



Corbridge Middle School

December 2022 Newsletter





Corbridge Middle School



Well, that's our first term of the new academic year complete. We say goodbye to what has been a wonderful 2022 and look forward to fresh and exciting experiences in the New Year.

And what a term it has been! Full of awe, challenge and wonder. Let me try to summarise what we have been up to this term.

We are thrilled to be part of the Young Green Briton challenge this year. We invited the team in from Ministry of Eco to help us launch our project and we are super excited to see what our Year 7 students design and put forward to our panel in the New Year to aid sustainability.

Our outdoor gym equipment had been thoroughly enjoyed by the students this term. We have been so impressed with how well the children are adhering to the risk assessment and complying with the rules of play. This makes sure everyone can enjoy the facilities whilst remaining safe. Thank you everyone.



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Students across the school engaged in a series of Remembrance Day activities in November including a drama performance of 'In Flanders Fields' by some of our Year 7 students. On the 11th November, students engaged respectfully in the two minute silence and one of our Year 7 students played The Last Post. We were incredibly proud of the sensitivity and respect shown by all students.

This term also saw the introduction of our two new rewards: Hot Chocolate with the Head, where students are nominated against the school's core values and are invited to enjoy a Hot Chocolate with all the trimmings in the my office with me. And our 'Golden Wall', where work across the curriculum which showcases outstanding effort is framed and presented on the Golden Wall in the main school foyer. Well done to all the students who have been selected for these rewards - the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and I look forward to seeing who is nominated next term!

This term has been a wonderful opportunity for fundraising and we are incredibly proud of the fundraising efforts by our students and our school community. We have raised £809.93 for Children in Need, £299.97 for The British Legion and £469.30 for Save the Children. It has been wonderful to support these charities this term. We also enjoyed our Christmas Fayre this term, where we raised money for purposes a little closer to home. Thank you all for your kindness and generosity in supporting school and these charities. We very much appreciate this, especially in such challenging times.

We have been frequent features in the local press this term. Stories have included a student in Year 7 winning our local MPs Christmas Card Competition, two Year 7 students winning the sustainability design for our local waste management vehicles, our school winning an eco competition on pen recycling and a double page spread in local magazine 'Corbridge Matters'. Further info including links to the articles (where available) are on our school social media feeds.



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And to top off an incredible term, we held our school's first Performing Arts Concert, 'A Creative Christmas' showcasing the work across Music, Drama, Art and Food Technology. The evening was a huge success and was incredibly well attended. It was wonderful to see such fantastic participation from the students and amazing support from our school community. It really was a show stopper!

It has been a truly terrific term. Thank you, as always, for your engagement and support. I wish you all the very best for the festive season and look forward to continuing our journey in the New Year.

Warmest wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark brown ink that reads "Adele Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'A' and 'B'.

Mrs Adele Brown



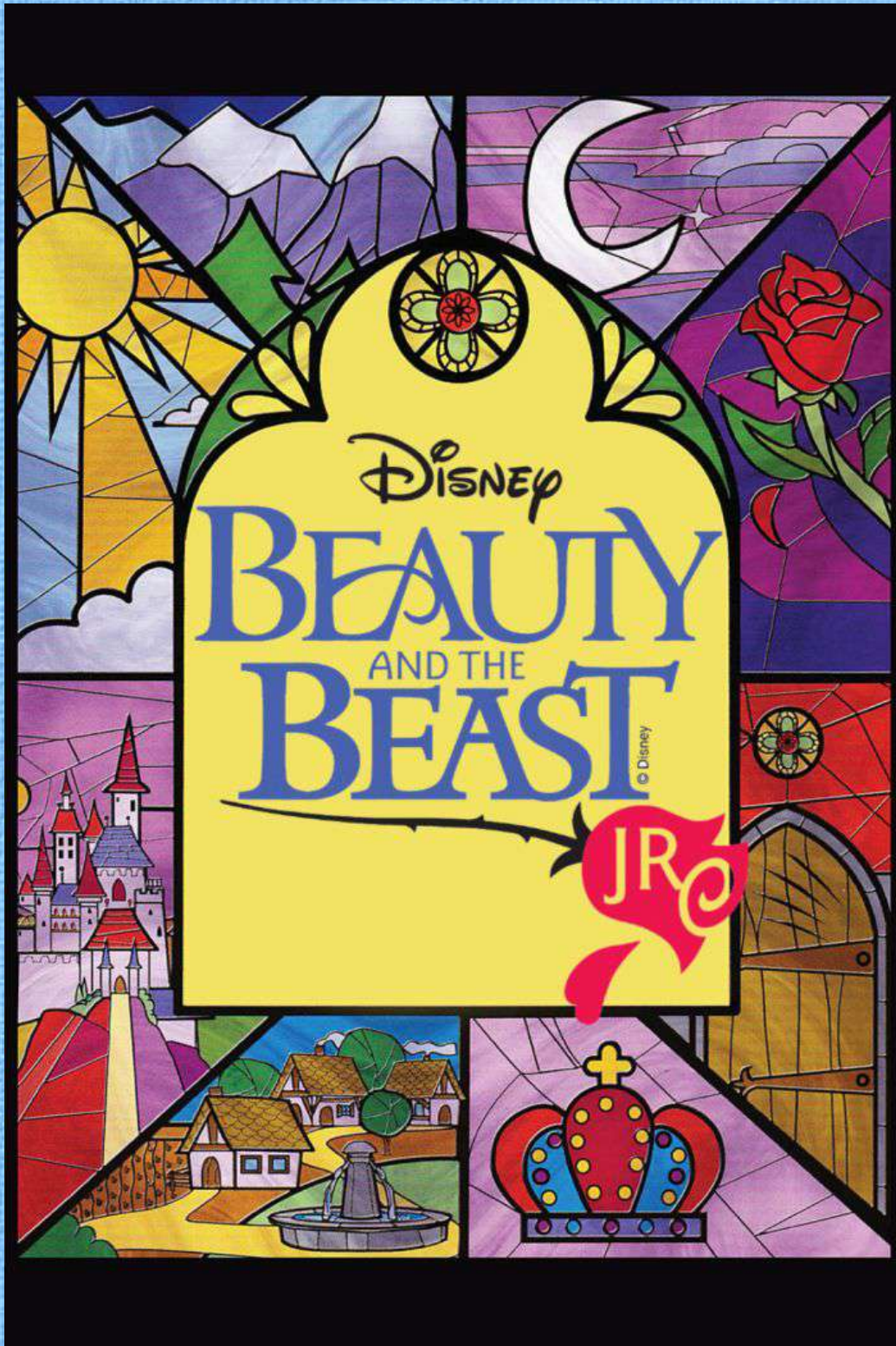
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Please see the latest information from Northumberland Domestic Abuse Support Services by [clicking here](#)



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Should your child wish to audition for the school musical, Beauty & The Beast, then please ensure that they sign up the Beauty & The Beast Google Classroom using the code rp3qrrp to learn the script and song for the audition.



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Playground Equipment

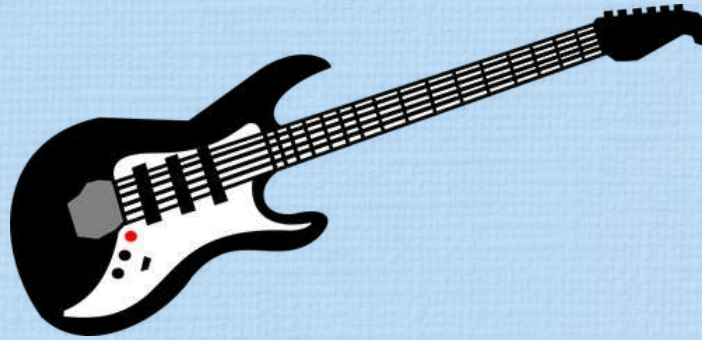


This term, everyone was thrilled to be able to start using our new outdoor gym equipment.

The apparatus complements our newly resurfaced playground area.



Music Ensembles



We are delighted to have had music ensembles up and running again this term, and it has been wonderful to hear a range of styles floating down the corridors.

Music Ensembles remain free for anyone to take part in, so get yourself along and try something new!

Monday:

Senior Choir - Open to all in Y7 and Y8 - 12:30 in U6

Tuesday:

- Wind Band - Open to all wind players - 8:30 on the stage
- Junior Choir - Open to all in Y5 and Y6 - 12:05 in U6
- Ceilidh Band - Open to all string players, plus percussion - all welcome to try percussion - 12:30 in U6

Thursday:

- Boys Choir - Open to all boys in all year groups - 15:05 - in L2

Friday:

- Guitar Group - Open to all players - we have guitars for you to borrow so please come along and learn a new skill - 12:05 in U6



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MP Guy Opperman's Christmas Card Competition



Huge congratulations to J in Year 7 who has won our MP Guy Opperman's Constituency Christmas Card Competition!

The card will be sent to the cabinet members and the Prime Minister! We are so thrilled for J and are incredibly proud of her!

Well done and Merry Christmas!



Terracycle Recycling Competition



We were thrilled to find out that we were overall winners of the national Terracycle pen recycling competition. We have won £1000 by collecting, packaging up and sending off old writing equipment. One of our Year 6 pupils (pictured) helped Dr Batchelder organise the pens.

We have discussed which charities to donate the money to and it is going to be split between the West Northumberland Foodbank, as no child should go to school hungry, and the Northumberland Wildlife Trust to protect local biodiversity as, globally, wildlife numbers have reduced by around 70% in the past 50 years.

Many of our pupils are passionate about reducing plastic waste to help 'save the world'. MultiChem in Hexham send us all of the pens from their ink testing so they really help to get our recycling levels up.

They made the following statement "Multichem are delighted to be involved with CMS in their fundraising efforts, and hats off to them for winning the write away competition with Terracycle".



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Anything But Rubbish



Two of our pupils were the stars of the show earlier in the term when a photographer, two local Councillors and Wendy Fail from Northumberland County Council turned up to take photos of their winning design which is now featured on the side of one of the Council's bin lorries travelling around Tynedale. The pupils even got to sit in the cab which was parked in front of school. The full article is online at: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/News/2022/Dec/Pupils-green-message-is-anything-but-rubbish.aspx>



Corbridge Middle School

SCHOOL CONNECT PROJECT

HELP YOUR SCHOOL TO
RAISE FUNDS BY
DONATING YOUR
UNWANTED CLOTHING
INTO THE CONTAINER
SITUATED WITHIN YOUR
SCHOOL!

REMEMBER ONCE
YOUR SCHOOL HITS
£1000 WE GIFT THE
SCHOOL AN APPLE
TREE TO PLANT
WITH THE CHILDREN

REMEMBER TO INVITE THE
COMMUNITY TO DONATE!



WHY IS RECYCLING IMPORTANT?

- RECYCLING REDUCES WASTE SENT TO LANDFILLS
- RECYCLING PREVENTS POLLUTION
- RECYCLING HELPS REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT



REMEMBER TO SPREAD
THE WORD AND
ENCOURAGE DONATIONS
THROUGH YOUR SCHOOL
CLOTHING CONTAINER,
THIS CAN INCLUDE
FRIENDS AND FAMILY
MEMBERS TO HELP WITH
FUNDRAISING FOR YOUR
SCHOOL





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Corbridge Middle has been chosen as one of a handful of schools to participate in a special pilot of the Young Green Briton Challenge - a national platform to nurture, support and celebrate youth-led, school-based climate action.

The Challenge uses an adapted design thinking curriculum to enable young people to design entrepreneurial solutions to local climate issues.

Year 7 began the Explore phase last week to investigate local community issues as well as developing their understanding of key concepts of the climate and nature emergency. On Thursday they had a drop-down day with a full day workshop with the Young Green Briton team hosting a series of workshops and activities to develop the students' green skills, teamwork and social action.

In January we will host our own eco dragons' den competition to choose five teams who will each receive £100 to help turn their idea into action. The groups will be teamed up with STEM Ambassador mentors from Egger to help guide and develop their ideas.

At the end of May 2023 the school community will choose one winner to join the national competition with the chance of winning one of four £1000 investments for their project.

As a school we are incredibly excited about the opportunity and the potential impact this will have in fostering positive change in the local community.

The Young Green Briton Challenge is an initiative of the Green Britain Foundation, the charitable foundation established by Dale Vince founder of Ecotricity.

The Challenge brings together the experience of a variety of organisations including the Ministry of Eco Education, Social Innovation for All, Volunteers for Future and I Have a Voice.



The Lambton Worm



Year 5 have finished their poetry module this half term with an exploration of local legend "The Lambton Worm." They worked in groups to produce a short drama improvisation on a section of the ballad and threw themselves into the various roles as you can see! (With thanks to Mrs Thompson whose Lambton Worm costume made two years ago is still going strong!)



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Year 6 Letters to Partners



We have written and illustrated beautiful letters to our friends at Maasai Academy in Kenya, which are being delivered by hand at New Year.

Year 6 are very much looking forward to receiving their replies, sparking up our penpal relationships and exploring being global citizens.

Year 6 study a unit on Africa in English during the summer term, so this fits in well with our learning in school too.



U12s Northumberland County Cricket Player Of The Year



Congratulations to Will who was awarded the U12s Northumberland County Cricket Player of the Year! What a fantastic achievement, we are so incredibly proud!

Well done Will, keep up the fantastic work!



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KS3 Cross Country



Our school value of 'resilience' was imperative when our Year 7 and 8 cross country runners battled it out for a good team position in the area championships, as well as individuals looking to qualify to represent the Tynedale area team.

Although the weather was kind to us, the hilly course did indeed require lots of resilience.

The PE department were incredibly proud of everyone who took part and look forward to taking the 5 pupils who qualified onto the next round.



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Remembrance Day



In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.



In Flanders Fields - John McCrae



On the 11th of November at 11am the school fell silent for Remembrance. Our assemblies commemorated the many lives lost during the World Wars and recent conflicts. Our Year 7 drama group provided a passionate performance themed around the poem In Flanders Fields by John McCrae.

Special thanks to Aksel who concluded our Remembrance week with the sounding of 'The Last Post' on his trumpet.



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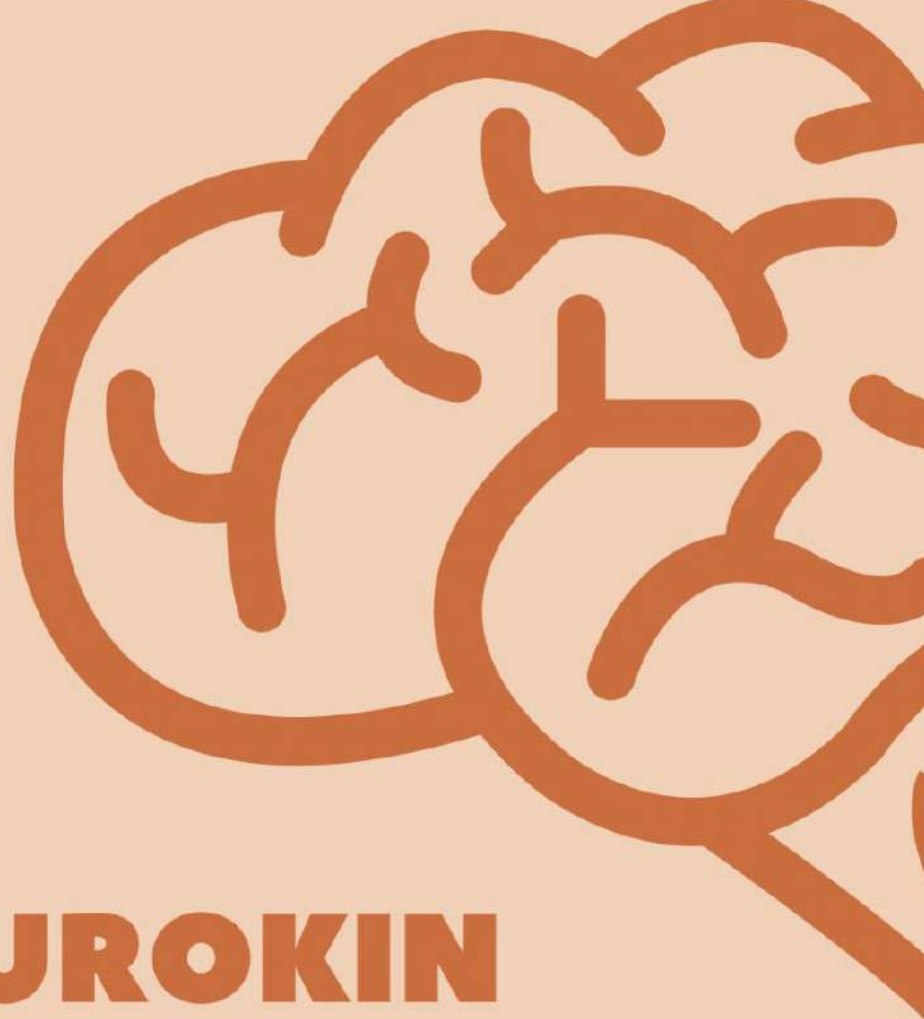
Children In Need



We raised an incredible £809.93 for Children In Need!

A huge thank you and well done to our student council who helped organise the day.

And thank you to our families and school community for your generosity!



CMS NEUROKIN GROUP

A support group for parents and carers who have children with special educational needs.

**ALL ARE WELCOME FOR A COFFEE AND A
CHAT**

**THIS MONTH WE WILL JOINED BY PAMELA
MCGAHON, CHAIR OF NORTHUMBERLAND
PARENT & CARER FORUM**

THURSDAY 26TH JANUARY - 9.15AM

We look forward to seeing you there, Catherine & Lynda



E-Safety Focus



National
Online
Safety®

Each week we are providing some guidance for Parents and Carers about a particular app or online service which you may find useful. The guides can be found on our Friday Flyer and give a useful insight and highlight key safety features which many parents have found useful.

This week's spotlight is on Call Of Duty

What parents & carers need to know about...

CALL OF DUTY
BLACK OPS
COLD WAR

PEGI
18



CALL OF DUTY BLACK OPS COLD WAR



Call of Duty: Black Ops Cold War (CoD) is an online first-person shooter. It's available on PC, PlayStation and Xbox. CoD allows players to select from different game modes including campaign, multiplayer and 'Zombies'. Players can customise their character and weapons in the game.

Graphic Violence & Language

A story of covert warfare and ruthless operatives, Black Ops Cold War features extreme violence: players harm and kill enemies in brutal and graphic ways. Several scenes depict intense interrogation and torture. Unsurprisingly, there's a strong horror element in 'Zombies' mode. The language used is unsuitable for under 18s.



In-game Payments

Players can gain an advantage over other users by spending money on new characters and attributes. The currency in the game is known as CoD points. They can't be earned by playing the game - only purchased in the online store. CoD point packs range from £1.79 to £84.99.



Online Multiplayer

Most modes of Black Ops Cold War require an internet connection so that the player can battle against other users online: the game has integration into the existing 'Warzone' battle royale mode. A multiplayer round usually lasts between 10 and 30 minutes. Because of the game's immersive nature, it can be difficult for children to recognise their limits and know when to stop playing.



Chatting to Strangers

During a multiplayer game, if your child's PC or console has a microphone, it's possible for them to talk to any other player around the world. As it's an adult game, the language used in these chats may often be inappropriate for young children. Due to the competitive nature of gaming and the fact that conversations are not moderated, your child could be at risk of cyberbullying.



Safety Tips for Parents & Carers

Discuss Time Limits

It's not possible to pause a multiplayer game of CoD, so it's a good idea to agree with your child a limit of matches they can play in one session. In 2018, the World Health Organisation recognised 'gaming disorder' as health condition, so it's important to monitor how long your child spends on the game.



Remove Violence & Profanity

At the beginning of the game, players are given the chance to disable the graphic content. You also have the option to do this in the game's settings. You can change the profanity setting in the content filters tab, so that the bad language doesn't appear in the game. In addition, there's an option to change the zombies mode to a more cartoonish rendering, making this mode slightly less frightening.



Disable Communication Features

It's important to talk to your child regularly about who they're interacting with online. If you have serious concerns, you can disable the voice chat function in the game's audio settings and disable the text chat function in the content filters section too.



Monitor & Limit Spending

To avoid your child incurring hefty CoD point costs, it's best not to link their device to your bank account. Alternatively, you could allow limited access by setting up parental controls on their console. To keep a rein on spending, it's a good idea to use a gift voucher or a Paysafe card (if they're using an Xbox or PlayStation).



Block Unsuitable Content...and Users

You can prevent your child from viewing any user-generated content by changing the settings via the in-game options menu, so unsuitable content won't show on screen when your child is playing. If your child feels that they've experienced cyberbullying in the game, there is a facility within the game to report offensive behaviour.



Encourage Alternate Activities

Players are given incentives during the game to reward more time spent playing. They can also earn rewards by watching influencers playing the game via Twitch. This presents a risk that your child could want to spend even more time in front of a screen. Make sure you talk to your child regularly about the importance of alternative activities away from their device - such as physical exercise or pursuing a creative interest.



Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for five years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGBible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



SOURCES: <https://www.who.int/lectures/digital-gaming-disorder/> | <https://www.gamesradar.com/en-gb/use/games/> | <https://www.callofduty.com/blog/2020/11/Black-Ops-Cold-War-Controls-and-Settings-PlayStation> | <https://support.activision.com/uk/en/black-ops-cold-war/articles/call-of-duty-black-ops-cold-war-editions-tag> | <https://support.activision.com/uk/en/black-ops-cold-war/articles/black-ops-cold-war-winter-rewards> | <https://www.taminggaming.com/games/Call-of-Duty-Black-ops-cold-war>



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Instrument Amnesty



Calling all unused instruments that may be hiding in wardrobes or lofts... we need you!

If you do think that you have any old instruments you'd be willing to donate to school, we will gladly accept them - huge thanks to all those who donated in our last amnesty.



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Clubs Timetable

Spring 2023

Time	Club & Room	Staff
Monday		
12:05	Hockey club -Yr 6, 7 and 8 - 12 05 PROMPT	Mrs Parkin
12.35 - 1.05	Library	Mrs Ramsay
12:30 - 1:05	Y8 Weather and Climate Club	Dr Batchelder and Mr Swinney
12:30 - 1:00	Senior Choir	Mrs Fisher
12.05 - 12.35	D & D (U3)	Miss Jones
12.35 -1.05	Friendship Club KS3(L6)	Mrs. Liddle
Tuesday		
12.35 - 1.05	Library	Mrs Ramsay
12:05 - 12:35	Junior Choir	Mrs Fisher
12:35 - 13:00	Homework club (L8)	Mrs Thornton
8:30-9:00	Wind Band	Ms De Vere
12.35-105	Friendship Club KS2 (L6)	Mrs. Liddle
12:35-1:05	Ceilidh Band	Miss Stephenson
12:35 - 1:05	Drama Club KS2 - main hall	Mrs A Brown
Wednesday		
12.35 - 1.05	Library	Mrs Ramsay
12.05-12.3 5	Basketball	Full of Beans
12.35-1.05	Basketball (1 session for each Key stage, they will differ depending on the Year groups lunch sitting)	



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Clubs Timetable

Spring 2023

Time	Club & Room	Staff
Thursday		
12.35 - 1.05	Library	Mrs Ramsay
3:05 - 3:30	Boys' Choir	Mr Reed
12:05-12:35	KS2 Football Club	Mr McKee
Friday		
12.05 - 12:35	Drama club - KS3 - main hall	Mrs A Brown
12.35 - 1.05	Library	Mrs Ramsay
12:05 - 12:35	KS2 Computer Club	Mr Johnston
12:05 - 12:30	Guitar Group	Mr Newbrook
12.05 - 12.35	Chess Club (L5)	Mr Swinney

Important Dates Spring 2023

Date	Event	Aimed at
09/01/23	Teacher Day	All
10/01/23	School reopens after Christmas break	All
17/02/23	School Closes for Half Term Break	All

