

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back and Happy New Year to all our families.

We are very pleased to welcome some new children, and their families, into our Early Years environment.

As I'm sure you'll know, our school recently underwent an Ofsted inspection. The process was very thorough and focused on every aspect of our provision. We are pleased to report that the inspection went well and was conducted smoothly as we worked hard to ensure it did not disrupt the children's daily routines. Their learning and well-being remained our highest priorities throughout the 2-day visit.

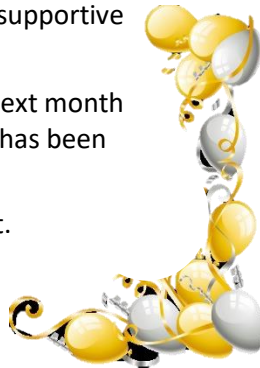
We would like to thank all parents and carers who took the time to pass on their well wishes, it meant so much to know you were thinking about us. Thank you also to all who completed the Parent View survey. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and gratefully received. This reflects the strong partnership between school and families, which plays a crucial role in creating a supportive environment for all our children.

We expect to receive the final report next month which we will, of course, share once it has been published.

Thank you for your continuous support.

Kindest Regards,

Mrs Hawes



SCHOOL IS CLOSED TO CHILDREN: Friday 21st February '25
Half Term Break: 24th - 28th February 2025
Spring Term 2: SCHOOL REOPENS Monday 3rd March



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to all children celebrating their special day!
We hope you have a lovely day with family and friends.



Nursery	Harry, Mabel
Class 1	Eliza, Arthur
Class 2	Samuel, Teddy
Class 3	Noah, Ivy and Morgan
Class 4	Mabel

COMIC RELIEF

We will be supporting **Red Nose Day** on 21st March, with more details to follow, closer to the time.



A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW NURSERY PUPILS

We are very happy to welcome some new children and their families into Nursery. They have settled in well; developing independence, building trust with staff, and making friends.



Children have enjoyed exploring the environment and engaging in activities. We look forward to supporting their growth and development in the months ahead.
Thank you for being part of our school community!

RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH: 26th - 28th JANUARY 2025

We're excited to share that our school is taking part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch this year, and it's already creating a buzz in our school garden! This is a fantastic opportunity to connect with nature, help track bird populations, and inspire our children to care for the wildlife around them.



To make our birdwatching even more exciting, we've recently installed a new bird feeder camera in the school garden. By doing so, we hope that we are able to view a range of feathered visitors up close. We've also been working to attract more birds to the garden by adding bird feeders, planting shrubs for shelter, and making sure there's fresh water available.



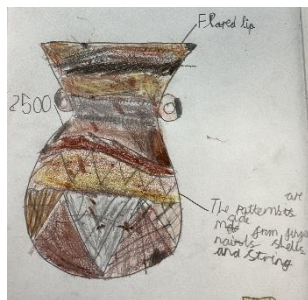
The RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch runs from Friday, 26 January to Sunday, 28 January, and it's so easy to take part. Simply spend an hour counting the birds in your garden or local park and submit your results online. You'll be helping to protect wildlife and giving your family the chance to connect with nature.

To find out more and register, visit the RSPB [website](https://www.rspb.org.uk)



CLAY POTS IN Y3/4

Children had a fantastic time making clay pots as part of their Stone Age to Iron Age topic. They explored the texture and properties of clay, learning ancient techniques used thousands of years ago.



The activity encouraged perseverance as children carefully shaped and refined their designs. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with history through hands-on exploration.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE - DECEMBER 2024

Attendance and punctuality are really important, children who attend school on time and every day are far more likely to achieve their maximum potential.

Nursery	94.36%
Reception	97.11%
Year 1	98.89%
Year 2	97.86%
Year 3	95.42%
Year 4	95.48%
Year 5	95.56%
Year 6	97.62%
Whole School	96.59%

We monitor statutory attendance & categorise as follows:

Blue 100% Green 96.1% - 99%
Amber 93.1% - 96% Red below 93%

PARKING

We have received a justified complaint from one of our neighbours regarding instances of illegal parking during drop off and pick up. **Please** be mindful to park legally and considerately, ensuring that roads onto The Green, nearby driveways and pavements are not obstructed. By adhering to parking regulations, we can maintain good relationships with our neighbours and ensure the safety and convenience of everyone.



EMOTIONAL WELL BEING

We recently shared the movie Inside Out 2 with the children in preparation for Mental Health Week.



The animated film follows Riley, an 11-year-old girl, and her emotions: Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear and Disgust, as they each help her navigate big changes in her life.

We chose to watch the film in order to help children understand their feelings as it shows that all emotions, even tricky ones like sadness or anger, are important and normal. By following Riley's journey, children can learn to recognise their own emotions, talk about them, and see how they can help make sense of the world. **Mental Health Week: 3rd Feb'**

KS2 SATS

This year Key Stage 2 Statutory Assessment Tests (SATS) for Y6 children will take place **12th - 16th May 2025**.

A meeting has been held for Y6 parents and carers to share and discuss information regarding the SATS process. If you missed the meeting and would like further information the presentation can be found [here](#). We hope we were able to provide reassurance, as we shared examples of SATS papers and explained the mark scheme.

Please Note: Y6 children must not be absent during SATS week.



Thank you to all parents and carers who kindly donate biscuits, cakes, treats and snacks for our fortnightly tuck shop. By doing so we are able to send 100% of the money raised (**£500 so far this academic year**) to the orphanage.



CHILDREN'S WORD OF THE YEAR - 'KINDNESS'

Oxford University Press (OUP) has been running the Children's Word of the Year since 2014. The publisher's research has often found that events around the world have an influence on children's choices and their language.

OUP has revealed that "kindness" is the 2024 Children's Word of the Year, chosen by 61% of all children involved.

This word reflects what young people value most: compassion and consideration for others.

The result ties perfectly to our school motto;
"Learning, Caring, Succeeding... Together"

Kindness is the foundation of sharing knowledge, helping others, and achieving success as a community.



Click on logo to read more

FAMILY HUB - BILLINGHAM

The Family Hub Service in Billingham offers:

- activity sessions including volunteer led stay and play
- a programme of workshops on a number of themes that cover the 0 to 19 age range
- a friendly cafe where all are welcome
- advice and information on services and activities
- access to extra support when you need it
- opportunities to become a volunteer, sharing your skills and experience to help other families
- a range of courses

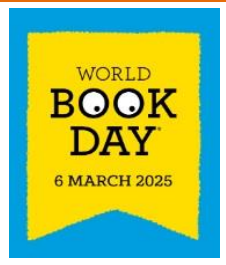


Family Hub. Ochil Terrace.
Billingham. TS23 2QL
01642 528525

WORLD BOOK DAY 2025

This year we will be celebrating and promoting the joy of reading on 6th March. More details will follow, nearer the time.

For more information you can visit the official [website](#).



PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SALE

Thank you to all who donated items of pre-loved uniform.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about iPADS

Apple debuted the first iPad in 2010, kickstarting the tablet market, and it remains the best-selling tablet to this day. Although Apple doesn't offer a child-specific version, iPads are highly popular with youngsters due to their ease of use and wide choice of apps. There's a selection of models, with different-sized screens and distinct features – including the standard iPad, the iPad Air, the iPad Pro and the iPad mini. Thankfully, they offer parental controls so you can regulate how your child uses the device... and how long they spend on it.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- PHYSICAL DAMAGE**
While a smartphone is tough as the titanium frame and sapphire crystal lens suggest, iPads are more fragile. They're not as resistant to drops and bumps as smartphones. They're also more expensive than most other tablets, and any damage your child's iPad causes could be costly to repair. Buying a child-friendly case could be a good idea, as could a screen protector for the device, which could be a good idea, especially if it's being used by younger ones.
- SCREEN ADDICTION**
The most digital devices, including iPads, have the potential to become quite addictive. One might think that your child spending too long staring at their iPad, which could lead to disrupted sleep patterns and a loss of interest in other activities. It's important to monitor this and to ensure that your child is not spending too much time on the device each day.
- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
Even if it would never occur to you to let your child go searching online for age-inappropriate sites, apps or content, there's a chance of a possibility that something inappropriate or offensive to them could be suggested by an algorithm – could appear on their feed or feed someone else's. You can help prevent this by adjusting the content settings (see our 'top tips' section below).
- SIRI SUGGESTIONS**
The most common built-in Siri feature is the Siri Assistants app, which allows you to lock access to most age-inappropriate content – but your child could still access it if they have Siri Assistants installed. Siri Assistants are available for most Apple devices (iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, Apple TV) and are designed to help you manage your child's device. To set this up, go to Settings > Siri & Search > Siri Assistants > Siri Assistants > Siri Assistants > Siri Assistants.

Advice for Parents & Carers

- ENABLE FAMILY SHARING**
Before letting little ones loose on an iPad, it's a good idea to set up Family Sharing. This lets you share the parental controls you've set up with your child to use the device. You can do this easily by going to the iPad's settings page. Tap on 'Family Sharing' and then 'Add Family Member'. You can specify permissions which prevent children from changing the iPad's privacy settings once you've selected them.
- APPLY SOME LIMITS**
The 'Screen Time' function allows you to tell the iPad to lock itself on certain days, at certain times of the day, or for a certain amount of time each day. This means you can limit the amount of time your child spends on the iPad. You can also set up a 'Downtime' schedule, which means that your child's iPad will be locked during certain times of the day. This means you can limit the amount of time your child spends on the iPad.
- STOP ACCIDENTAL SPENDING**
To empower your child with an increased sense of freedom on their device, you can set up something as simple as the 'Screen Time' app. Whenever your child tries to download or buy an app, game or in-app purchase, the iPad will prompt you to approve (or deny) it. This option isn't available if you've set up Family Sharing.
- SET CONTENT AND PRIVACY RESTRICTIONS**
The parental controls can stop the iPad from displaying explicit or age-inappropriate content (in apps like iTunes and Safari), or prevent your child from installing apps. You'll need to be able to restrict the app's content rating. You can specify permissions which prevent children from changing the iPad's privacy settings once you've selected them.
- TRACK IT DOWN**
Just like the iPhone, Apple's iPads have 'Find My' software to help you locate your child's iPad – or indeed, any other Apple device that has gone AWOL, including iPhones, watches and AirPods. If you enable 'Find My' in the settings menu, it will display the last known location of an iPad that's been missing, as well as giving you the option to lock or erase it. It's a good idea to make sure your iPad is always locked when you're not using it.

Meet Our Expert
Lisa Rogers is a specialist in technology and is a member of the National Online Safety team. She has worked in the field of child protection for over 10 years and has a wealth of experience in supporting children and young people who are at risk of online harm.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Useful links:
@nationalonline_safety
/nationalonline_safety
@nationalonline_safety
national_online_safety

Useful links as on all their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Content as of the date of release: 09.03.2023

Click [here](#) to read this, and other, useful guides.

SCHOOL CHAMPIONS



This term our School Champions are organising a series of Team Challenges. Teams include different children from each class every week. Challenges include practical activities which children need to work together to problem solve.



All children, from across school, have demonstrated patience, understanding and kindness whilst working together.

Well done everyone!

WHAT HAPPENS DURING AN OFSTED INSPECTION?

After receiving several queries regarding the inspection process and its purpose, I thought it would be helpful if I provided some additional information about what is involved.

During the 2-day inspection, inspectors use a range of methods to thoroughly evaluate the school's effectiveness. These include:

Classroom Visits

Inspectors observe lessons across various subjects and year groups to assess the quality of teaching, learning, and pupil engagement.

Discussions with Staff and Leaders

Meetings with teachers, support staff, and school leaders, including governors and members of the Trust, allow inspectors to understand the curriculum, leadership priorities, and overall management of the school.

Pupil Voice

Inspectors speak directly with pupils to hear their perspectives on learning, behaviour, and how the school supports their development and well-being. They observe pupil behaviour.

Reviewing Workbooks

Inspectors look at examples of pupils' work to assess progress and the quality of feedback provided by teachers.

Engaging with Parents

Parent feedback, often gathered through the Parent View survey, provides insight into how the school communicates and supports families.

Policies and Procedures

Safeguarding, behaviour management, and curriculum planning documents are reviewed to ensure compliance and effectiveness.

This comprehensive approach helps inspectors build a detailed picture of the school's strengths and areas for improvement.

The new framework evaluates schools across five key categories:

Quality of Education

Inspectors review how well the curriculum is designed and taught, ensuring it is ambitious, broad, and enables all children to make progress.

Behaviour and Attitudes

This category assesses the school's culture of high expectations for behaviour, the respect shown between pupils and staff, and how the school ensures a calm, orderly learning environment.

Personal Development

Inspectors consider how well the school supports children's wider development, including opportunities to build confidence, resilience, and character, as well as promoting physical and mental well-being.

Leadership and Management

Inspectors focus on how effectively all school leaders, including governors, establish a clear and ambitious vision for the curriculum, ensuring it is well-planned and sequenced to meet the needs of all learners.

Early Years

Inspectors evaluate how well our youngest learners are supported to develop essential skills, knowledge, and a love of learning to prepare them for the next stage of education.

If you have any questions, now or when the report is published, please get in touch.

