

The Cramlington Courier!

25th September 2026



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A message from Mrs Whitehead (Principal)



This week, our pupils enthusiastically celebrated **Recycling Week**, highlighted by a fantastic whole-school assembly planned and delivered by our brilliant **Year 6 leaders**. Why not ask your child what products around your house can be recycled into!? As part of the celebrations, don't forget that entries for our exciting poster competition are due this coming Monday, 28th September—we can't wait to see all the creative ideas!

Thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for our **reading workshops** this week! We hope you enjoyed gaining a deeper insight into how we teach reading in school and picked up some helpful ideas for supporting your child's reading journey at home.



A huge thank you to all our wonderful parents and carers who joined us for our **Macmillan Coffee Morning** today! Your generous donations and company helped us raise a fantastic **£130.90** to support the vital work Macmillan Cancer Support does every single day.



Best wishes,
Mrs Whitehead (Principal)

Attendance -



Attendance percentage

Nursery 2	91.5%
Reception	95.6%
Year 1	95.0%
Year 2	97.0%
Year 3	98.1%
Year 4	97.5%
Year 5	94.3%
Year 6	94.4%

Values in Practice (VIPS)

Nursery	Lucie for learning new routines with care and increasing independence.
Reception	Grayson for making wonderful progress in following our RWI routines.
Year 1	Declan for showing kindness towards his friends and helping them when they feel sad.
Year 2	Amelia for showing a lovely caring attitude towards her fellow class mates and adults in school.
Year 3	Florence for showing care by welcoming new members to our school and being a fantastic role model.
Year 4	Harper A for always trying her best and showing kindness towards her friends.
Year 5	Testimony for his fantastic enthusiasm for learning, always being keen to contribute his answers and consistently trying his best.
Year 6	Logan - for showing care and consideration to all of his classmates.

Dates for your diary and information

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

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 5'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

Safeguarding

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

DISCORD

AGE RESTRICTION

13+

(with a 17+ app rating on app stores)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Launched in 2015, and with over 90 million daily active users, Discord has become one of the main ways gamers communicate – with text, voice, and video chat helping people connect around shared interests. For many young people, Discord can be a useful way to talk with friends, join communities, and explore hobbies. However, like any online platform built around communication, it also carries risks around strangers, inappropriate content, spending money, and time spent online. This guide looks at what parents and educators need to know.

A CHANNEL FOR EVERYTHING

While Discord is strongly associated with video games, it also hosts communities for almost anything you can imagine, such as books, music, influencers, cooking and sport. Some large servers focus on popular games like Minecraft or Fortnite, but many are private, invite-only spaces where friends or communities with shared interests can chat across phones, computers, and gaming consoles.

REAL-LIFE DISTRACTION

Like many social platforms, Discord can become a real time-sink. Although it does not rely on endless scrolling in the same way as some apps, constant messages, group chats, and voice channels can keep young people engaged for long periods, especially in larger servers. As Discord is closely linked to gaming, it may also increase the time they spend playing games.

STRANGER DANGER

Users can choose to stay within private servers with only people they know, but joining public servers will most likely bring them into contact with strangers. Many users are just friendly enthusiasts, yet others could have harmful intentions, including grooming, extortion, or radicalisation. In these types of environments, anyone can claim to be another teenager, which can make it harder for young people to judge who is safe to talk to.

A HARASSMENT RISK

There is also a risk from people a young person already knows in the real world. Bullying in the real world can continue online, and Discord servers can make this feel more intimidating, especially if someone uses anonymous or multiple accounts to carry out threatening behaviours. Because Discord works across computers, phones, and gaming consoles, unwanted contact can follow young people into online spaces that should feel safe and private.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

This huge amount of choice can help young people "find their tribe", especially when they have niche interests. However, because users can create servers around almost any topic, younger users may still encounter unsuitable or distressing content. Even in spaces linked to child-friendly games, Discord cannot directly control every conversation, image, or video shared by other users.

A MONEY DRAIN

Discord is free to use, but users can still spend real-world money on it. This may include Discord 'Nitro', a monthly subscription that unlocks customisation features and larger media uploads, or purchases through the 'Shop' for profile cosmetics and game-related items. Small purchases can add up quickly, especially if spending controls are not in place.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE FAMILY CENTRE

Parents and carers should make use of Discord's 'Family Centre', which gives an overview of a younger user's activity while respecting their privacy. Messages are not shared, but adults can view an activity feed and receive weekly email summaries. Discord says this is designed to support conversations about online behaviour, rather than be about constant monitoring.

CHECK, TALK, REPORT

Review Discord's privacy settings together, including who can send them friend requests or private messages. Use this as a chance to talk to them about strangers, privacy, and personal information, making sure young people know to question suspicious behaviour, such as requests to keep conversations secret. Show them how to block and report these kinds of users and reassure them that asking for help will not get them into trouble.

MANAGE TIME ONLINE

Agree clear expectations around when and how Discord can be used, especially during homework, bedtime, and family time. Encourage young people to turn off unnecessary notifications and leave servers that feel overwhelming. If Discord is mainly used alongside gaming, discuss healthy limits for both activities so that schoolwork, sleep, and offline friendships are not affected.

REVIEW SPENDING CONTROLS

Talk openly about paid features such as Discord Nitro, profile cosmetics, and in-game purchases. Make sure the young people in your care understand that digital items still cost real money. Check payment settings on the device they use, avoid storing card details where possible, and consider adding approval requirements for purchases, particularly for younger or more impulsive users.

Help your child with reading

I Spy

Play 'I Spy' games. Can you find words beginning with...? Can you find a picture of a ...? How many ... can you see?

Ask Questions

Ask questions about the story as you read it e.g. What is the story about? Why do you think they made that choice? Was it a good choice? Why did that happen? What do you think will happen next? What was your favourite part of the story? Why?

Make it Fun

Enjoy reading together. Give characters funny voices and engage with the pictures. Make a game out of finding words that rhyme or start with the same sound.

Be Seen

Make sure you are seen reading. Keep books magazines at easy reach.

Get Out

Go to your public library regularly. Find the books you loved as a kid to read together.

Create

Use reading to inspire drawings or new stories.

Go Online

Look online & in app stores for appropriate word & spelling games.

Make Space

Have a special place or a certain time when you read together.

Read everything out loud.

Books, poems, nursery rhymes, newspaper & magazine articles, food labels...
anything that is close to hand!