



St Anne's CE Primary School & Nursery

NEWSLETTER



Harvest Worship

Year Three have prepared this year's Harvest festival all around Compassion. Mrs Shields and Miss Turnbull have been so impressed with everyone's effort to learn their lines, sing and reflect on this important Christian value. A massive thankyou to Mrs Laidler for help preparing Harvest art and singing. Thank you to all of the children who brought donations into school and finally to our parents, carers and grandparents who gave up their time to celebrate with us today.







Nursery News!

We have had a busy couple of weeks in Nursery! We have loved learning all about The Gruffalo, making a fabulous piece of art as a class, exploring gloopy 'owl ice cream' and discussing other woodland animals that the Gruffalo may come across!

This week we have also been learning about the importance of being kind friends, through the story 'The Little Red Hen'. This is helping the children to understand why we need to share and help those around us when we can.

The children have developed their gross motor skills outside exploring the garden, and are also working on their fine motor skills through threading, cutting and mark making! We have also been lucky enough for the children to take part in lovely music sessions, learning new songs and hearing new instruments such as the violin.



Girls' Football League

A great night of football at Bishop Auckland FC with the first night of the Education Enterprise girls football league.

Some great skills and teamwork on display with lots of goals and smiles along the way!

Well done girls!



International Music Day!

In Year 4, we have been listening to early jazz musicians and were amazed by the emotion and soul that was expressed by the artists. We loved the instruments used to create beats and bend notes. Miss Coates borrowed a trumpet so we could see what it is like to blow a tune and improvise. When we watched musicians play the trumpet, they made it seem so easy! We found it a little tricky, remembering to purse our lips and blow. We may not be experts yet, but perhaps in the future, we'll be musicians on the stage.





Year 3 Visit to Hardwick Park

On Monday 22nd September, Year Three travelled to Hardwick Park and back in time to the Stone Age. We really enjoyed being Hunter-gatherers like the earliest humans and used our natural materials to create maps. Later, we followed a map and practised orienteering.

You will be unsurprised to learn that Mrs Shields' managed to get her group lost again - despite it being the same route. Travelling past angry geese and bemused toddlers we made the necessary detours to find the Stone Age vocabulary. Eventually, shame-faced and yet, relieved we returned to Phil and Miss Turnbull. Then it was time to paint using environmental materials like the prehistoric man. Later, we had brief return to civilisation to munch on our delicious packed lunches. In the afternoon we explored den making and fire starting under the watchful eye of the adults. Finally, we returned back to the 21st century and the civilisation tire, happy and full of appreciation of how tough our ancestors had to be to survive. No MacDonald's or ipads, just imagine...



This week in Science, Year 1 continued exploring the changing seasons, focusing on what we notice during Autumn. We discussed how the weather changes, what happens to the trees, and the colours we see all around us at this time of year.

In Art, we began our lessons by learning how to explore and control different types of lines. The children experimented with straight lines, spirals, and zig-zags. We then put this into practice by creating some beautiful Autumnal trees using black solid lines and drawing inks. The results were fantastic! Well done, Year 1!



EYFS Parents/Carers,

Gardening in the Early Years provides extensive benefits, promoting physical development through motor skills by linking maths, science and literacy. Gardening also develops personal, social and emotional skills through responsibility, patience and collaboration.

We are keen to get our garden up and running and plant seasonally to grow our own produce.

To help kick start our gardening journey we need your help. We would love the children to take part in a sponsored Welly Run! This will be lots of fun and will be celebrated at the finish line with a biscuit and juice.

The run will take place on Wednesday 8th October.

We would like to thank you for your continued support.

A sponsor form will be given to each child this week.



Head Teacher: Mrs S Binks

Minds to learn hearts to care.



Weekly class attendance..... 29 September to 3 October 2025

Reception 93.67%

Year 1 **99.33%**

Year 2 94.00%

Year 3 94.48%

Year 4 90.33%

Year 5 96.45%

Year 6 98.57%



Stars of the Week



Nursery	<i>Rueben for always being engaged in learning</i>
Reception Citizen	<i>Daisy</i>
Reception Maths	<i>Edie</i>
Reception English	<i>Elijah</i>
Year 1 Citizen	<i>Isla</i>
Year 1 Maths	<i>Nellie</i>
Year 1 English	<i>Tommy L</i>
Year 2 Citizen	<i>Ezra</i>
Year 2 Maths	<i>Joe</i>
Year 2 English	<i>Hunter</i>
Year 3 Citizen	<i>All for their hard work preparing our Harvest Festival</i>
Year 3 Maths	<i>Rex</i>
Year 3 English	<i>Amelia</i>
Year 4 Citizen	<i>Erin R</i>
Year 4 Maths	<i>Elijah</i>
Year 4 English	<i>Johnson</i>
Year 5 English	<i>Annie</i>
Year 5 Maths	<i>Lucas M</i>
Year 5 Citizen	<i>Ella O</i>
Year 6 English	<i>Sammy</i>
Year 6 Maths	<i>Kate</i>
Year 6 Citizen	<i>Tyler</i>





Polite reminder that children who have vomited or have had diarrhoea should remain off school for 48 hours from the last episode. This is to ensure your child is fully fit before returning to school and also to help stop the spread of illness to children and staff. Thank you

Medication

Please ensure that all medication, including over the counter medication is taken to the School Office each day and the appropriate form is completed. No medication should be placed in your child's bag or lunch box. This will ensure that the medication is managed correctly and is not accessed by another child.

Polite reminder that no dogs should be brought onto school property including those being carried.

Thank you

Pupils Online Safety

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXSbuT-OkC8&list=PLQTtyDJWDJDZn1VvYzazcljLwPXVrcCh&index=5>

Parents Online Wellbeing

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers/phones>



October

Wednesday 1st October - Harvest Lunch

Friday 3rd October – *Harvest Worship*

Year 3 parents are invited to attend at **9:15am**.

Wednesday 8th October—EYFS Welly Run

Friday 10th October— Wear something yellow in support of Young Minds

Monday 27th to Friday 31st October - Half term break

November

Tuesday 4th November – *Individual Photographs*

All children will have their school photographs taken.

Wednesday 5th November – *Book Fair*

A wonderful opportunity to explore and purchase books.

Thursday 6th November – *Book Fair*

A wonderful opportunity to explore and purchase books.

Friday 7th November – *Year 4 Class Worship*

Year 4 parents are invited to attend at **9:15am**.

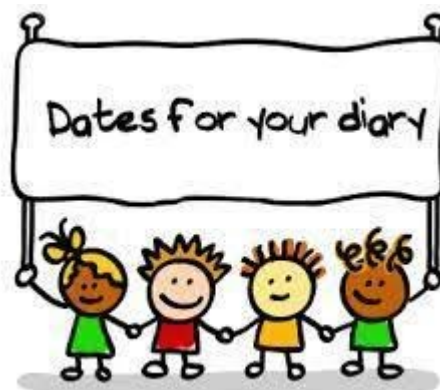
Book Fair

A wonderful opportunity to explore and purchase books.

Monday 10th - Thursday 13th November – *Parents' Evening Week*

Further details and booking information will be shared soon.

Friday 14th November - Children in Need



December

Friday 5th December – *Christmas Fayre*

A festive event for all – times to be confirmed.

Monday 8th December – *Christmas Pantomime*

A special treat for all children.

Wednesday 10th December - Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 11th December – *Year 6 Singing at St Anne's Church*

Performance begins at **10:00am** – Year 6 parents are welcome to attend.

Wednesday 17th December – *EYFS and KS1 Nativity*

Held in school – more details to follow.

Thursday 18th December- *KS2 Carol Service at St Andrew's Church*

This will take place in the afternoon

We look forward to welcoming you to these events and thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.



Lets turn St Anne's yellow in support of Young Minds

On Friday 10 October all children are invited to wear yellow in support of Young Minds. We would welcome any donations to this worthy cause either in cash or using the link below. Further information about the vital work Young Minds provides, can be found at <https://fundraise.youngminds.org.uk/.../hello-yellow...>

Thank you for continued support



Head Teacher: Mrs S Binks

Minds to learn hearts to care.



As a school, we are working with Durham County Council and the FISO Programme to provide support for families within our school community. As a result, we have been allocated a Financial Inclusion Support Officer, Julia Waterhouse, who can offer advice and support with any financial concerns. She can also offer full welfare benefit checks and assist with applying for welfare benefits, disability benefits and grants.

Accessing this provision is completely confidential. If you would like your details passing on, we can do this on your behalf. Alternatively, you can arrange an appointment by completing the online referral form: <https://doitonline.durham.gov.uk/.../Request for...> You can also email FISO@durham.gov.uk or contact Julia on 07386659728.

Julia can also be available in school via a pre-bookable appointment if a face-to-face appointment is preferred.



Are you missing out on Universal Credit?

Universal Credit can be paid to working and non working families

There will no longer be an earnings threshold if working and claiming Universal Credit

ALL families in receipt of Universal Credit will be eligible for Free School Meals from September 2026

By claiming Free School Meals this could save you £490 per year per child

Contact your FISO for a FREE confidential welfare benefit check
FISO@durham.gov.uk

https://doitonline.durham.gov.uk/en/service/Request_for_Financial_Inclusion_Support

Julia would like to make all parents and carers aware that the government are changing the eligibility criteria for free school meals in September 2026. This means that every family receiving Universal Credit will now qualify for free school meals. Even if you think you may not qualify for Universal Credit/Free School Meals it is always worth checking. Please contact Julia who will complete a quick, free and confidential welfare benefit check for you. FISO@durham.gov.uk



Starting School

**Will your child turn 5 between
1 September 2026 and 31 August 2027?**

If so, you need to complete an application online to tell us which school you would like your child to attend from September 2026.

Visit www.durham.gov.uk/primaryschoolplaces where you can access a useful guide to help with your application. The easiest way to apply is online. If you are unable to apply online, paper application forms are available on request.

You still need to apply even if your child attends the nursery unit attached to the school, or already has a sibling at the school. You will also need to apply for a place for year 3 in a junior school if you wish your child to attend there.

Applications open 1 September 2025 and close midnight 15 January 2026.

For more information please contact

School Places and Admissions Team

🌐 www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

☎ 03000 265896

