



Everyone is welcome

Here we are at the end of the half term, happy with all we've achieved and ready for a restful week. As I write this, the sun is shining through the window which makes a very nice change!

Children's Mental Health Week

This week, we have been thinking carefully along the theme: *'This is My Place.'* We have thought about the different ways in which we feel belonging in our lives – maybe with our family, friends, or the different groups and communities we are part of. Feeling like we belong is incredibly important for our confidence, sense of self-value and overall wellbeing. We have had a number of new families join us recently – a feature of our school – so we have explored the ways we support each other so that we all feel we belong, no matter how long we have been here.

Here are the places where we feel we belong:

School because it makes me feel calm and happy
– Harry

Church because it's special in Longhoughton –
Abdullah

Embleton Beach because I like running around and swimming in the sea. It makes me feel safe –
Cassie

School because there's lots of things to play with and I feel happy – Zak

Home because I feel safe – Evelyn

With my family because they make me happy and they love me – Jack

On the football pitch because I'm a good keeper and important to the team – Darcy

The beach because I love the sand and the water
– Sophie

I hope you have a safe and restful half term.

Wall of Fame

Congratulations to all our certificate winners this week!



Attendance

Congratulations to this week's Attendance Champions: **for the first time in 2026, St Patrick's Class lifted the trophy with 96.8% attendance.**

Our whole school attendance was up slightly from last week at 95.9%



Staying Safe over Half Term

Any school holiday creates extra things to be aware of as a parent. Children may be around the house while you are having to work from home, or they may be spending more time out and about in the village, for example. Some particular local risks include the traffic on the main road through the village, the railway line and of course the beach.

The following links will take you to some useful advice about keeping children safe during the half term break.

[Support & advice for families | NSPCC](#)

[Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents](#)

[Safety education - Network Rail](#)

[Coastal safety | HM Coastguard UK](#)



Parents' Consultations

I hope you found the opportunity to discuss your child's progress valuable this week and it was good that class teachers were able to have these important discussions with nearly all our families. If you were unable to make your appointment, please contact the office after half term to arrange a time to meet your child's teacher.

Super Phonics

We have been working extremely hard to improve the teaching and learning of phonics over the past 18 months so that all our early readers have the very best start. Children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 have a phonics lesson at the start of every day following the Read Write Inc. phonics scheme and across all the groups, the positive engagement and motivation to learn is clear to see. Miss Sheridan had a big smile on her face after this week's phonics assessments as 96% of our children demonstrated marked progress since December. Well done to all of them!

Read Write Inc.
Phonics

Acorns Access

From Tuesday 24th February, we will go back to using the Acorns entrance round the back of school. Please follow the path round to the right of school, through the Early Years outdoor area to the back yard.

Please make sure you stick to the path and that little ones don't stray onto the new surfacing as we need to protect this for our children to use during the school day.

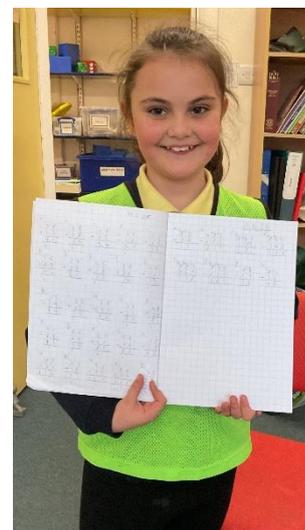
If you are unsure where to go, come to the front entrance as before and somebody will help show you!

Thank you for your patience and understanding over the last couple of months.

Please note, for now we will still use the front entrance of school for drop-offs at 8:45am and pick-ups at 3:15pm. We will use the front entrance of school for pick-ups from clubs at 4:15pm.

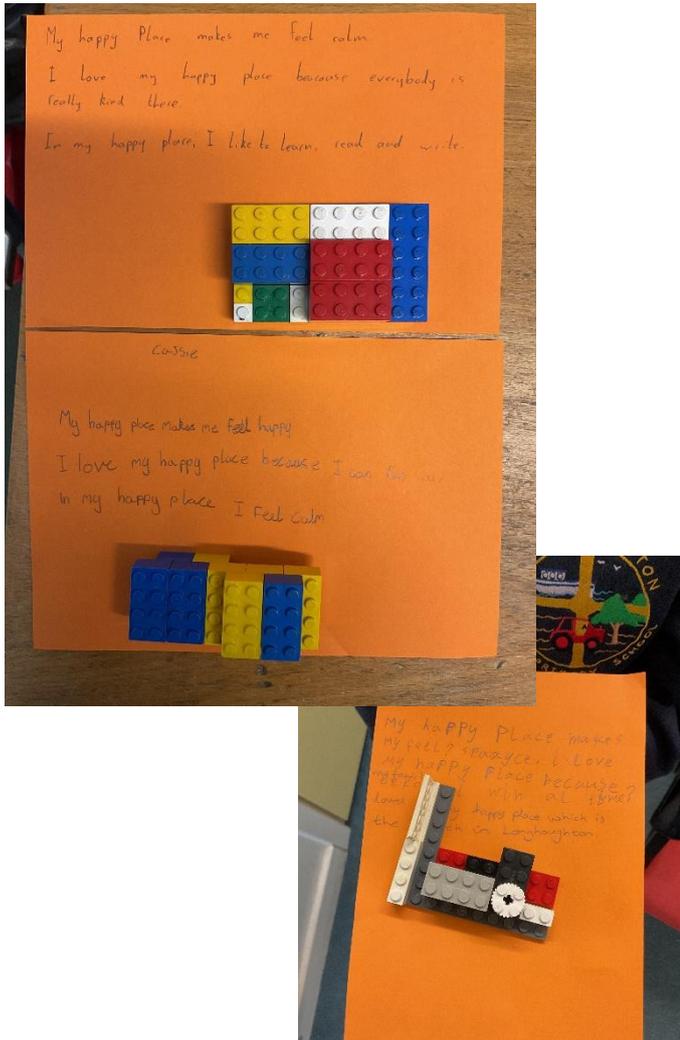
Excellent Work!

Well done to these two stars who have achieved some fantastic maths and fab homework!



Class News

While exploring Children's Mental Health Week, St David's class have been using Lego to build their happy places.



The cold, rainy weather didn't stop St George's class having a great time investigating different forms of transport they could find in the village.



St Andrew's Class Spanish Day

There was a distinctly Iberian feel in St Andrew's class on Thursday as they came to the end of their learning about Spain with a full day of activities inspired by their learning. The tapas meal seemed a key highlight.



Let's Get Cooking!

It was great to see so many parents come along to bake with their children. Jammie Dodgers were on the menu and they must have been delicious as there were no spares for me!



Important Dates

Monday 16th – Friday 20th February: Half Term break

Monday 23rd February: Teacher Training Day – **school closed**

Tuesday 24th February: Children return to school after half term

Thursday 5th March: World Book Day

Friday 20th March: Comic Relief

Monday 30th March: Easter Egg Competition (details coming soon)

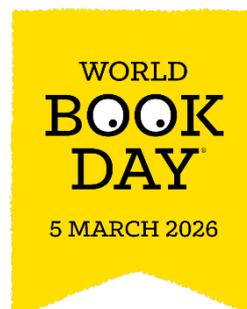
Thursday 2nd April: Last day of term before the Easter Holidays

Monday 20th April: Children return to school after Easter

World Book Day 2026

World Book Day will be on Thursday 5th March. Children can come dressed as a character from their favourite book, or if they like, **we will be having a Mr Men and Little Miss theme.** Or, they can simply come dressed as themselves.

For children in St David's Class, if you are coming in a costume, please bring suitable clothes to wear to swimming in the afternoon that you can get changed into at lunchtime.



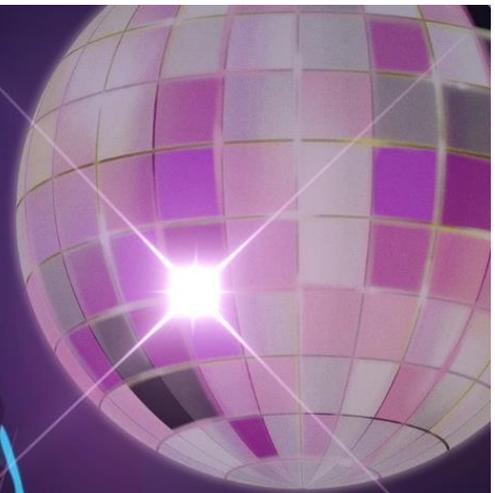
Please remember not to use the car park between 8:00am and 4:30pm. Staff need space to park and also, particularly at drop off and pick up times, we want to avoid cars moving about in the car park.





Poster design by @gfishart

Facebook



Roller Skate Disco



All ages welcome!

Saturday 14th February | 3:00pm

Willowburn Sports and Leisure Centre

To book please email Gemma:

gwharrier@yahoo.co.uk

Please bring your own skates!

