

The Cramlington Courier!

18th September 2026



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A message from Mrs Whitehead (Principal)

This week, our students had a fantastic time marking **World First Aid Day** with a hands-on assembly led by Forest School Paul! The children learned essential, age-appropriate first aid skills, such as how to stay calm in an emergency, assess the situation and patient, make an effective call for help, and apply basic techniques like treating broken arms and placing someone in the recovery position.



On **Friday 25th at 8:30am** we are hosting a Macmillan Coffee morning. **Join us for a warm drink and delicious refreshments.** Cake donations would be most welcome but please ensure that all ingredients are listed for health and safety reasons. To help us manage numbers please register on MCaS.

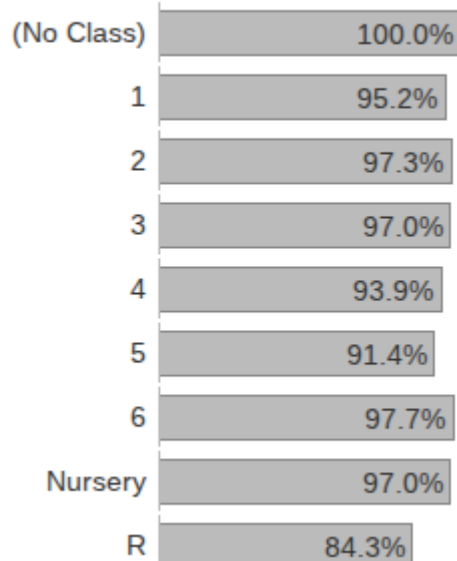
Have a restful weekend.

Best wishes,
Mrs Whitehead (Principal)

Attendance -



Attendance percentage



Values in Practice (VIPS)

Nursery	Jaxon for showing care and consideration when making new friends.
Reception	Muminah for an amazing start with her phonics journey.
Year 1	Josie for helping care for the Reception children during the house captain elections.
Year 2	Oliver for being kind to others in our classroom.
Year 3	Molly for showing excellent manners and respect to others, being considerate and helpful to everyone.
Year 4	Blanka for showing the value of caring by looking after new friends, helping them feel welcome in our school and being a fantastic role model.
Year 5	Will for showing great care and pride in your work and always trying your very best.
Year 6	Leigha for working with determination in lessons and showing kindness to her friends.

Dates for your diary and information

Please note - the new **key dates** document - [PDF calendar 2026-27.pdf](#)

Monday 21st September	Parent/carers Reading workshops - Nursery and Reception - 8:30am; Year 2 - 2:45pm.
Tuesday 22nd September	Parent/carers Reading workshops - Year 4 - 8:30am; Year 3 - 2:45pm.
Wednesday 23rd September	Parent/carers Reading workshops - Year 5 - 8:30am.

Thursday 24th September	Parent/carers Reading workshops - Year 6 - 8:30am; Year 1 - 2:45pm.
Friday 25th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning - parents, carers and children welcome from 8:30am
Monday 28th September	Recycling week poster competition entries due.
Thursday 1st October	National Poetry Day - parents/carers are invited into school at 3pm to watch each classes poetry performance
Thursday 1st October	Black History Month begins - watch out in the newsletter to find out what your child has been learning
Friday 2nd October	World Smile Day - watch out in the newsletter to find out what your child has been learning
Monday 5th October	Year 1 and 2 Mental Health and wellbeing workshops at 2:45pm - join your child's class to take part in a wellbeing activity and find out about how we can work together to promote positive mental health for our children.
Tuesday 6th October	Year 3 and 4 Mental Health and wellbeing workshops at 2:45pm - join your child's class to take part in a wellbeing activity and find out about how we can work together to promote positive mental health for our children.
Wednesday 7th October	Year 5 and 6 Mental Health and wellbeing workshops at 2:45pm - join your child's class to take part in a wellbeing activity and find out about how we can work together to promote positive mental health for our children.
Wednesday 7th October	Walk and roll to school day - why not park your car a little further from school and walk, cycle or scoot the rest of the way, encouraging physical activity, whilst enjoying the fresh air and being environmentally friendly.
Thursday 8th October	Nursery and Reception Mental Health and wellbeing workshops at 2:45pm - join your child's class to take part in a wellbeing activity and find out about how we can work together to promote positive mental health for our children.
Friday 9th October	World Mental Health Day - watch out in the newsletter to find out how your child celebrated the day through "Our Wellbeing" personal development day.
Wednesday 14th October	Parents and carers are invited to school at 2pm to celebrate our Harvest Festival. Enjoy our farmers market, songs and readings. Please bring change to support Year 4 and 6's enterprise project. They will be selling delicious soups and apple crumbles, using produce from our school allotment.
Wednesday 14th October	Early Years, Year 1 and 2 Halloween disco 3:30-4:30pm - children can come to school dressed in their Halloween costume.
Thursday 15th October	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 Halloween disco 3:30-4:30pm - children can come to school dressed in their Halloween costume.
Friday 16th October	Wear red for Show Racism the Red Card day

Friday 16th October	School breaks up at 2pm for half-term holiday
Monday 2nd November	School reopens for Autumn 2 term

Safeguarding

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters. These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0800 800 5000.

Autism Family Drop in



Do you have a child aged 0-19 years?

Come along for a cuppa and chat and to meet other parents. No diagnosis needed!

Join us on:

Tuesday 15th September 2026, 10am - 12pm:

Hexham Family Hub, Hexham First School, Beaufront Avenue, NE46 1JD

Monday 28th September 2026, 1pm - 3pm:

Morpeth Golf Club, Loansdean, NE61 2BT

Wednesday 30th September 2026, 10am-12pm:

Ashington Family Hub, Alexandra Road, Ashington, NE63 9EF

Thursday 8th October 2026, 10am-12pm

The Lindisfarne Centre, 30 Lindisfarne Road, Alnwick, NE66 1AU

Tuesday 13th October 2026, 1pm-3pm:

Bellingham Family Hub, (On the Site of Bellingham Middle School) Redesmouth Road
NE48 2EN

Tuesday 20th October 2026, 10am-12pm:

Cramlington Community Hub, Forum Way, Manor Walks, NE23 6YB (next to Concordia)

Wednesday 21st October 2026 1pm-3pm

Berwick Family Hub, Ladywell Place, Tweedmouth, Berwick-upon-Tweed,
TD15 2AE

Evening session:

Thursday 15th Oct 2026, 5pm - 6:30pm:

Morpeth Golf Club, Loansdean, NE61 2BT

If you have any questions email: hint@northumberland.gov.uk