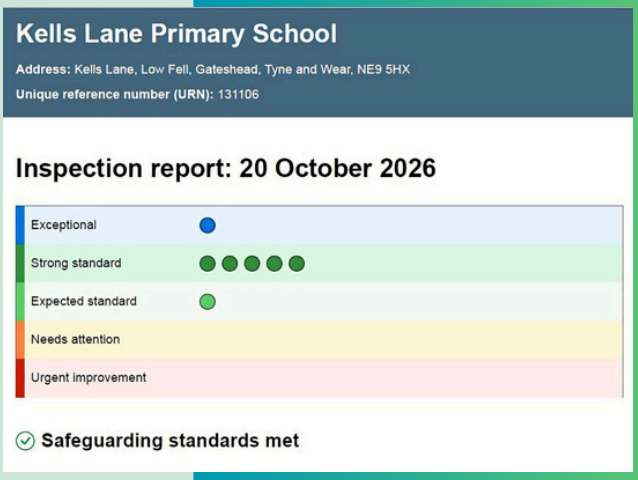
Weekly Newsletter

Friday 20th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all of the kind messages which have been sent into school following the publication of our recent Ofsted inspection. We are all immensely proud of the outcome. If you are unsure of what the new style report card means, the short video below gives further clarification around this.





I am delighted to let you know that Miss Smith has given birth to a beautiful baby girl, Florence. Both mum and baby are doing great and we are looking forward to meeting baby Florence soon! Whilst Miss Smith is on maternity leave, Mr Colligan will take over the role of KS2 Phase Leader. He will be the next point of contact for parents in KS2 after your child's class teacher. Mrs Cavanagh will continue to lead KS1 and Early Years. Both Mr Colligan and Mrs Cavanagh will be popping out onto the gate one morning each week, should you wish to discuss anything with them alongside myself and Miss Wilson



Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Swinbank

Non-uniform day, 27th of November.

A suggested donation of a bottle or chocolates, one donation per family.

All donations will go towards our tombola for the Christmas trail.

Thank you.



https://kellslaneschool.co.uk

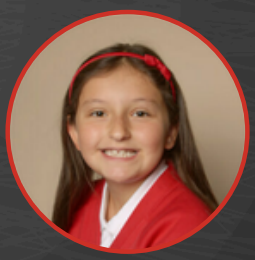
Character Development

Brave Curious Resilient Empowered Ambitious Find your Remarkable

Emerald	Sapphire	Ruby	Amber
5700	6100	6600	5600

Hope you have all shown some extra kindness for anti-bullying week. If any one wants to bring a new toy in for The Salvation Army, please consider. Well done Ruby Team for getting the most team points. We hope everyone has a great weekend and alot of good rest: enjoy any sports or activities planned and if you don't have anything planned, have a nice chill.





Head Boy & Girl

Focus Value: Resilient

See more from the past week here -

Click Here

Our Book Fair is Back!

From **Thursday 26th November to Wednesday 2nd December**, we will be running our Scholastic Book Fair after school. Buy books this Christmas!



SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS

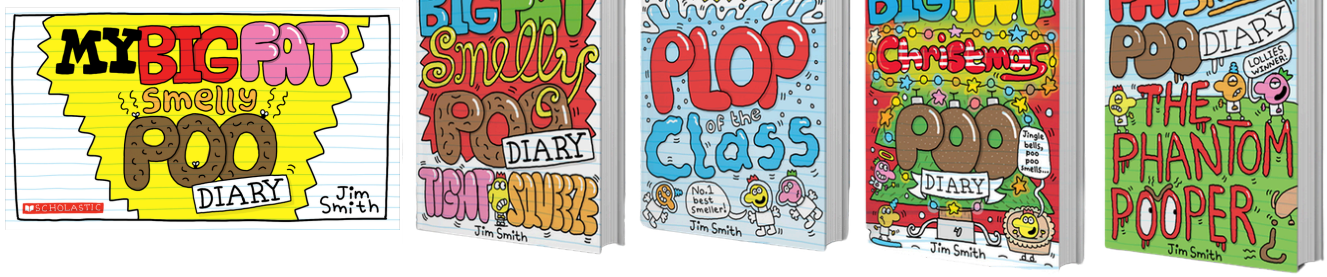
COME TO the BOOK FAIR!



This year, Kells Lane will be supporting The Salvation Army ‘Christmas Present Appeal’.

If you’re starting your Christmas shopping, please add an additional present to your list. The gifts will be collated in our KS2 hall from the **16th November,** collected on the **11th December** for wrapping by The Salvation Army and then distributed to those in need in the local area.

Every child deserves a new gift at Christmas so they are unable to accept used or second-hand items. Unfortunately they cannot accept homemade or knitted items either. All gifts should be donated unwrapped to help with ease of distribution.



Northern Children's Book Festival
16th – 27th November

This week, we were delighted to host author Jim Smith at our school, where he visited Year 3 and Year 4. He shared his passion for drawing and explained how it serves as the cornerstone of his storytelling.

Jim illustrated how creating comics enables him to merge his artistic talents with narrative elements, bringing characters and tales to life on the page.

To learn more about the Northern Children's Book Festival, please click the link below: **https://northernchildrensbookfestival.org.uk/northern-childrens-book-festival-2026/**





Sporting Achievements

Find your Remarkable



A big well done to this Year 5 pupil who achieved her 1 mile distance badge in swimming.



A huge well done to this Year 1 pupil for achieving her 10m in swimming.



A huge well done to this Year 4 pupil for receiving her 100m and 200m. A big well done to this Reception pupil for achieving his 5m swimming certificate too.

Curriculum



Nursery







Nursery made us incredibly proud this week, performing the songs from our ‘Makaton Nursery Rhyme Challenge’ to our lovely grown ups.

We raised a grand total of £546.00 and thanks to your kindness and generosity, we were able to purchase our Air Toobz toy. We had great fun unboxing this today and can’t wait to explore and use it next week!

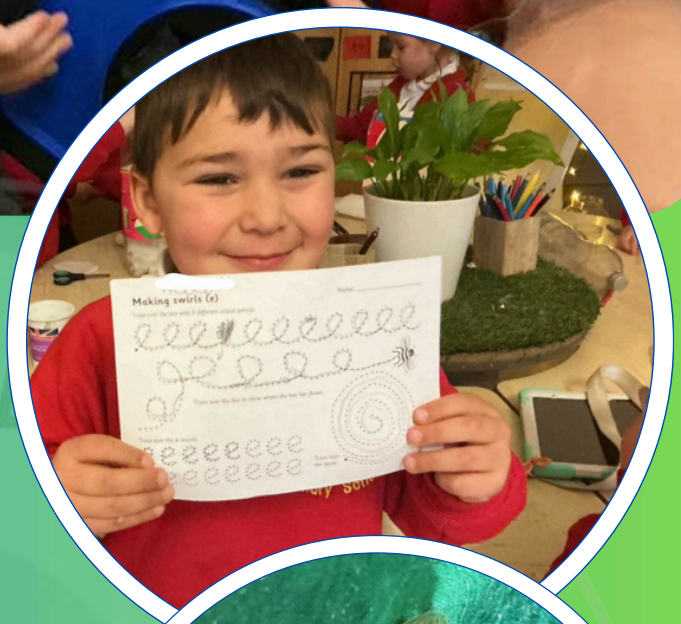
We have been reading the stories ‘Whatever Next’ and ‘Beegu’ and coming up with our own ideas of how we can travel to space!

The children have been using hammers and nails to improve their hand-eye coordination and to further develop their wrist pivots and we have been developing our scissor control to cut out giant ears for our listening walk next week.

We further developed our knowledge of people within our community who help us, beginning the week with a cheerleading session and ended it with a visit from a doctor. A big thank you to both parents for giving up your time to support our learning.



Reception







This week we have started looking at the text ‘The Three Little Pigs’. We have had lots of fantastic discussions around characters, materials, predictions and understanding of the story.

In Maths, we have been learning all about number bonds within 10. We have introduced different resources to show numbers and the children have wowed us with their sharp understanding of number.

We have continued our work on people who help us and have acted out what to do when we hurt ourselves or have accidents. The children were very empathetic towards cuddly toys which had hurt themselves in a staged group session.

We enjoyed taking part in the Celebration Assembly today with the rest of the school, cheering on our teams and celebrating our remarkable friends!

Curriculum



Y1



In **English**, we have been using adjectives to describe Beegu's planet in our class story.



In **Maths** we have focused on counting skills and then moved onto a focus of how numbers between 11-20 are constructed.

In **Art**, the children explored colour, line and brush strokes with watercolours, inspired by the local artist Charlie Rogers.



In **Geography**, we took a local walk to explore the human features of Low Fell. We learned about the key significant buildings and how they have evolved over time.

Curriculum



Y2



In **English**, the children have been writing letters based on our class story, The Night Pirates by Peter Harris. They have also learnt to add -ed to regular verbs to write in the past tense.



In **Maths** we have investigated properties of 2-D and 3-D shapes. We have also drawn shapes using accurate properties.

In **Geography**, we used compass directions to find places along our local coast and made a map with a key.



In **Science**, the children matched animal offspring to their parents.

In **DT**, our class designed a strong beach hut on stilts.

In **RE**, we learnt how Jewish people celebrate Tu B'Shevat, the festival of trees.

Curriculum



Y3



In **English**, we have been retelling and sequencing the events of our class story, Leo and the Gorgon's Curse, ready to write a recount.



In **Maths** we have been applying knowledge of multiplication and times tables to problem solving questions. We have also worked on sharing and grouping.

In **Science**, the children described the first part of the journey food takes through the digestive system.



In **History**, our class compared life in Athens and Sparta in Ancient Greece.

In **PE** we were developing our hockey skills, passing the ball with increasing control.

Curriculum



Y4

In **English**, we have been reading Hey, Little Ant and learning to use apostrophes for plural possession, ready to write a persuasive letter.

In **Maths** we have been learning about the 3, 6 and 9 times tables – we have learnt how to apply this knowledge to solving multiplication and division problems.

In **Science**, the children used classification keys to identify animals.

In **RE**, we learnt about Krishna and how, for many Hindus, God can be shown through different deities.

In **History**, our class learnt how the UK Parliament works and compared democracy in different countries.

In **DT**, the children evaluated the nightlights they designed and built using electrical circuits.







Curriculum



Y5



In **English**, we have been reading a more challenging version of Theseus and the Minotaur by Anthony Horowitz, ready to write our own narrative.



In **Science**, we set up tests to explore soluble and insoluble materials.

In **History**, the class learnt about famous Roman battles and leaders, such as Hadrian, who helped the empire succeed.



In **DT**, the children have been busy building catapult frames with a pulley and lever system.

In **Maths** we have had a heavy focus on fractions – we have been finding equivalent fractions, converting mixed number fractions to improper fractions and ordering fractions.



Y6

In **English**, we have been learning how to use colons and semi-colons in our writing.

In **History**, our class discovered how local women in the North East contributed to the war effort in World War Two.

In **Science**, the children found out what micro-organisms are and learnt that they are living things.

In **Art**, we measured, cut and joined materials to make our chair designs.

In **Maths,** we have been adding and subtracting fractions.







CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

INCLUSION & SEND

ALL THINGS INCLUSION AND AUTISM

Workshops for Parents & Carers - January & February 2027

Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA)

Understanding PDA and practical strategies to support

Tuesday 19th January 2027 | 9.30-11.30am | £44 plus VAT per person

ADHD

Understanding ADHD in young children and practical ideas to support them

Thursday 28th January 2027 | 10-11.30am | £36 plus VAT per person

Autism and Puberty

Supporting children and young people to prepare for puberty, hygiene, relationships and sexual wellbeing

Friday 29th January 2027 9:30-11:30am | £44 plus VAT per person

Gestalt Language Processing

How to support early language skills for young children including Gestalt learners
£36 compiation

Monday 1st February 2027 | 7-8:30pm | £36 plus VAT per person

Supporting children with Bereavement and Loss

Looking at the impact of bereavement and loss on young children and strategies to support them

Tuesday 2nd February 2027 | 10-11:30am | £36 plus VAT per person

All Things Visual Strategies

Supporting autistic children and those with communication difficulties with visual strategies

Thursday 4th February 2027 | 10-11:30am | £36 plus VAT per person

All Things Toileting

Exploring challenges of toileting and practical strategies for toilet training

Monday 8th February 2027 | 10-11:30am | £36 plus VAT per person

Understanding AuDHD

Supporting children with a dual diagnosis of Autism and ADHD with practical strategies

Wednesday 24th February 2027 | 10-11:30am | £36 per person plus VAT

Selective Mutism

Understanding the causes of selective mutism and practical strategies for early years and primary

Thursday 25th February 2027 | 9:30-11:30am | £44 per person plus VAT

All workshops online via Zoom. Contact Jaci Smith or Nikki Duhig at allthingsautismltd@gmail.com or 01895 649211 to book

Kells Lane School FUNDRAISING TEAM

SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN • ENRICHING OUR SCHOOL • BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY

TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Parents - it's time to get festive

Fancy a lovely evening of Christmas creativity, fun and festive cheer?

Come along to our Festive Wreath Making Class on 26th November at 7pm St Helen's Church.

Create your own beautiful wreath, enjoy a welcome drink and have a lovely evening with friends or family.
Grab your tickets now and treat yourself to a little Christmas magic.





Family Fun Christmas Trail at Kells Lane

Join us for a festive afternoon full of holiday cheer! Follow the Christmas Trail by spotting letters hidden in people's windows and figure out the Christmas movie. Once you crack the code, head back to the Kells Lane dining hall to collect your prize—a selection box!

- Date: Sunday, 29th November
- Time: 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM
- Location: Kells Lane dining hall
- Cost: £5 per pack
-

Trail packs will be on sale in the yard next week, so be sure to grab yours early!
Enjoy drinks, delicious food, cakes, a tuck shop, raffle, festive tombola, and Christmas crafts. Bring the family for a joyful and memorable day as we celebrate the season together!

SAFEGUARDING

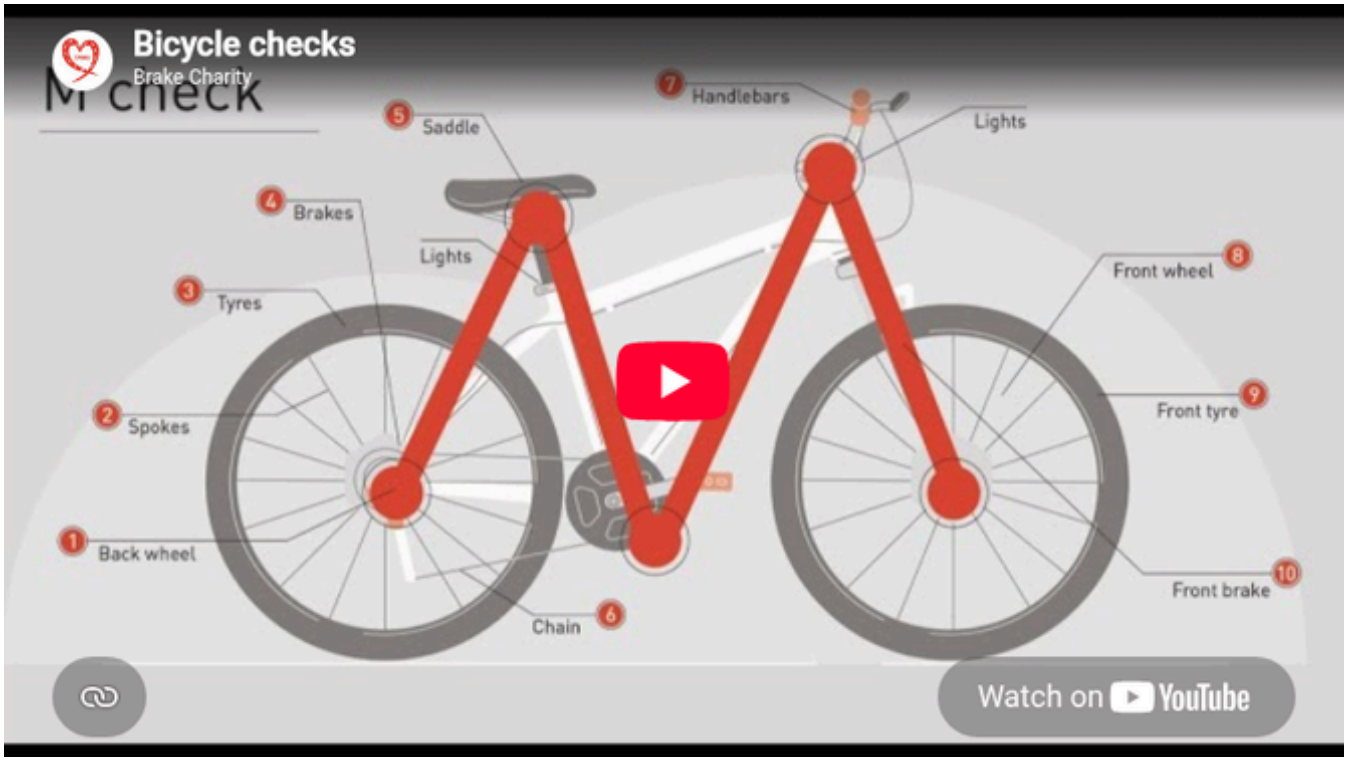
Road Safety Week

This week, our entire school has been focusing on road safety during our assemblies.

- We discussed how to stay safe while riding bikes.
- We learned the essential steps for crossing the road: **Stop, Look, and Listen.**

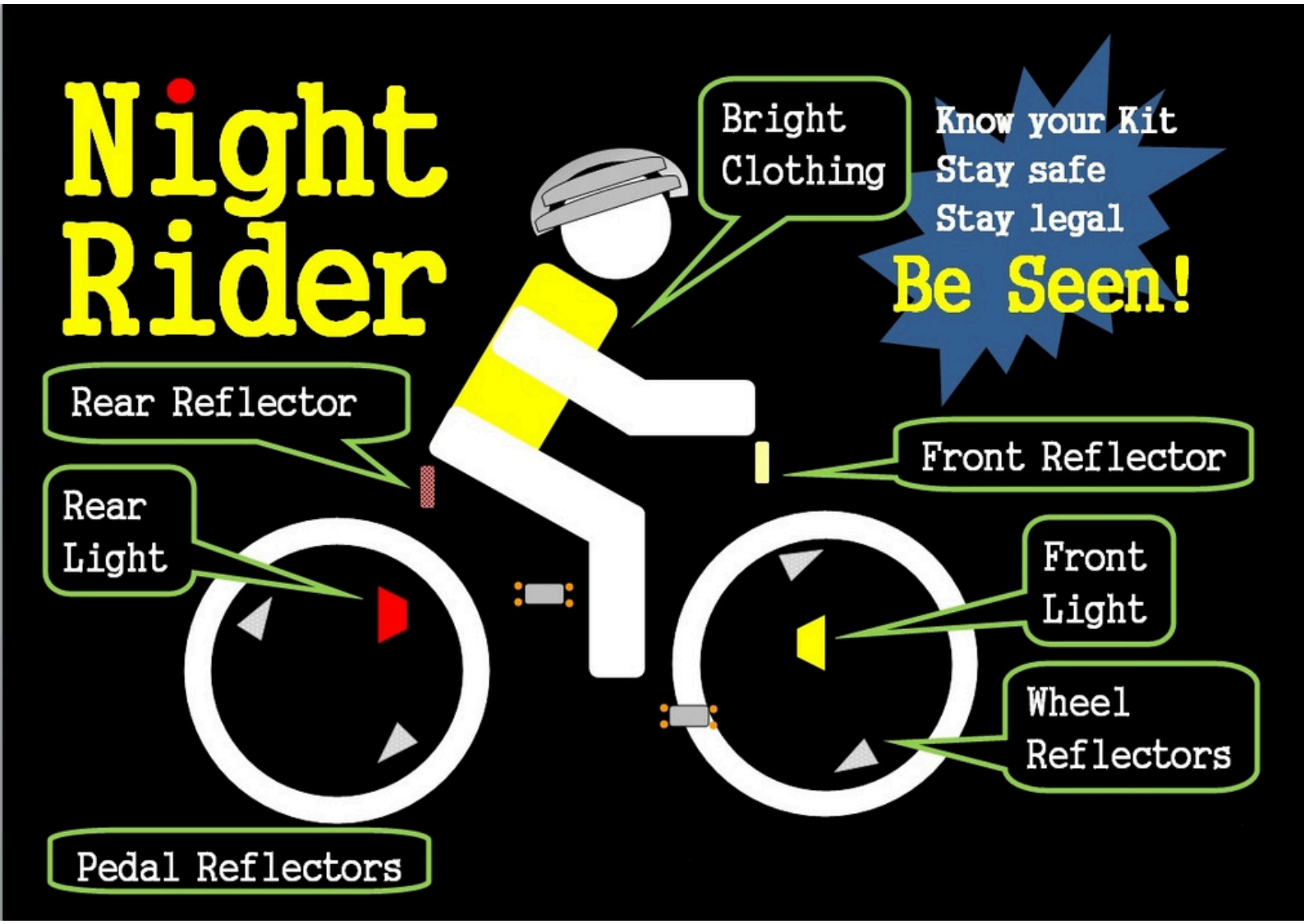
We emphasised the **'Be Bright, Be Seen'** initiative, highlighting the importance of wearing bright and reflective clothing when walking in our local area after school, especially as darkness sets in.

Bike Safety Check



SAFEGUARDING

Be Bright Be Seen

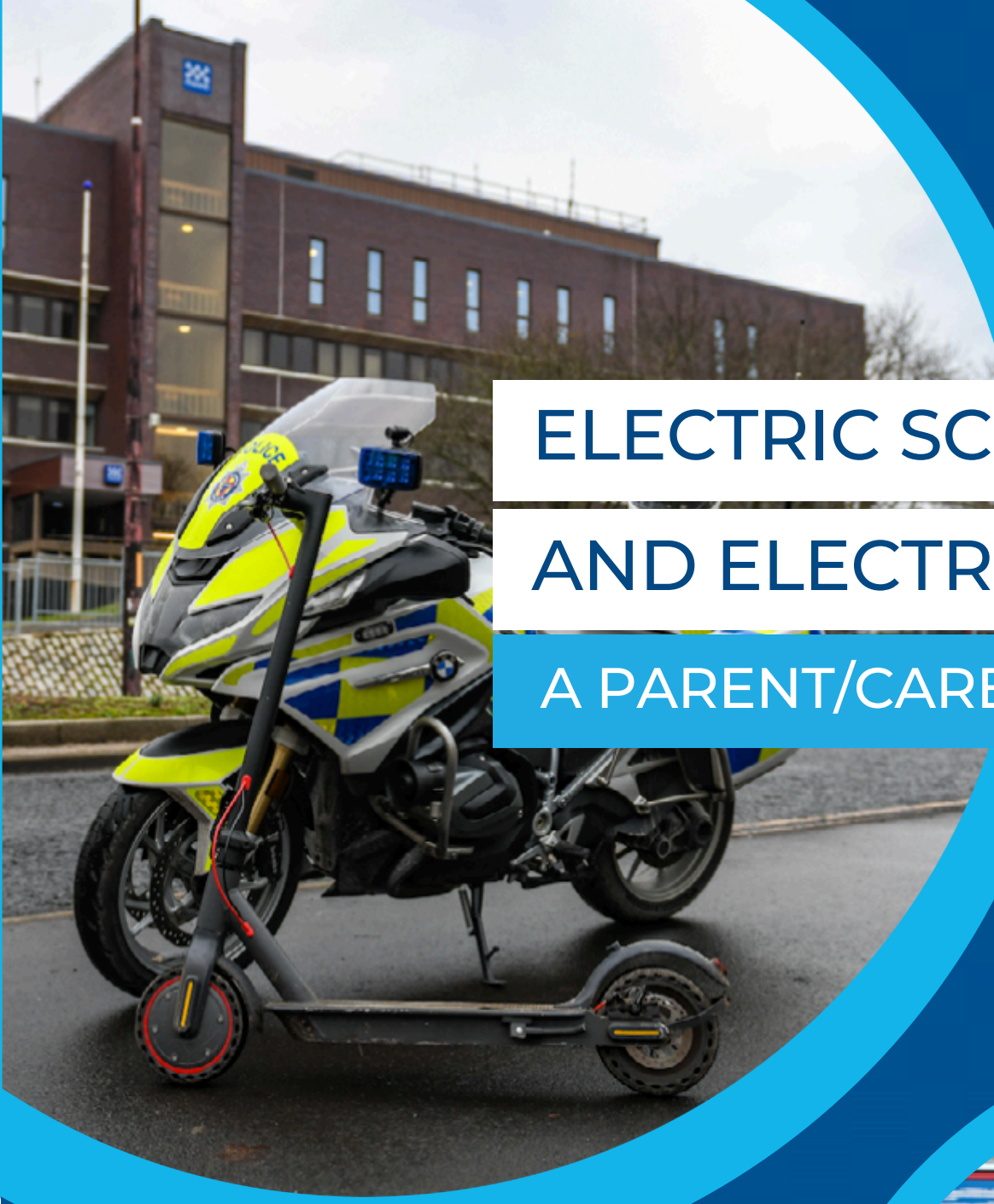




Reflective Bag Tags







ELECTRIC SCOOTERS AND ELECTRIC BIKES

A PARENT/CARERS GUIDE



THIS LEAFLET EXPLAINS THE LAW IN RELATION TO E-SCOOTERS AND ELECTRIC BIKES

Northumbria Policeare offering informationto help you make informed choices when it comes to e-scooters and electric bikes

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

WHAT IS AN E-SCOOTER

Electrical scooters (also known as e-scooters) come under the category of “powered transporters”. This covers a range of personal transport devices which are powered by a motor. Examples include:

- Segways
- Powered unicycles
- Hoverboards
- U Wheels
- Go-Peds
- E-Scooters / E-Motorcycles

E-scooters are classed as a motor vehicles under the Road Traffic Act 1988. This means the rules that apply to motor vehicles, also apply to e-scooters. These include the need to have:

- A licence
- Insuranc
- e MOT
- Tax

As most e-scooters don’t meet the technical requirements for insurance and MOT, they are illegal to ride on roads/ pavements or in public spaces (including publicly accessed areas, such as car parks and play parks).

If you’re riding your e-scooter in one of these places, you will risk it being seized under S.165 Road Traffic Act 1988 and you won’t get it back.

If you cause serious harm to another person whilst riding an e-scooter, it will be investigated in the same way as if you were riding a motorcycle or driving a car.

WHAT IS AN ELECTRIC BIKE

Road legalelectricbikesin theUK are officially called ‘electrically assisted pedal cycles’ or EAPCs.

EAPCs don’t need to be registered, taxed or insured, and anyone aged 14+ can ride one under the same rules as riding a normal bicycle.

But to qualify as a road legal EAPC, the electric bike must comply with strict official rules, as set out below.

	EAPC
Does it have pedals which you need to turn to propel it?	An EAPC must have working pedals and be pedal assisted
Is the power of the motor 250 watts or less?	EAPC motors must have a maximum output of 250 watts
Does the electrical assist cut out at 15.5mph?	An electric bike motor must not assist the rider when travelling at over 15.5mph

If you can answer ‘YES’ to ALL three questions, it’s a road legal electric bike.

If the answer to ANY question is ‘NO’, the bike is classed as a motor vehicle.

This means it can only be used legally on a road when you have a licence, insurance, MOT and tax. You must also wear an approved motorcycle helmet.



Low Fell Pet Calendar

Low Fell Pet Calendar is now available at Pets 'n Bitz on Beaconsfield Road. Our chi


NORTH EAST of ENGLAND REGIONAL HOCKEY TEAM
COME ALONG TO OUR
JUNIOR TRAINING SESSIONS
Tuesday
6.15pm - 7.15pm
and Friday
5pm - 6pm
at Whickham School.
Have some fun and learn a new skill!
SCAN TO JOIN
teamo.chat/club/register/gatesheadhc
Register | Fixtures | Pay subs | Messages
teamo

KIDS GO FREE

TO DURHAM V IPSWICH TOWN

- WATCH ELITE FOOTBALL
- MEET THE PLAYERS
- FREE GIVEAWAYS



SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER 2026
12PM KICK-OFF
MAIDEN CASTLE, DH1 3SE

USE THE PROMO CODE WINTERWARMER

SCAN HERE
OR VISIT
DURHAMWFC.TICKETCO.SHOP



GET OUT THERE

A different kind of adventure
launching you for life today

SEA CADETS
GATESHEAD

AGED 9-12 AND LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE?

If you said yes, then look no further than Gateshead Junior Sea Cadets! Get in touch today to find out more.
Email: gatesheadseacadets@tsleviathan.co.uk

Charity Registration No. 304851

DIARY DATES

Any changes/updates will be highlighted in green

Autumn Term	
Tuesday 1st September	Inset day – no children in school
Wednesday 2nd September	Start of new term for children
W/c Monday 7th September	**Y6 Elm** Bikeability week
W/c Monday 14th September	**Y6 Larch** Bikeability week
Wednesday 16th September	**EYFS/Year 1** – Animals About Town (rearranged visit from summer term)
Wednesday 16th September	**Year 2** – Reading in Year 2 -session for parents 5pm
Thursday 17th & 23rd September (info to follow)	Photographer in school – individual and sibling photos
Wednesday 7th October	**Y5** visit to the Centre for Life
Wednesday 7th October	Kells Lane Fundraising Group AGM 7.30pm The Black Horse, Low Fell Everyone welcome
Thursday 8th October	**Y3** visit to Beamish Museum
Wednesday 14th October	**Reception** Stay & Play *(1 parent per child)* Early reading session for parents 1.45-2.15pm Stay & Play session 2.15 - 3.15pm Sign up information to be sent out
Thursday 15th October	**Reception** Stay & Play *(1 parent per child)* Early reading session for parents 1.45-2.15pm Stay & Play session 2.15 - 3.15pm Sign up information to be sent out
Wednesday 21st October	Y3 & Y4 Halloween Disco
Thursday 22nd October	Y5 & Y6 Halloween Disco
Friday 23rd October	**Last day of term** – non uniform day *(1 donation per family please)*
Half Term (Monday 26th – Friday 30th October) **31st October – deadline for secondary school applications**	
Monday 2nd November	Inset day – no children in school
Tuesday 3rd November	First day of term
Tuesday 3rd November	**Y5** visit to Segedunum
Monday 16th November	**Odd Socks Day** – all children invited to wear odd socks to mark anti-bullying week
Friday 13th November - change of date	**Children in Need-** children are invited to wear pyjamas to school to raise money for the charity
17th, 18th & 19th November	Parents Evenings
Wednesday 25th November	**Choir** Christmas Tree Light Switch On
Friday 27th November	Non-Uniform day - *Chocolate or bottle donation for Christmas trail tombola*
Sunday 29th November (change of date)	KLSF Christmas trail

Find your Remarkable

Wednesday 2nd December	**Reception (Cedar)** Nativity performance for Cedar parents/carers (3 tickets per child) 2.30pm
Thursday 3rd December	**Reception (Holly)** Nativity performance for Holly parents/carers (3 tickets per child) 2.30pm
Monday 7th December	**Y1 Poplar** Christmas Crafternoon – 1 parent per child 2.30-3.30
Monday 7th December	**Flu Immunisations**
Tuesday 8th December	**Y1 Juniper** Christmas Crafternoon – 1 parent per child 2.30-3.30
Wednesday 9th December	**Y3 & Y5** watching pantomime performance at The Little Theatre
Wednesday 9th December	**Y2 Beech** Christmas Crafternoon – 1 parent per child 2.30-3.30
Wednesday 9th December	**Year 1 & Year 2** watching Christmas performance of Tinsel Tally in school
Wednesday 9th December	Christmas jumper day
Thursday 10th December	**Y2 Rowan** Christmas Crafternoon – 1 parent per child 2.30-3.30
Thursday 10th/Friday 11th December	Elfridges Christmas Sale for children (information will follow)
Thursday 10th December	**Reception** watching Christmas performance of The Littlest Elf in school
Monday 14th December	**Reception & Y4** Christmas Parties. *Children come to school in party clothes*
Tuesday 15th December	**Y1 & Y5** Christmas Parties. *Children come to school in party clothes*
Wednesday 16th December	**Y4 & Y6** watching pantomime performance at The Little Theatre
Wednesday 16th December	**Nursery & Y3** Christmas Parties. *Children come to school in party clothes*
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Dinner day
Thursday 17th December	**Y2 & Y6** Christmas Parties. *Children come to school in party clothes*
Friday 18th December	Last day of term – non uniform day *(1 donation per family please)*
Spring Term	
Monday 4th January	First day of term
Tuesday 12th January	**Y1** Phonics screening information session for parents 5pm
Wednesday 13th January	**Y6** – SATS meeting for parents (no children to attend) 5pm
Wednesday 20th January	**Reception Cedar** Stay & Play session (1 parent per child) 1.30-2.00pm early maths information session 2.00-3.15pm Stay & Play

Thursday 21st January	**Reception Holly** Stay & Play session (1 parent per child) 1.30-2.00pm early maths information session 2.00-3.15pm Stay & Play
Friday 15th January	**Reception Application Closing Date**
Friday 12th February	**Last day of term** – non uniform day *(1 donation per family please)*
Half Term (Monday 15th – Friday 19th February)	
Monday 22nd February	First day of term
Friday 5th March	World Book Day – *children to dress as their favourite book character*
Wednesday 10th March	Y3 & Y4 Easter Disco
Thursday 11th March	Y5 & Y6 Easter Disco
16th, 17th,18th March	Parents Evenings
Sunday 21st March	KLSF Easter trail
Monday 22nd March	**Reception & Apple** Egg Decorating (1 parent per child) @2.15pm
Tuesday 23rd March	**Y1** Egg Decorating (1 parent per child) @2.30pm
Wednesday 24th March	**Blossom** Egg Decorating (1 parent per child) @2.15pm
Wednesday 24th March	**Y2** Egg Decorating (1 parent per child) @2.30pm
Thursday 25th March	Last day of term – non uniform day *(1 donation per family please)*
Summer Term	
Monday 12th April	First day of term
Monday 19th April	**Y5** Spring Showcase for parents @2.45pm *2 parents per child*
Tuesday 20th April	**Y4** Spring Showcase for parents @2.45pm *2 parents per child*
Wednesday 21st April	**Y3** Spring Showcase for parents @2.45pm *2 parents per child*
Thursday 22nd April	**Y1** Spring Showcase for parents @2.45pm *2 parents per child*
W/c Monday 10th May	**Y6 SATS week**
Tuesday 18th May	**Y4 Robinwood Residential meeting for parents 5pm**
Wednesday 19th May	**Y6 London Residential meeting for parents 5pm**
Friday 28th May	**Last day of term** – non uniform day *(chocolate or bottle donation for summer fair tombola)*
Half Term (Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June)	
Monday 7th June	First day of term
W/c Monday 7th June	**Y4** Multiplication Check week
Wednesday 9th June	New Nursery Parents Welcome Meeting @5pm

W/c Monday 14th June	**Y1** Phonics Screening Check week
Monday 7th June SPORTS WEEK *Children should come to school in PE kit all week (please wear team colours)*	**Sports Day – Confirmed** 9:30-10:40 - Year 3 and 4 11:00-12:10 - Year 5 and 6 12:30-13:40 - Year 1 and 2 14:00- 15:10- Reception
Wednesday 16th June	New Reception Parents Welcome Meeting @5pm
Monday 14th – Wednesday 16th June	**Y4** Residential to Robinwood
Monday 14th – Thursday 17th June	**Y6** Residential to London
W/c Monday 28th June	Whole school transition week
Wednesday 30th June	Y2 & Y3 Summer Disco
Thursday 1st July	Y4 & Y5 Summer Disco
Friday 2nd July	Parents to meet new class teachers @2.45pm (1 parent per child)
W/c Monday 5th July	End of Year Reports to be sent home
Wednesday 7th July	**Y2 (Rowan)** End of Year Production performance for Rowan parents/carers *(3 tickets per child)* 2.45pm
Thursday 8th July	**Y2 (Beech)** End of Year Production performance for Beech parents/carers *(3 tickets per child)* 2.45pm
Friday 9th July	**Summer Fair**
Date to be confirmed	**Y6** End of Year Production @ 5.15pm
Wednesday 14th July	**Reception** graduation @ 2.45pm
Thursday 15th July	**Y6** Leavers Assembly @ 5pm
Friday 16th July	**Last day of term –** children to wear school uniform. *Children may bring a toy (not electronic)*