



St Cuthbert's

NEWSLETTER

February 2025



Message from the Headteacher

I can definitely feel that Spring is just around the corner...the lighter nights, and the lambs in the fields...

As we start our next half-term, the children will be busy, as always, learning about our CHAMPS value of the half-term **Manners and Respect**. We will be discussing this in whole-school assemblies on Mondays, and learning how this helps us in school and at home. I am very proud of the children in our schools for always displaying excellent manners and showing respect for others; this is often commented on by our visitors. We would love to hear from you if you would like to share some examples from home around this value.

This half-term, we will see the start of the class celebration assemblies. Thank you to those of you who have messaged in and spoken with Mrs Thomas (our RE and Collective Worship Leaders across the Federation), who planned these. We hope you enjoy the opportunity to share in the children's proud moments.

Please do check the calendar and messages from our admin team for events, dates and any calendar changes. As we are all aware, changes are unavoidable in a school, but we will always keep you informed.

Miss N Thornber and Team



CHAMPS Values and Ethos

This Half Term our CHAMPS Value is

Manners

The Champs value for this half term is Manners. We have been discussing the importance of showing manners and using 'please' and 'thank you.'

Our Vision

At Upper Nidderdale Primary Federation, we will all approach everything we do in the **CHAMPS** way, helping every child flourish into a caring, confident and resilient young person who has a love of learning and:

- Chooses the right way and takes responsibility for their own actions
- Is **Honest** in everything they do and shows compassion for others
- **Achieves** the best they can with the talents they have and develops their wisdom
- Shows good **Manners** to everyone and treats everyone with respect
- **Perseveres** when situations are difficult and shows courage when they are challenged
- Knows how to keep **Safe** on and offline, ensuring that everyone is kept physically and emotionally safe.

This shows the special relationship we have with each other, where as a community, we look after each other, keeping each other safe – **Koinonia**.

Monthly Attendance Summary for February 2025

Diamond 1: 91.32%

Ruby 2: 94.06%

Emerald 3: 93.14%

Whole school: 92.9%

Christian Values

The Christian value for this half term is Respect. We will be talking about who we respect and why, as well as thinking about what sort of behaviour earns respect.

Articles of the Month

Article 12 - You have the right to your opinion and for adults to take your opinion seriously.

Diamond Class

Don't forget to like our Facebook pages so you can see lots of the wonderful learning your children are taking part in each day

Welcome to the second half of the Spring term. The children came into school this week excited and eager to start a new learning journey! The Early Years children are learning about The Seasons and Spring this week. They were very excited to see a new Farm Shop in the role play area and began straight away writing shopping lists, café orders and receipts! In the construction area we have a farm set and animals, and a new Farm shop was created with the blocks by the children to mirror the role play area. We are also reading Once upon a time stories in Literacy and The Gingerbread Man was our starting point. We have had lots of fun designing our own Gingerbread man and writing storybooks of our own.

In Year 1 and 2 the children are learning about how plants and animals are connected. We went out and about the school grounds on a plant and animal hunt and recorded our findings. We are also writing our own animated storybooks in computing and creating our own characters. Year 1 children were surprised by a parcel today sent from a Caribbean Island! This was the introduction to our new Literacy topic – Stories from other cultures. Inside the parcel was a mango, sweet potatoes and a coconut as well as a letter. We were very interested to examine the contents and read the letter all about life in Trinidad. We will be predicting what we think the story will be about in the next few days.

In Maths Reception children are learning to add and subtract amounts up to 10. The Year 1 children are learning to count in ten's and to understand the place value of numbers up to 50.



Ruby Class

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Ruby class have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes and creating repeating patterns with our 2D shapes. Luke made the most amazing repeated pattern structure and was very proud of his work.

In maths we are now learning fractions. Year 2 are learning about halves and quarters, with Year 3 learning what a numerator and a denominator is and learning that the bigger the denominator the smaller the part of the whole.

Over the past few weeks we have been focussing on our 2x tables, with Year 3's starting to focus on their 3x table. Practising times tables at home is a great way to help as times tables are needed in lots of areas of maths. This learning can be fun using TTRockstars and also free math games websites such 'Topmarks' have fun games

[Hit the Button - Quick fire maths practise for 6-11 year olds](#)

We are studying a book in English called 'The Suitcase' to use as an example for learning SPag and the art of storytelling. We have been working in groups, using mind maps to describe a noun in the picture using a variety of adjectives. We will then create some wonderfully imaginative sentences from this group collaborative work to use in our stories.

Emerald Class

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We have had a good start to the new half term and have our fingers crossed for some spring sunshine.

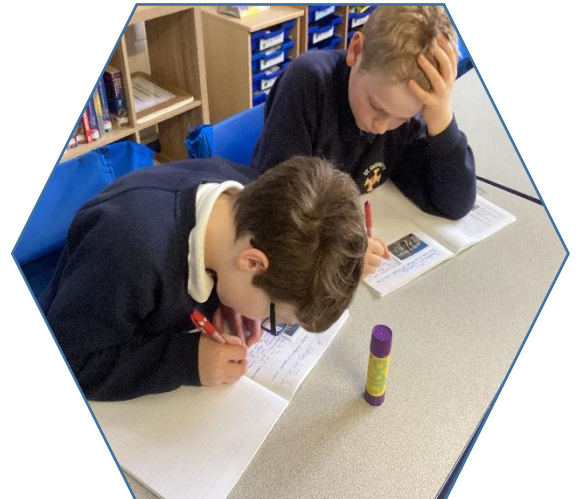
In Maths we have been learning about fractions, decimals and percentages. We have enjoyed using games to help us learn equivalent fractions.

In English, our diary entries are almost ready. We have loved using the book 'The Promise' and exploring the different vocabulary that is used. We have looked at the structure of a diary as a model to write our own, pretending to be the young girl in the story.

In Science the children in Year 3 and 4 are enjoying learning about materials and states of matter. We have looked at how materials can be in different states. We have had lots of fun with ice cream and chocolate! Year 5 and 6 are learning about Evolution. They have enjoyed pretending to be palaeontologists to predict what an organism may have been like from investigating a given fossil.

Year 3 and 4 have started their swimming lessons and showed great Champs behaviour and perseverance throughout.

We have had our first, Class Celebration Assembly with you and it was wonderful to share what the children have been learning about with you.



Attendance News

Absences: Your child will miss out: Lots of exciting things happen in school every week. We have guest assemblies, themed events, focus weeks, pupil leadership meetings, exciting after school clubs and much more. Your child will miss social time with their friends, which can impact relationships among peers. Learning and development are progressive and missed learning objectives can affect a child's ability to build on existing knowledge and reach next steps. A whole week of absences equates to approximately 30 hours of lost learning across all subjects.

Impact on performance and mental health: Absences from school cause gaps in children's knowledge and understanding. As children progress through school they build on their existing knowledge, however children who have gaps struggle to grasp next steps. As well as the negative impact this has on progress, this can also cause children to lack confidence and suffer from low self-esteem, stress and anxiety.

**Last half term we updated some of our policies
please visit our website for the full versions of our policies – the following are excerpts
www.uppernidderdalefed.school**

Parent, Carer & Visitor Code of Conduct & Behaviour Policy

Purpose and scope

At the Upper Nidderdale Primary Federation we believe it's important to:

- › Work in partnership with parents to support their child's learning
- › Create a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for pupils, staff and parents
- › Always model appropriate behaviour for our pupils

To help us do this, we set clear expectations and guidelines on behaviour for all members of our community.

This includes staff (through the staff code of conduct) and pupils (through our behaviour policy).

This code of conduct aims to help the federation work together with parents by setting guidelines on appropriate behaviour.

We use the term 'parents' to refer to:

- › Anyone with parental responsibility for a pupil
- › Anyone caring for a child (such as grandparents or child-minders)

Our expectations of parents and carers

We expect parents, carers and other visitors to:

- › Respect the ethos, vision and values of our school
- › Work together with staff in the best interests of our pupils
- › Treat all members of the school community with respect – setting a good example with speech and behaviour
- › Seek a peaceful solution to all issues
- › Correct their own child's behaviour (or those in their care), particularly in public, where it could lead to conflict, aggression, or unsafe conduct
- › Approach the right member of school staff to help resolve any issues of concern

Behaviour that will not be tolerated

- › Disrupting, or threatening to disrupt, school operations (including events on the school grounds and sports team matches)
- › Swearing, or using offensive language
- › Displaying a temper, or shouting at members of staff, pupils or other parents
- › Threatening another member of the school community
- › Sending abusive messages to another member of the school community, including via text, email or social media
- › Posting defamatory, offensive or derogatory comments about the school, its staff or any member of its community, on social media platforms
- › Use of physical punishment against your child on school premises
- › Any aggressive behaviour (including verbally or in writing) towards another child or adult
- › Disciplining another person's child – please bring any behaviour incidents to a member of staff's attention
- › Smoking, vaping, or drinking alcohol on the school premises (unless alcohol has been allowed at a specific event)

Communications and Emails Policy

Objectives

All communications should:

- keep staff, pupils, parents and other stakeholders well informed
- be open, honest, ethical and professional
- use jargon free, plain English and be easily understood by all
- be acknowledged and / or actioned (all emails to be acknowledged – within 72 hrs in the first instance)
- Use the method of communication most effective and appropriate to the context, message and audience.
- be compatible with our core values and culture as reflected in our school vision and values

Roles and responsibilities

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Ensuring that communications with parents is effective, timely and appropriate
- Regularly reviewing this policy

Staff are responsible for:

- Responding to communication from parents in line with this policy and the school's ICT and internet
- Working with other members of staff to make sure parents get timely information (if they cannot address a query or send the information themselves)

Parents are responsible for:

- Ensuring that communication with the school is respectful at all times
- Making every reasonable effort to address communications to the appropriate member of staff in the first instance. The class teacher is first point of contact, the Family Support Worker, the Deputy Headteacher and then the Headteacher.
- Respond to communications from the school (such as requests for meetings) in a timely manner
- Checking all communications from the school
- Demonstrating an understanding that staff will not respond to communication outside of their individual working hours

Definition of communication

Good communication is much more than the exchange of information.

It involves the management of relationships and the need to involve people.

Communication is as much about attitude and behaviour as it is about message.

Address of staff members

When addressing, greeting, or referring to staff - refer to their professional names and not their first names in front of children.

Expectation

As a school we do not expect employees to be available by email during non-work hours.

Any communication that needs to be sent to parents using this system must be approved by the Headteacher and goes through admin emails.

All letters/communication is to be entered on CPOMS.

How we communicate with parents and carers

Parents should monitor all of the following avenues of communication regularly to make sure they do not miss important communications or announcements that may affect their child.

Staff should follow safeguarding policy in only communicating with parents via school email addresses and only using school devices for texts and phone calls.

Email and/or Teachers' Parents communications will be used for:

- Positive messages regarding the children
- General information sharing
- Upcoming school events
- Short-notice changes to the school day or normal routine
- Sharing reports and/or updates on matters in school specifically relating to their child/ren
- Scheduled school closures (for example, for staff training days)
- School surveys or consultations
- Class activities or teacher requests
- Emergency school closures (for instance, due to bad weather)

Emails will be responded to within 72hrs* This may be in the form of an acknowledgement in the first instance. *This excludes emails received after 3:30pm or before 9am and weekends/holiday periods.

Community Give Back

Don't forget to put our second Working Bee Day in your diary – Saturday 29 March when you can come to school and work with our parent, governor and staff team to improve our school environment by helping to sweep, tidy, paint make coffees and much more!

Forest School



In outdoor education KS1 have been discovering trees and what animals use them to live and feed from, and how old they are. We found this big tree and it took three of us to hug all the way round us.

KS2 have been given a challenge and a budget to build a bridge 10cm wide and 30cm long using straws tape and paper. They managed to do it within budget showing great teamwork, skills and knowledge.



SudPods

We have been working on a project with Yorkshire Water and at half term we have had 2 SudPods fitted. The idea is that rainwater is directed in to the pods that are planted with plants and drainage and this uses some surface water that would have normally gone in to our drains, sewers and river.



These planters were donated by Yorkshire Water to help catch rain water from the school roof and use it to feed the plants.

When there's lots of rain, this can help make sure our sewers don't get too full and cause flooding in our community.

That's why we'd rather let the plants have a drink instead!

YorkshireWater

Pupil Leadership News



Online Team

The online team have new posters to put around school about online safety following our online safety week. We will be focusing on the safe use of the internet.



Rights Respecting Team

We are enjoying helping Mrs Wilkinson plan the weekly Rights Respecting assembly



Sports Leaders

Miss Hindle will be meeting with the sports leaders to discuss their next steps.



Wellbeing & Happiness Team

Our Happiness Ambassadors have had their training and are having a positive impact on the playground. Their yellow hoodies look amazing and they wear them with pride. Eleanor has also spent time at home making every member of the team a badge to pin on their hoody.



Collective Worship Team

We have put a date in for our Easter Service at church on Wednesday 2nd April at 1.45pm. We have been planning what we are going to ask the children to do and what songs we would like to sing. More information to follow shortly.



Dates
for
your
diary

SPRING TERM (6 January – 4 April 2025)	
2nd HALF TERM – 6 weeks (24 Feb – 4 Apr)	SWIMMERS: Years 3 & 4
24 February	School starts – all children
<i>6 March</i>	<i>World Book Day</i>
<i>7-16 March</i>	<i>British Science Week</i>
13 March	1-6pm Parent Information Sessions
14 March	Year 5/6 to Beverley Park – info to follow
29 March (Saturday)	10am-4pm Working Bee – all volunteers welcome!
2 April	Reception Parents – Learning Journey Updates 10-minute appointments available each day: 8:15/8:25/8:35am or 3:45/3:55/4:05pm
2 April	1:45-2:45pm Federation Easter Service at St Cuthbert's Church
4 April	pm Easter Bunny Trail (weather permitting)
4 April	3:30pm School Closes for Easter
SUMMER TERM 1	
22 April	Return after Easter
5 May	May Day Bank Holiday – Glasshouses May Day Fete
12-15 May	SATS Week
23 May	Sports Day – weather permitting
23 May	Break for half term

NOTICEBOARD

Breakfast Club

Breakfast and Afterschool club, Monday – Thursday, Friday breakfast club ONLY.

7.45am – 8.45am and 3.30pm-5.30pm

Email

parentinfo@uppernidderdalefed.school



Upper Nidderdale Primary Federation Nursery



**Based at St Cuthbert's Primary,
Pateley Bridge**

We welcome children from the age of three and we are an Early Entitlement registered setting (15-30 hours funding depending on your circumstances). For more information, ring the office at St Cuthbert's on 01423 711407.

Please can we kindly ask that you consider local residents when you are parking your cars to pick up your children.

Please do not park on yellow lines or across drive ways

Thank you

Polite reminder to all parents to use the one-way system for the beginning and end of the school day. Most of our parents are using this system now and we appreciate this.

Thank you

PATELEY BRIDGE FOOD BANK

If you are struggling financially then we can provide you with the essentials to tide you over.



Open Monday to Thursday 10am – 3pm.
Due to current restrictions, please telephone first on 07792419982.
Email – horlix@aol.com.

*We are here for everyone, singles or families, if you're in receipt of benefits or not.
Don't struggle alone – we're here to help.
Confidentiality assured.*

Service provided and managed by The Church in the Dale.