



Achievement Assembly

Our achievement assembly celebrated children who have shown "determination" this week. Well done to the following children:

Reception: Arianah **Year 1:** Whole Class **Year 2:** Luna
Year 3: Theo **Year 4:** Noah **Year 5:** Jacob **Year 6:** Frankie

Celebrating Attendance

Whole school attendance is currently at 95.6%

Well done to Year 2 for best attendance this week at 99%!

Date for Diary

- February half term 24th to 28th
- Thur 6th March - World Book Day plus special lunch (menu also on website calendar)
- Mon 24th March - Easter celebration @ Birtley Methodist Church
- Mon 31st March - Reception class trip to Hall Hill Farm
- Thur 10th April - Easter Celebration special lunch (menu on website calendar)
- Friday 11th April - Break up for Easter - Returning Mon 28th April

Rights Respecting

Article 10 - Contact with parents across counties- If a child lives in a different country than their parents, governments must let the child and parents travel so that they can stay in contact and be together.



Children's mental health week

Non uniform day Fri 7th Feb - thank you for your donations we will let you know what we raised when the donations are counted. If you would like to send in a £1 on Monday, if forgotten about today, please do. Thank you!

All donations will go to Place2Be an organisation who supports children's mental health check out their website for further information <https://www.place2be.org.uk/>

Late to school?

As of Monday 10th February you must check your child in. Please bring your child into school via the main entrance, you will need to check in your child via the Reception iPad - Click on "Pupils" in the top left hand corner, Late Arrival, put your child's firstname then tab across to then add surname, Teacher - you can add year group ie: R for Reception, then a number for all other year groups eg: 1 for Year 1, finally add a reason for being late. The KS1 doors close at 8.50am, KS2 at 8.55am prompt.

Update on NHS 111 mental health option

As you may be aware since April last year anyone in our region experiencing a mental health crisis can now access 24/7 support by calling **NHS 111** and selecting the mental health option.

The service is still provided by our mental health trusts but means that there is now one nationally recognised number to call, rather than a range of freephone numbers. Our trusts are Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) and Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (CNTW).

To find out more about what happens when someone calls **NHS 111** and select the mental health option, visit the Trust's website.



Eschools help?

If you need some information on Eschool please check out our website - Parents - Eschools Help - [Portobello Primary School - Eschools Help](#) check out the you tube videos too below:

<https://youtu.be/Yi48eDbU-Kg> - I am a pupil and want to do/see my homework

<https://youtu.be/EJNDVMF0t8o> - I am a parent/carer and want to see my child's homework

Gateshead Netball champions 🏆🏐

Another brilliant final day for Team Portobello who won their group 6-0, 5-1, 7-0 and then managed to narrowly win the final against a strong side. We are really looking forward to the County Finals now!
#TeamPortobello

Boccia

Our Boccia teams had a great day at Gateshead Stadium this week. Both teams did a fantastic job representing Portobello with one team even qualifying for the quarter finals. We are very proud, well done!
#TeamPortobello

Family Fun Day @ Gateshead Leisure Centre

Family fun day and charity bazaar: Celebrate a day of food, art, and culture at Gateshead Leisure Centre, Saturday 22 February, 10:30am to 3:30pm. There will be stalls with handcrafted items, clothing and jewellery as well as Henna painting, macrame and balloon sculptures. For further information contact North East Diversity, Education and Solidarity (NEDES) [E:info@nedes.org.uk](mailto:info@nedes.org.uk)



No other food options available

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

"CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk for more.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fake-news-and-scams>

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