

The Cramlington Courier!

4th September 2026



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A message from Mrs Whitehead (Principal)

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful, restful summer break and managed to enjoy some quality time with family and friends. It has been an absolute joy opening our doors this week and seeing our school community filled with smiles once again. This week, I have been so impressed with the exceptional start every single pupil has made. From our newest arrivals in Early Years taking their first steps through the gates to our returning pupils stepping up as confident role models, the atmosphere across the school has been calm and focused.

This week, we have placed a strong focus on embedding our simple but essential school rules and routines:

- **Be Ready:** Our pupils have arrived on time, properly equipped, and eager to dive straight into their learning. Routines like the stop signal for listening have been smooth and purposeful.
- **Be Respectful:** The kindness, polite manners, and active listening shown towards staff and peers have set a wonderful, supportive learning environment in every classroom and the playground.
- **Be Safe:** Pupils have demonstrated fantastic care and awareness when moving around the school premises, ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.
- **Be Our Best:** Above all, we have been struck by the pride pupils are taking in their work and behavior, putting in maximum effort right from day one.

ATTENDANCE

Why is it important?

Attendance	Days absent	Weeks absent	Lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons



To support our rule of "**Be Ready,**" I would like to gently remind everyone of the vital role that high **attendance and good punctuality** play in your child's educational success. Every single school day counts. When pupils arrive on time each morning, they start the day calm, settled, and fully prepared alongside their peers. Arriving even a few minutes late can mean

missing essential morning instructions, key learning activities, and important social time with classmates. Likewise, regular attendance ensures that children do not miss out on vital learning sequences or fall behind in their progress. At CVPS, we have an **attendance challenge**. Every week the class with the best attendance is celebrated in assembly and they get to look after Cramlet, our attendance pig mascot for the week. Also each child will receive a token for every block of two weeks that they have 100% attendance. These tokens can be ‘spent’ in the attendance shop at the end of half term. I wonder which class will be the first to beat the challenge?!

A smooth start like this does not happen by accident. I want to extend my thanks to you, our parents and carers, for preparing your children so well for the new term. Your support behind the scenes with uniforms, equipment, and positive encouragement makes a world of difference. I would also like to thank our incredible staff team, who worked tirelessly over the break to ensure our learning spaces were warm, inspiring, and ready to go.

We have an exciting year ahead packed with learning, new challenges, and memorable events. We remain committed to working in close partnership with you to ensure your child feels happy, safe, and supported every step of the way. Here is our upcoming **termly calendar**, with important dates for parent evenings, sports events, and classroom showcases. [PDF calendar 2026-27.pdf](#)

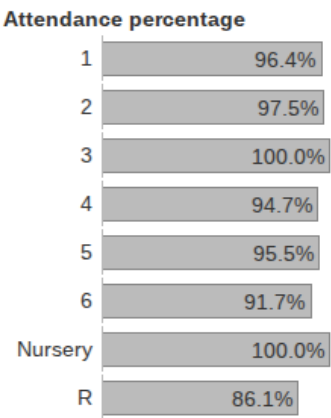
We are pleased to share our **new clubs** for this half-term. Please book places on MCaS -

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 Forest School and allotment with Paul Mordue (Wild About Adventures)	Wednesdays 3:30-4:30pm
Razmataz performing arts	tbc

Thank you once again for your continued support and for making the start of this academic year such a resounding success.

Best wishes,
Mrs Whitehead (Principal)

Attendance -



Values in Practice (VIPS)

We are looking forward to inviting parents/carers back into school for our Friday VIP



assembly next week. Our Year 6 children will be making a pledge to become a house team Captain or Vice Captain. Every child will vote for who they would like to represent their house team. We will share these with you next week.

Dates for your diary and information

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

Safeguarding -

KCSIE stands for Keeping Children Safe in Education. It is statutory (legal) guidance issued by the Department for Education (DfE) in the UK that all schools and colleges must follow. Simply put, it is the master rulebook that sets out what schools must do to safeguard and promote the welfare of every child under the age of 18.

KCSIE 2026 IS HERE

Are you ready?

HERE ARE THE TEN BIGGEST CHANGES YOUR WHOLE SCHOOL NEEDS TO KNOW.

The new statutory guidance has been published and comes into force on 1 September 2026. The changes make consistency and collaboration in safeguarding the expectation for all.

- 1 EVERYONE READS PART ONE. IN FULL.**
The condensed version (old Annex A) has gone. Every member of staff, whether teaching, admin, catering, or site staff, must read and understand the whole of Part One.
- 2 MOBILE PHONE FREE BY DEFAULT.**
For the first time, it is in statutory guidance: schools should be phone-free environments, with anything else by exception only, across lessons, breaks, and lunch.
- 3 ONLINE HARM IS REAL-WORLD HARM.**
Deepfakes, AI-generated imagery, and sextortion are named for the first time. The word 'sexting' has gone. The guidance now talks about 'making or sharing nudes and semi-nudes', and every incident needs a safeguarding response, consensual or not.
- 4 WEAPONS: REPORT STRAIGHT AWAY.**
Any concern that a child is carrying, has used, or intends to use a weapon goes to the DSL immediately. The DSL assesses the risk and puts a safety plan in place.
- 5 MISOGYNY AND ITS POTENTIAL TO ESCALATE.**
The guidance recognises the escalatory nature of misogyny. Banter and 'boys being boys' can be the start of a behaviour pattern that ends in sexual violence. Challenging it early is everyone's job.
- 6 MENTAL HEALTH, EXPANDED.**
There are new warning signs for all staff, and clear crisis routes: call 999 or go to A&E if a child is in danger.
- 7 GENDER-QUESTIONING CHILDREN.**
Statutory for the first time. Schools do not initiate social transition. Decisions are made case by case and documented, with parents usually involved, and there are firm rules on single-sex spaces and sport.
- 8 VOLUNTEERS NEED CHECKING.**
The Crime and Policing Act 2025 removes the supervision exemption. Volunteers who teach, train, or supervise children on more than three days in a 30-day period, or overnight, are now in regulated activity, however closely they are supervised.
- 9 FAMILY HELP: ONE JOINED-UP OFFER.**
'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026' brings targeted early help and support for children in need into a single coordinated offer. All staff should know how children can benefit and how to refer.
- 10 RECORDS THAT PROTECT EVERYBODY.**
A good record now has a clear standard: a summary, the action taken, the decisions made, the reasons for them, and the outcome. A note that says 'spoke to child, fine now' fails the test.

ALSO ON THE RADAR

- Operation Encompass is statutory: police notify schools of domestic abuse incidents before the next school day.
- Filtering and monitoring must be reviewed at least annually, with records kept.
- Cyber security is now a safeguarding issue.
- There is a new section on children with medical conditions.
- Trainee teachers are named in allegations procedures.
- Child protection files transfer within five days, with a conversation between DSLs as good practice.

Handover times - The school's commitment to keeping pupils safe is our number one priority. Can we please respectfully ask, should any parent want to share information about their child with a teacher at the start of the day, that they do so by handing the teacher a note or leaving a message with the office staff. This will be

passed onto the appropriate staff member. As you will appreciate, this time is always extremely busy and staff need to ensure that first and foremost, your child is in school and settled.

Please can we remind parents/carers to not allow children to climb on the walls and grass at the main entrance, as there is a fair drop from the wall onto concrete.

Uniform - Please can you ensure that the children do not come to school wearing any jewellery and that long hair is tied back, as this can pose a risk to the children's safety and we would hate for jewellery to be lost. Spacers are to be worn instead of earrings.



Staying safe going to and from school - The following information is from the MET Police aimed at Year 5 and 6 pupils who can come to school by themselves without their parent/carers. We want the children to be as safe as possible on the school journey.

- Stay aware of your surroundings when walking.
- Try not to walk along with your phone or valuables out on show.
- Plan your route and let family members know where you are.
- Avoid shortcuts in isolated places.
- Don't confront anyone or risk your own safety and always report anything to school and the police.



Special Educational Needs -

We all know that children thrive when school and home work closely together. At CVPS we have a dedicated Student and Family Support Team. The SAFs team work together to provide the following -

Early Identification: SaFS team work to proactively identify student needs and intervene before small issues become larger problems that negatively impact progress. These can relate to academic growth, social-emotional learning, attendance, or behaviour management.

Providing individualised support: The SaFS team creates a tailored plan for each student based on their unique needs, and monitors student progress toward pre-determined goals.

Facilitating collaboration: SaFS teams promote collaboration between classroom teachers, counsellors, leaders, families, and other specialists. This helps ensure that no student falls through the cracks and every child achieves their full potential.

If you need any support you may wish to contact Mrs Costello (SENDco) and/or Mrs Norman (Mental Health and Wellbeing lead) via the school office or info@villageprimary.org . Here is more information about their roles and how they can support -

Mrs Norman, our Mental health and wellbeing lead:

I work closely with Mrs Costello, our school SENCO. I believe that mental health in children is so important because it lays the foundation for their overall well-being and future success. Just as we prioritise physical health, we must recognise that a child's Mental Health and well-being is equally crucial. Healthy mental development in childhood not only develops resilience and coping skills but also influences their social and academic achievements. Each child is different, and requires a different approach. I have a lot of personal experience within my family life of Mental Health and Special Educational Needs, so I understand the importance of nurturing our children to help them reach their greatest potential.

Within my role, I am here to offer support and advice to the children (and their families), and generally be a listening ear throughout the week! Here's some of the things I can confidentially support you and your children with, especially with the increasing cost of living that we are all experiencing:

- Mental Health,
- Anxiety and concerns,
- Friendships,
- Bereavement,
- Local food bank vouchers,
- Refer families to other services such as our local Early Help team.
- School uniform- If you require more uniform and are struggling to cover the costs, please get in touch.

Mrs Costello, SENDCo:

I just wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and explain a little bit about my role as the school's SENDCo (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator). You might be wondering what that actually means, and the short answer is: I'm here to make sure that every child in our school gets the right support they need to learn, grow and feel happy in school – no matter what their starting point is.

A big part of my job is working closely with teachers, parents, and outside professionals (like speech therapists or educational psychologists) to make sure we're all pulling in the same direction for your child. I help staff put the right strategies in place in the classroom, keep track of how children are getting on, and make sure parents feel involved and informed every step of the way.

If you want to talk about any concerns you have please ring the school or contact the info account to make an appointment.