William Thomas, Darius Appleby and
Sophia Tutleman*

We are very proud of you all!

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR LEARNERS...

Talking about what you've learnt and recapping new knowledge is a great way to get learning to 'stick'.

Here are some quick questions you can ask your children this week to support their growing geographical knowledge:

KS1: How does Alnwick compare with Newcastle? What are the similarities and what are the differences?

LKS2: How does the north-east compare with the south-east? What are the similarities and what are the differences?

UKS2: What is distinctive about the Rockies mountain range?

HAVE A LISTEN TO THIS...

With our friends at DCHS taking to the stage this week with their production of The Band, featuring lots of our former students, here's a cracking Take That tune to wish them well for their show week.

There are a few tickets left if anyone wants to enjoy a great local performance!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INQRKyIRe3E>



AN UPDATE FROM CANNY...

CANNY stands for Council of Alnwick and North Northumberland Youth and a group of our UKS2 children are enjoying their time as representatives for our school on this forum.

As part of their work, they have a mission to make an improvement to their school, and after thinking long and hard about this, they have the following message to share...

Our CANNY group has been working hard brainstorming ideas to improve our school playtimes. After researching, we have decided that we want to raise money for a new piece of play equipment - to help make our playtimes even more enjoyable!

We will be organising a selection of fundraising events, starting with a non-uniform day on the 21st February. Please bring a donation of £1 on the day, if you can.

- Please note that if it is a PE for you, you will need suitable clothing.*

Best Wishes,

Your CANNY representatives

I do hope that everyone will support our CANNY mission and a non-uniform day will be a great end to our half term!

