



Henshaw CE Primary School Newsletter

Newsletter No. 4 Spring Term 2026

Friday 23rd January 2026

West Tyne Federation of Schools

Executive Headteacher: Mr Mike Glenton NPQEL, NPQH, MEd, BSc (Hons)

Assistant Head Teacher: Miss Michelle Munro BA (Hons)

Bardon Mill

Northumberland

NE47 7HB

Tel: 01434 344324

henshaw@westtynefederation.uk

A Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all - we hope you had a wonderful Christmas holiday. It has been lovely to see the children come back from their Christmas break full of stories of their time with their families, it sounds like you all had a great time!

This half term is always a cold and rainy one (but with lots of fun and learning in the classroom!) so please can children have a coat every day and, if possible, hats and gloves if the weather demands it.

Workshop Wednesday is booked in for Wednesday 11th February, where we will be having a focus on outdoor growing and learning (hopefully in preparation for the warmer weather).

Last term saw some awful bugs and sickness going around and we are happy to see the end of this. Please get in contact with the office by 9am if your child will not be in school for that day.

Best wishes, Mr Glenton

Christmas Shows...feels so long ago!

Although it seems like a long time ago, the Christmas shows this year were fantastic, from the Sleepy Shepherd to Aladdin; the musical, it was inspiring to see your children perform in such of a large audience with such confidence and enthusiasm.

It really was a wonderful way to end the year.

Thank you to all the school adults for their hard work to ensure these were a success.



Our 'Starry Night' topic has really engaged us in Tyne Class so far this half term. We have had fun exploring lots of themed activities including role play and sensory play opportunities. Most recently, we have been reading the story 'Whatever Next'.. this is definitely one of our favourites! In Maths, we have recently began learning about mass.

The children have worked with various objects, investigating the links between size, weight and materials. In PE, we have started our Gymnastics module, where we are learning how to improve our technique by watching and supporting each other. We have been continuing to enjoy daily phonics sessions and we are so proud to see the children beginning to use their phonic knowledge during COOL time. In RE, we have been caring for God's creatures by planting our own mini butterfly gardens and enjoying bug hunts in our school grounds.

In Thames class this week, in English, we have continued with our phonic work and we have also been writing an information text about a Gruffalo. We have been learning how to add two 2 digit numbers not crossing the 10 and the children are really working hard on this skill. Any help at home with this would be much appreciated. In Art, we are continuing our work on shape and lines based on the work of artist Paul Klee. In Geography, we have been comparing schools across the world and have been surprised by how some schools start at 7.30am and closing at 2.00pm. In Science, we are finding out about animals and the different ways that they can be grouped. In P.E., we have started sessions with the 'Relax Kids' trainers alongside our gymnastics and Commando Joe sessions.

Rhine class have been writing diary entries in English and focussing on which tense to use when writing a diary. In Geography, we have been looking at where we live and which region of the country we live in. In Maths, we have continued to work on multiplication and division using concrete resources to support our understanding. In Science, we are looking at forces and have devised our own experiment. I am sure the children will enjoy explaining what a force is.

This half term in Nile class, we are focusing on handball and gymnastics. In gymnastics the children have been working in pairs acting as flyers and a base. The children have worked together to safely support each other in their movements while deciding together how to start their sequence of balances and transition between each movement. For each lesson we have looked at stretches to perform after they have warmed up. This week the children could research more stretches, including yoga stretches, which they could research and share with the class next week.



Let's Celebrate!

Our School Promise reminds us of our vision and values that we hold dear at The West Tyne Church Schools Federation.

Learning Award - Tobin, Eva, Riley, Arlo, Robbie, Harvey, Aaron, Libby, Arthur, Charlie T

Resilience & Teamwork Award - Ed, Arthur, Jack By, Ellie, Eve, Parker, Grace M, Arlo, Rhys, Christopher

Etiquette Award - Lewis, Zach, Marley, Chloe H, James R

Environmental Award - Belle, Aidan, Lincoln,

Kindness Award - Lewis, Lincoln, Makai

Inclusion Award - Rosie T, Tom D, Frankie

Friendship Award - Dougie, Chloe H, Rosie T

Role model Award - Rhys, Margo, Fearne, Charlotte P, Tommie, Angus, Ella, Lewis



Weekly Attendance:

Tyne - 99.3%

Thames - 97%

Rhine - 96%

Nile - 92.8% Whole School - 97.7%

Our current school attendance sits around 95% - please support your child's learning and our school by ensuring your child is in school as much as possible, we really do appreciate it.

Healthy Snacks

Many of our children bring in a snack to have at morning break - this is a good way to keep your child energised and ready for their learning. If you would like to give your child a snack for this time, please can these be a piece of fruit or other healthy alternative. Fruit winders, chocolate covered biscuits and chocolate pastries are against the Packed Lunch policy, written by our own School Councils. We are one of the few schools who allow diluted squash in water bottles; this ensures that children are drinking regularly and are kept hydrated. Please can I remind our community that drinks should not be fizzy and should be low/no sugar.

Our Sycamore Seedling is now part of our Federation

We were thrilled, in the last fortnight before Christmas holidays, to welcome our very own Sycamore Sapling to our Federation. We had lots of important guests from education and our community (including our CEO & the Bishop of Newcastle) who took part in the event. We can't wait to see it grow and become an important part of our Federation for years to come.



The Hobbit Hut

Our new outdoor learning space is now built and will be ready for use after half term. In the next 3 weeks, an electric supply will be put into 'The Hobbit Hut' (aptly named by our community!), so we will have lighting and heating. It looks great and the children can't wait to start learning in this wonderful provision.



Dates for the Diary

Thursday 29th January - Father Steve - Collective Worship

Wednesday 11th February - Workshop Wednesday - 9am to 10am. Focus - Outdoor growing and learning

Friday 13th February - School closes for Half Term

Monday 23rd February - School opens for Spring Term 2

Tuesday 24th February - Visit from Tyne Rivers Trust - Salmon Eggs

Wednesday 25th February - Year 3.4 start swimming lessons

Friday 5th March - World Book Day

Thursday 19th March - Reception visit to the Great North Museum
(more details to follow)

Friday 20th March - Red Nose Day

A Final Thought...

Always have something good to look forward to

Tony Robins