

Headteacher's Headlines

It's been a very busy and wonderful week in school. Year 3 & 4 showed amazing resilience taking part in the 5 A side Football tournament- a big thank you to Henry's Dad – Will for helping train the pupils before the match! On the same morning, Year 5 & 6 took part in Eden Rock Competition and had a fabulous morning trying all the different climbing walls that they had to offer.

Acorns celebrated Shrove Tuesday with a pancake flipping contest- How many can you flip in 30 seconds?! We had 3 joint winners who all managed to flip the pancake 13 times!

Please keep an eye on the dates at the bottom of this newsletter as we have lots of exciting events coming up.

Warmest wishes,
Sarah



Extra-Curricular Clubs

In the first week of craft club, children had fun sponge painting spring themed pictures. Stem club made some fantastic harmonicas.



School Uniform

Thank you for continuous support sending Children in school uniform. Just to be aware that leggings are not part of the uniform.

Careers Month

We are so lucky to have lots of visitors coming in to school for Careers Month. If you know anyone who may be interested in attending, please let the school office know.

School Field

Weekend use –You are all still more than welcome to use our school grounds to play in- however the school field at the moment is extremely wet and muddy so we would appreciate, if possible, to avoid playing football on there out of hours to help preserve the field.

Red Nose Day – Friday 21st March

Red noses will be available to buy in school priced at £2.00 each. All proceeds go to Comic Relief. Children can come to school that day wearing something red. Cake donations would be welcome, parents are invited for coffee and cake for a donation at 2:30pm with all profits going to Comic Relief.



Parents Evening Wednesday 12th March

Thank you for taking the time to book your Parents Evening appointments. We look forward to seeing you in school on Wednesday.

Non-Uniform Day- Friday 28th March

We are holding a non-uniform day in school on Friday 28th March. Please can all children come in wearing anything with their house colour. Please could children bring in a donation for the PTFA Easter raffle- anything would be welcome including chocolates, bubble bath etc. If you bring in alcohol, please deliver this straight to the school office. If you are unsure which colour house your child is in, please contact the school office.

Parents Safeguarding Information

It's World Book Day this week – the perfect time to celebrate reading in all its forms!

The way we read is changing – social media captions 📱, video game instructions 🎮, and e-books 📖 are all shaping modern literacy. But did you know digital tools can boost reading skills for young learners?



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

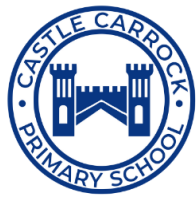
- 1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT**
Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading apps can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in class if they're part of their routine learning process. Practice training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.
- 2 READING ON SCREEN**
Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting text type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension, but every device, while text on black backgrounds is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to customise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.
- 3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS**
Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user-friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.
- 4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES**
Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while progressing on repetitive reading tasks. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.
- 5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS**
Many video games require players to read instructions, decipher directions and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve story-telling, puzzles or problem-solving often have the potential of being an engaging way for children to read these texts aloud or discuss them, which improves their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.
- 6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS**
Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or other videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it connects them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Regularly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.
- 7 USING AUDIOBOOKS**
Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can listen along, which may help with fluency for struggling readers, allowing to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.
- 8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING**
Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connections between spoken and written language. By using text-to-speech to read their dictated words aloud, they can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.
- 9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY**
Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press play to read it aloud aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for reluctant learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.
- 10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS**
While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13-18 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media sites feature captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert
Cathrin Lown is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her new site, ReadWithTeachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Cathrin also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

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NEWSLETTER



Monday 10 th March 25	Hedgehogs Gosling Sike Reserve assembly
Tuesday 11 th March 25	KS1 Farm Trip
Tuesday 11 th March 25	Careers Assembly with Charlotte Hetherington Vet
Wednesday 12 th March 25	Inclusion Sports Festival at William Howard School
Wednesday 12 th March 25	Parents Evening
Friday 14 th March 25	Archery in school with KS2
Monday 17 th March 25	Feet First 5 Day Active Travel Challenge
Monday 17 th March 25	Irish Dance demonstration/whole school assembly
Tuesday 18 th March 25	NISCU Easter session in school
Wednesday 19 th March 25	CET Year 2 Sports Festival at Workington
Friday 21 st March 25	Red Nose Day children can wear something red cake donations welcome. Coffee and Cake for parents 2:30pm -3:20pm in school
Friday 28 th March 25	Parents Monthly Assembly and house colour non uniform day
Tuesday 1 st April 25	KS1 & Year 3 Learning Forest Trip
Thursday 3 rd April 25	Easter Service 2.45pm - 3.15pm
Friday 4 th April 25	Uncovering Roman Carlisle whole school assembly
Friday 4 th April 25	Last Day of term
Monday 28 th April 25	Cumbria Deaf – whole school assembly
Saturday 17 th May 25	Lanercost Cross Country Race (more information to follow)