

20th February 2025

Dear Parents,

We have had a busy half-term in school.

New Staff

I would like to welcome Mrs Kate Swinhoe and Miss Ellie Kenyon who will join the teaching team in Class 7 (our Specialist Support Base). Parents will have the chance to meet new staff at their coffee morning, Wednesday 19th March 10.30-11.30am.

Early Years News

Nursery

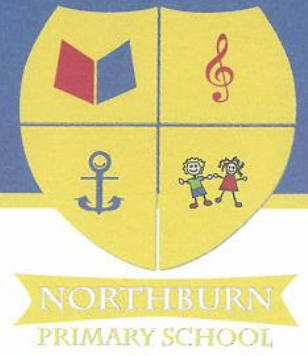
It has been an exciting half-term filled with new fairy tales, sparking enthusiasm and wonderful opportunities for the children to act out their favourite stories. They loved growing their own beanstalks and building homes for the three little pigs.

We've also welcomed new children into our setting, and our excited little ones embraced the responsibility of introducing them to nursery routines whilst demonstrating sharing and kindness.

Reception

Children in Reception have been exploring the world, travelling throughout the seven continents of the world. They have recreated Australian Aboriginal art. They learned how animals survive the cold temperatures in Antarctica and built famous landmarks in the construction area. They have also tried some new and exciting foods and made pizzas in their cooking club. The rest of the school enjoyed their Chinese New Year dragon dance as they paraded through school.

Ofsted Report (2022): *"The school offers a diverse, rich and well sequenced curriculum. This ensures that pupils have every chance of success."*



Key Stage 1

This half term key stage one have enjoyed learning how to code Bee Bots in our computer lessons. This provided us with lots of opportunities to use positional language and set challenges for our Bee Bots to overcome. We have also enjoyed improving our fitness with Drumba lessons; music and P.E rolled into one! Year 2 have had a very busy time during their Enterprise day where they learnt about family life and saving money.

Class 6 and 7

We have had another fantastic half term in Class 6 & Class 7. The Class 7 garden has had a huge revamp with new AstroTurf and some outdoor equipment which the children have all enjoyed exploring. We have also had some new additions to our sensory spaces including some sensory tiles, mirrors and exploration equipment which has brought great excitement and interest. Class 6 have been furthering their forest school skills and have enjoyed experimenting with clay, making bird crafts and, of course, cooking lots of delicious treats on 68the campfire.

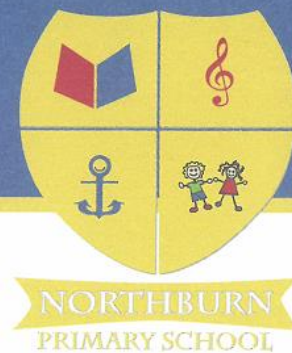
We have also had some very exciting news about securing a bid to enhance our technology resources, more information to follow!

Lower Key Stage 2

Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed their outdoor learning at forest school. They have made seed feeders for the many birds that visit us, created their own nature art pictures, as well as den building and toasting marshmallows which they enjoyed eating by the fire.

Year 4 have been having great fun in PE with our Drumba drums. It is quite a cardio workout combining physical and music education in order to boost confidence and fitness levels. We have started our Egyptian burial masks in papier mâché. The children have been wonderfully creative and are very eager to see the final outcome once they are painted. In science, we have been exploring light and shadows. The children have been working in small

Ofsted Report (2022): *"The school offers a diverse, rich and well sequenced curriculum. This ensures that pupils have every chance of success."*



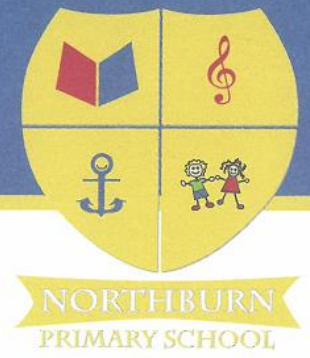
teams to design and create their own shadow puppet theatre. Times Tables Rockstars is going well and the children are working extremely hard to improve their knowledge.

This term we have been working closely with staff from the National Domestic Abuse program. Pupils in years 1-3 have been taught about *Kind Hands, Kind Voices, and Friendships* to promote kindness, respect, and healthy relationships. Through activities and role-play, children learned about positive communication, respectful interactions, and conflict resolution. The sessions encouraged empathy and emotional awareness.

Key Stage 2

Key Stage 2 participated in the NSPCC programme, Speak out Stay safe. This involved talking about the types of worries a child might have. Bricks were used to represent worries and then they were put in a sack. The sack of worries was then used to talk about safe adults a child could talk to. With each example, a brick was removed. Different types of abuse were explained in a simple, age-appropriate way, so children can understand when something is not right. Children then thought about safe adults who may be good to talk to, both in and out of school. Children also learnt about Childline, and how they can get in contact if they're worried or need to talk. The rights of children were also discussed so that they know all children have the right to speak out and have their views taken seriously, be kept safe and get help when they need it

The children have been involved in Lego League again this year. Using Lego kits, children develop coding skills, project management and associated team skills. This year's theme is 'Submerged' and the children have been fascinated in this content. We have two groups representing Northburn at the 'Lego League Challenge Day' and we look forward to seeing in-school displays from Years 2, 3 and 4.



Sporting News

As we approach the end of this school half term, it's a great time to reflect on the achievements in PE, particularly with our outstanding KS2 football and athletics teams.

The boys' KS2 football team has been actively competing in the Cramlington and Seaton Valley 7-a-side league. Currently sitting in 4th place after completing two rounds of fixtures, the team has displayed remarkable effort and teamwork. They were also part of the County Cup competition but were knocked out in a close quarter-final match against Chantry Middle School. Despite the loss, their performance was commendable, and their attitude throughout the competition has been excellent. The boys continue to represent our school values with great sportsmanship, determination, and respect.

The girls' KS2 football team, although not yet in action this term, have a fixture scheduled for mid-March, where we look forward to seeing them bring their passion and skills to the field.

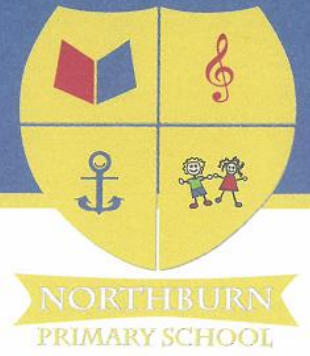
In early February, Class 12 Year 5 pupils proudly represented Cramlington schools at the virtual North East District Multi-skills competition. Competing against six other schools, the pupils demonstrated incredible determination and energy throughout four demanding events. Their hard work paid off as Northburn finished in a credible fourth place. The team's enthusiasm and sportsmanship shone through, and we congratulate all the pupils involved for their outstanding performance and commitment. Well done!

Commando Joe's

Commando Joe's continues to be very popular and is making a lasting impact on our children. Through engaging and challenging activities, the children are developing key life skills such as resilience, self-awareness and teamwork. Every key stage across school has embraced the set missions with enthusiasm. The children are not only building their confidence but also strengthening their ability to work together effectively.

Ofsted Report (2022):

"The school offers a diverse, rich and well sequenced curriculum. This ensures that pupils have every chance of success."



Things going on in the community

[Family days out in Northumberland | Visit Northumberland](#)

[Northumberland in Spring | Visit Northumberland](#)

Northumberland Family Hubs

Northumberland family Hubs provide support to parents and carers. They are spaces to meet, learn, take part in activities and access help and information. You can find out more information on the link below:

[South East locality | Family Hubs](#)

[SEND families in South East Northumberland](#)

[South East Northumberland Family Hubs \(Blyth, Cramlington & Seaton Valley\) What's On Guide](#)

Please see above invitation and RSVP link to Cramlington 2025 - The Movie!

<https://www.hereyoubelong.co.uk/event-details/cramlington-2025-film-premier-and-after-party>

A fascinating film documentary that records the transformation of Cramlington over the past five years through the Town Council's focus on a people and community-based approach is about to be shown on screen - and you are invited.

'CRAMLINGTON 2025' captures a record of the town and its people as they are now and the development in recent years of the relationship between residents and community groups as the Council introduced a more community-focused approach.

The premiere of the documentary will take place on Tuesday, 4th March 2025, at 6.00 pm at The VUE Cinema, with residents invited to witness their town's journey of positive change highlighting community spirit, initiatives, projects, and most importantly, the people.

Through personal stories and striking imagery captured by local content creators Here You

Ofsted Report (2022):

"The school offers a diverse, rich and well sequenced curriculum. This ensures that pupils have every chance of success."



Belong, the film demonstrates how putting people first has created lasting positive impacts throughout the community.

Following the screening, attendees are invited to continue the celebration at Cramlington Village Social Club from 6.30 pm onwards. This after-show gathering will provide an excellent opportunity for community members to discuss the documentary, share their own experiences of Cramlington's transformation, and connect with others who have been part of this inspiring journey. For more information contact

maggie@cramlingtontowncouncil.gov.uk.

From Joe (Youth and Community Manager Cramlington Town Council).

Uniform reminders

Your child **must not** wear earrings to school. They are allowed to wear plastic retainers. If you are planning to have your child's ears pierced, it would be a good idea to book an appointment for the beginning of the summer holidays so that they have healed before they return to school in September 2025.

Please remind your child that their P.E kit should be a pair of plain black joggers and a plain white tee-shirt (without logos). No football kits please.

Parking

Please remember that you can park at the sports centre and walk to school along the cycle path. It only takes about 5 minutes and helps to ease congestion at dropping off and picking up times.



Warmer weather (hopefully, fingers crossed)

As we approach the summer term, it is a good idea for your child to apply a long-lasting sun cream before they come to school. We also recommend that they wear a named sun hat and remember to bring in a named water bottle to school. Please don't send your child in with an expensive and/or breakable water bottle. It is completely unnecessary and often causes upset when they are lost or broken. We sell plastic water bottles for £1.00. Please ask at the office.

Medicines in school

I know a number of children suffer from hay fever and may get more headaches in the spring and summer months. In some cases, school can administer over the counter medication for self-limiting conditions, which do not require any medical advice or treatment. The usual agreement forms would need to be completed as is the case for the administration of prescribed medication.

Any medication must be in its original packaging from the manufacturer and include the name of the medicine and the recommended dosage range. It must be in date and the agreed dosage on the agreement form must match that on the packaging. If required, we are able to administer Calpol in school. We would always call you to discuss. Please remember to let us know if your contact details change.

Dates for your diary

An overview of dates for your diary will be sent out the first week back after the half term. We are just waiting to finalise a couple of dates.

World Book Day Thursday 6th March 2025

Your child is invited to dress up as their favourite book character. If they don't want to, don't worry, they can come as lots of characters in their usual clothes (non-uniform or uniform). In school, there will be related activities throughout the day.

NORTHBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

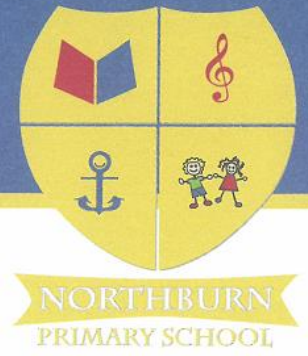
Horton Drive, Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 3QS

Tel: 01670 739111

Email: admin@northburn.northumberland.sch.uk

www.northburn.northumberland.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Clare Scott



P.T.A

Thank you very much to all in our PTA for the work that they have done to raise much appreciated funds for the school. The Valentine Disco was a huge success and enjoyed by all who attended. It raised £270.05. Thank you to everyone who shopped at Asda and registered for 'Cashpot for Schools'. We received a fantastic £735.26.

I wish you all a lovely, and hopefully warmer, spring half-term break.

Everyone returns to school on Monday 3rd March 2025.

My very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Clare Scott'.

Clare Scott (Headteacher)

Ofsted Report (2022):

"The school offers a diverse, rich and well sequenced curriculum. This ensures that pupils have every chance of success."