



The Blue

Durham Blue Coat
C.E. Aided Junior School

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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September 2025

Welcome back!

We hope that everyone has had a lovely summer break. As we begin a new Autumn term, we look forward to working in partnership with you all in order to continue the development of your children, academically, socially and personally. We are very much looking forward to an exciting term ahead. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries.

An extra special welcome to our new intake of Year 3s! They have made an excellent start to the term, picking up new routines with ease and getting to know their new teachers. We are sure that they will continue to settle in well and enjoy the autumn term. If any Year 3 parents are unsure of anything at all, please just call and ask. We also have new pupils joining us in other year groups and extend a warm welcome to them and their families.

Year 6 had a great time at Lockerbie Manor!

Year 6 had an exciting week on their visit to Lockerbie Manor. They all had lots of fun taking part in various activities! Everyone enjoyed trying new activities and all accomplished something to be proud of. They were all absolutely amazing and a credit to the school.



School Photographs

Phototronics school photographers will be in school on Thursday 23rd October. The photographer will take an individual photograph of every child at school on that day. A sample photo will be sent home for you to preview, if you wish to purchase a copy of the photograph please complete and return your order.

Please Help our Local Residents

We would like to take this opportunity to request that parents/carers respect and consider all our local residents. Please park courteously allowing local residents to exit and enter their driveways and treat parked cars with care to avoid damage. If at all possible, we remind parents not to leave their cars running as exhaust fumes can be detrimental to people's health.

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 school a safer place for everyone.

Please also refrain from sitting on walls/fences while waiting to enter the school. Thank you for your support in this matter.

OPAL Update

We've seen a variety of weather already this term, but it's been fantastic to see the children enjoying their playtimes whatever the weather. Whether it be creating an aeroplane in the large loose parts, rustling up soups and cakes in the mud kitchen, building dens or making designs with chalk, we have been very proud to see the children working together and being kind to each other at break times. We have lots more to add to our current play offer, so keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates.

A reminder to make sure that children bring a coat to school each day and have wellies and waterproofs in school.
Thank you.

School Absence Reminders

- Please contact the school office before 8:50am if your child is going to be absent/late; the office opens at 8:30am but you can leave a message on our answer machine beforehand.
- If your child is vomiting or has diarrhoea, then they must remain off school until **48 hours** have passed following the last episode of sickness, to prevent the spread of infection to other children and adults.
- You **must** contact the school office each day your child is absent to keep them informed.
- Where possible, medical appointments should be taken outside of school hours to minimise disruption; however, we understand this is not always possible. Please give the school office prior notice if you require your child to leave school.

Important Reminders

Parent Pay Parents are reminded that school dinners should be paid for in advance, either weekly, monthly or in round amounts via Parent Pay. Parent Pay is also used for Breakfast and Tea Club. Reminders via text, letters and/or phone calls home may be deemed appropriate if outstanding balances remain.

Durham County Council's advice is to refer any balances exceeding £55 for debt procedures to be carried out and parents exceeding this balance will be asked to put their child onto Packed Lunch. We would appreciate your assistance to avoid this happening, but if you are experiencing any difficulty please contact Miss Wilson in confidence so that we can work together to avoid this situation.

Water Bottles Please ensure your child comes into school with a full named water bottle each morning. Thank you.

Packed Lunches Parents of pupils who bring packed lunches to school are reminded that, in the interest of health and safety of all children, this is a **nut free school**. We do not allow sweets, nuts or flavoured fizzy drinks and please consider alternatives to crisps and chocolate type bars.

Moved House/Changed your Mobile Number Please ensure you inform the School Office so that your child's contact details can be kept up to date. Thank you.

Birthdays Parents are reminded that, in the interest of health & safety, children should not be bringing cakes, sweets etc into school on their birthdays due to the vast range of allergies/dietary requirements in the school.

Breakfast and Tea Club All bookings and payments are to be made via Parent Pay. Payment should be made at the time of booking to avoid your booking cancelling. Bookings can be made up until midnight the day before. If you require your child to attend after bookings on Parent Pay have closed, please call the office by 11am.

Online Safety – Artificial Intelligence (AI) Safety Tips for Parents/Carers

AI generated content and AI tools like chatbots, content generators and summaries are quickly appearing across popular online apps and services. There are also popular AI tools appearing like ChatGPT.

There can be many positives to the use of AI in helping to find information, making creative content and getting support quickly through chat functions. However, as with other areas of online use, it comes with risks to children as well. For example, the content that children see might not be age appropriate, legal or promote healthy behaviours. They can also experience harms such as bullying and sexual abuse through the misuse of AI content generators to create realistic looking content intended to cause harm.

Here are 6 top tips provided by the NSPCC to help support your children to use AI safely:

1) Talk about where AI is being used

A good place to start is by having open conversations with your child about where they are seeing AI tools and content online; this gives an opportunity to talk about risks and benefits.

2) Remind young people not everything is real

You can remind them that not everything online is real and much of what we see may have been edited. AI is continually evolving but there can be common indicators to show something is AI generated but remember it is not always obvious.

3) Discuss misuse of generative AI

It's important to address the misuse of generative AI to create harmful content in an age-appropriate way. Make sure that your child knows it's not OK for anyone to create content to harm other people. If they ever experience this or are worried about someone doing it, then they can report that. If you are concerned about how someone is behaving towards a child online this can be reported to law enforcement agency [CEOP](#).

4) Remind them to check sources

AI summaries and chatbots can be helpful tools to get quick answers to a question but it's important to know it's coming from a reliable source. Sources should be listed and will often have links so they can be checked. If the source is not listed or is not a reliable source, it's good to encourage them to check a trusted site for themselves.

5) Signpost to safe sources of health and wellbeing advice

We know young people will use the internet to get advice and answers to questions which could mean they come across advice from an AI bot or summary. It's important they access safe information from reliable sources, so it can be helpful to make sure they know of child-friendly safe sites such as [Childline](#).

6) Make sure they know where to go for help

Ensure your child knows they can talk to you or another safe adult like a teacher if anything worries them online or offline. They can also contact Childline 24/7 on 0800 11 11 or via email or online chat, there are lots of ways they can get support.

Diary Dates

Friday 3 rd October	5D Play in a Day ' <i>Lean On Me</i> '
Monday 6 th October	Cross Country at Framwellgate School Durham
Tuesday 7 th October	Year 6 to 'God and the Big Bang' at Newcastle Cathedral
w/c Monday 13 th October	Parents Evenings – <i>Dates and times vary for each class</i>
Friday 17 th October	Year 4 to Sikh Gurdwara
Thursday 23 rd October	Phototronics Individual School Photo's

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