



Durham Blue Coat
C.E. Aided Junior School

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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October 2025

Message from the Headteacher

We have had a wonderful start to the new school year. Many thanks to you, our parents and carers, for your continued support. Students have enjoyed getting back to a full enrichment programme including Art Club, Sports Club and much more! Alongside the many enrichment opportunities, students have also enjoyed taking their learning outside of the classroom with trips to places such as God and the Big Bang at Newcastle Cathedral, the Sikh Gurdwara and our Science ambassadors visited Pragmatic Park. We are looking forward to building on these successes and have a busy and exciting next half term planned. In the meantime, we wish you a restful and enjoyable half term.



POPPY APPEAL

Poppies will be available in school for a donation after half term.

Book Swap – Monday 1st December

Come along to our book swap on Monday 1st December from 3.20pm – 3.45pm. Bring gently-loved books from home and trade them for new stories to enjoy. It's a great way to share favourites, discover new reads, and build a love of reading together! If you have any books you no longer want, these can also be donated to school.

P.E Kit Reminder

Please can we remind all parents/carers that children should be coming into school, on the days they have PE, wearing the correct school PE kit and **not non-uniform**. The school PE kit consists of:-

- Royal Blue School PE Top or Plain Blue or White T-Shirt
- Plain Navy/Black Shorts (to the middle of the thigh)
 - Trainers (only on PE days)
- Navy/Black Hoody (plain with no large emblems or writing)
- Navy/Black Jogger Bottoms/Leggings (plain no large emblems, patterns or writing)
 - No Football Strips

Many retailers including Asda and Sainsbury are offering plain hoodies and jogger bottoms in their school ranges.

Be Considerate to our Neighbours – Parking Reminder

Please, never park across driveways or on corners or junctions. As a driver you have a responsibility to park in a safe and considerate manner. Park with care and help make the area near and around our school a safer place for everyone. Fewer cars at the school entrance will help make it safer for everyone - try walking, cycling or scooting, even if it's just one day a week, it can make a big difference. If you need to drive your child to school, consider parking away from school and walking the remainder of the way or car share with other families.



Attendance Update for October 2025

3M – 97.6%	5B – 96.4%
3N – 98%	5D – 99%
4S – 97.7%	6H – 96.9%
4W – 98.9%	6W – 97%

Parent Online Safety – Talking to your child about online safety

Children and young people today often see their online and offline lives as one and the same. As technology evolves quickly, it can be hard to keep up – but regular, open conversations make a big difference.

There will be times when children need advice or support, especially when navigating the online world. They might come across harmful content or be contacted by someone they don't know, which can be confusing or upsetting.

As a parent or carer, it's important to step in when you feel they need a nudge in the right direction. Whether it's about what they're sharing, who they're speaking to, or how they're feeling online, consistent conversations help build trust and confidence.

Here are 5 top tips from the NSPCC for talking to children about staying safe online:

1. Start with the positives

Being online can be a great way for children to learn, be creative, and stay connected with friends and family. Recognising these benefits helps keep conversations balanced and encourages confident, safe use of technology.

2. Find the right time and place

Choose a calm moment to talk, such as during a walk, car journey, or shared activity. Avoid starting the conversation when emotions are high or during a disagreement.

3. Use child-facing resources and advice

Support your conversation with age-appropriate tools, videos, or guides. These can help children understand key messages and make the discussion more engaging and relevant to their stage of development.

4. Ask about their experiences

Use open questions like:

'Have you seen anything online that made you uncomfortable?'

'Who do you chat with online?'

'Are they people you know offline?'

'How do you feel when using certain apps or games?'

5. Make it part of everyday life

These chats don't need to be formal or one-off. Regular, relaxed conversations help children feel supported and more likely to speak up if something worries them.

No matter how hard we try, there may be things that children won't open up to, so it's important that we give them other options. That could be: another adult family member, e.g. aunt, older cousin etc, a teacher or member of the pastoral team in school or Childline on 0800 1111 or visiting the [Childline website](#).

Diary Dates

Autumn Half Term commences Monday 27th October and we re-open on Monday 3rd November

w/c Monday 10 th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Monday 10 th November	Odd Socks Day
Friday 14 th November	Children in Need – <i>more info to follow</i>
Friday 14 th November	Girl Powered Event @ Komatsu
w/c Monday 17 th November	Maths Week
Monday 17 th November	Year 6 Height and Weight
Tuesday 25 th November	Year 5 visit to Newcastle Reform Synagogue
Friday 5 th December	Diabetes Day - <i>more info to follow</i>
Wednesday 10 th December	Christmas Jumper & Christmas Dinner Day - <i>more info to follow</i>
Friday 12 th December	Whole School Panto @ The Exchange - <i>more info to follow</i>
Monday 15 th December	Year 3 & 4 Christmas Party - <i>more info to follow</i>
Tuesday 16 th December	Year 5 & 6 Christmas Party - <i>more info to follow</i>
Friday 19 th December 9.30am – 10.30am	Christmas Service @ All Saints Church - <i>more info to follow</i>

Christmas Holiday's commence Monday 22nd December and we re-open on Tuesday 6th January 2026