



**Hugh Joicey**  
C of E Aided First School



*Dear Parents & Carers,*

*Welcome to the January newsletter, we hope this gives you updates on school and we've tried to include important dates for the rest of the academic year. It's been a busy start to 2025 in school; the children have been working really hard in their lessons and our building has been alive with the buzz of learning. We thank you for your ongoing support of school and we hope you enjoy reading the newsletter.*

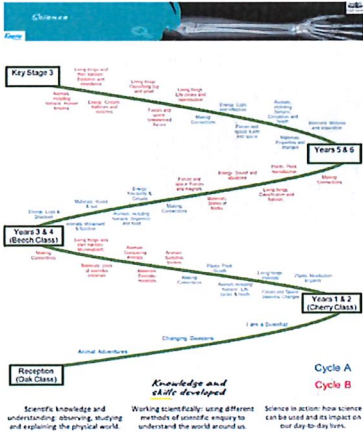
## STAFFING

Mrs Burn has returned and is really enjoying teaching Beech Class Tuesday-Friday. Ms Gilbert is now feeling at home in Key Stage 1 (Cherry Class) and she's doing a fantastic job in Mrs Howie's absence. We continue to keep Mrs Howie in our thoughts and prayers as she continues her cancer treatment. She really appreciates the kind messages that we have passed on from parents. It's our understanding that Jack Forster (Commando Jack) has made slight progress but he is still very unwell in hospital after the awful incident over the Christmas holidays. We ask that you also keep him in your thoughts and prayers. It's coming up to his birthday and we are planning how we can get a message of support to him. Mrs Howie and Jack are both big misses in school we hope they can return soon.



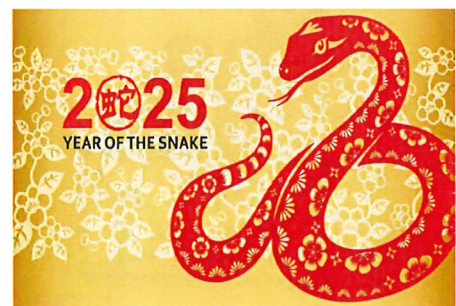
## Transition to Primary & Curriculum

Earlier in the term, we had our information evening to outline the plans for the transition of our school from a first school to a primary school. One major aspect of this is the curriculum planning. In the January teacher training day we completed some detailed planning for our curriculum from Reception all the way through to Year 6 (some people may think teachers just drink coffee and sit around chatting on training days - we can assure you that's not the case). Please see the website curriculum area: <http://www.ford.northumberland.sch.uk/web/curriculum/258925> for our full curriculum overview for each subject.



## CHINESE NEW YEAR

A big thanks to our fantastic kitchen staff who gave us a beautiful Chinese new year themed meal last week. The children really enjoyed tucking into their spring rolls and sweet and sour chicken. We really appreciate how hard our kitchen staff work to produce food that is nutritious and tasty. Alongside the fantastic food, the children have completed lots of crafts in school and learned so much about the traditions of Chinese new year. Our curriculum has a strong focus on looking out into the wider world and taking these opportunities to celebrate the culture of others is a great way to do that.



## READING

*In school, we recognise that reading, and a person's reading proficiency, is one of the biggest predictors of educational success. Reading is a vital skill across the curriculum so, understandably, it is a top priority in school. As part of our journey of continuous improvement with reading, we have*

*introduced Accelerated Reader. This tracks some of the reading across school and it keeps a 'live' counter of how much the children are reading. In January there were 63 accelerated reader books read, can we beat that in February? If your child has an accelerated reader book then as soon as they've finished it they can access a quiz for the book online. Follow the link (which is on the school website under 'Useful Links') <https://global-zone61.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/6702148>. We know that our families are incredibly supportive and want the best for their children, fostering a love of reading is so important and we thank you for your support with this.*

Hugh Joicey Church of England First School, Ford Reads!



In January 2025, students have read...

**63** Books

**126,141** Words

for **16** minutes/day!  
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE  
Accelerated Reader®

## Safeguarding

As we hope you are aware, we consider safeguarding to be the most important thing that we do in school. Mr Roberts is the safeguarding lead and Miss Carr is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead.

Parents should also be aware that we are an 'Operation Encompass' school and an 'Operation Endeavour' school. More information about both of these initiatives can be found on the safeguarding section of the schools website:

<http://www.ford.northumberland.sch.uk/web/safeguarding/> 182420

Any concerns about the safety and wellbeing of children should be directed to Mr Roberts.



## Lost and Found

We continue to have an awful lot of 'lost property' in school. Wherever possible we try to re-unite items with their owners but this is not possible if the equipment does not have the child's name on it. It does

sometimes feel like there's a magic jumper/ cardigan tree somewhere in school. Please can you ensure that your child's name is on all of their equipment and if you have lost any items recently then please let us know and we'll look through the lost property mountain to try and help locate missing items.



### ***Easy Fundraising Information***

Our wonderful PTA have set up an 'Easy Fundraising' page. Easyfundraising partners with over 8,000 brands who will donate part of what you spend to a cause of your choice. It won't cost you any extra. The cost is covered by the brand. The PTA have already raised over £300 for school with this. Please consider following the link below so that you can help to support through school to buy much needed equipment and resources. We continue to be extremely grateful to our very hardworking, dedicated and generous PTA.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/hughjoiceycofefirstschoolfordberwickupontweed>

### **IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE REST OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR**

**Children's Mental Health week - Week Commencing Monday 3rd February**

**Number Day - Friday 7th February**

**Safer Internet Day - Tuesday 11th February**

**Year 4 Residential Information Meeting - Tuesday 18th February 15:30**

**Spring Half Term (one week) - Week Commencing Monday 24th February**

**World Book Day - Thursday 6th March**

**STEM week - Week Commencing Monday 10th March**

**RE Day - Tuesday 18th March**

**Spring Term Parents Consultations - Wednesday 26th March 13.30 - 17.50**

**Easter Collective Worship - Friday 11th April 13:30**

**Easter Holidays (two weeks) - Weeks Commencing Monday 14th April**

**May Day - Friday 2nd May Commencing at 13:30**

**Summer Half Term (1 week + 1 training day) - Week Commencing Mon 26th May**

**Teacher Training Day - Monday 2nd June**

**Countryside Day - Thursday 5th June**

**Big Sing @ The Sage (Oak and Cherry Class) - Wednesday 2nd July**

**Sports Day/Summer Fayre - Tues 8th July 13:30**

**End of Year Celebration Worship - Thursday 17th July 14:00**

