



# MONKHOUSE MESSENGER

## November 2025

### Fun in the Snow

Last week, when we had some snow, we had the best time playing with our friends.



### PTA

A huge thank you to some of our PTA members (Victoria Logan-Coulsey, Hannah Weston, Kirstie Cunliffe, McLaren James and Laura Wood) who took the time to decorate our school for Christmas this week. School has been transformed into a festive, joyful space that we are already loving!



### Staffing Update

We were delighted to welcome **Mrs Dillon** to our school community after the half term holidays as a teaching assistant in Nursery and Reception. She has already settled in wonderfully and is enjoying getting to know our children, families, and staff. We are thrilled to have her as part of the Early Years team.

We will be saying a fond farewell to **Miss Sylwia** in early January as she and her family return to their home in Poland after many years in England. Miss Sylwia has been a valued teaching assistant in Year 3 and across the school, and she will be greatly missed by the wonderful children, families, and staff at Monkhouse Community. We are incredibly grateful for all she has contributed during her time with us and wish her every happiness in the next chapter of her journey.

### RWInc Parents Session

Thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for our recent Read Write Inc. (RWI) workshop. It was wonderful to welcome you into school and share how we teach early reading.

During the session, families had the opportunity to observe an RWI lesson in action, seeing first hand how phonics is taught, how children practise blending and segmenting, and how we support them to become confident, fluent readers. We hope this gave you a useful insight into the routines, language, and strategies we use every day. Your engagement makes a real difference, and we appreciate the time you took to learn more about how to support reading at home.

## Pupil Leaders - Food Bank

As a school, we are supporting the Bay Food Bank this Christmas and our staff team are taking part in their reverse advent calendar appeal by donating items. If any of our families would also like to get involved, we would be grateful for any donations sent into school. Drop-off bins will be available at the yard entry/exit doors. Please could we ask that if you do want to take part, that all donations are brought in by 12<sup>th</sup> December.

Some suggested items that can be brought in are: tinned meat, tinned custard, tinned fruit, hot dogs, tinned vegetables, tinned pasta, tinned soup, long life milk, savoury snacks (crisps etc), sweet snacks. Biscuits, jams/spreads, baby food, coffee/tea bags, toiletries (shower gel/soap). As always, a huge thank you for your generosity.



## KS2 Basic Skills Parents Session

Thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for our recent KS2 Basic Skills workshop. It was a pleasure to welcome you into school to share how we teach and strengthen key literacy skills across Key Stage 2.

During the session, families were able to observe a live lesson, seeing how we focus on developing fluent, consistent handwriting, as well as how we teach grammar and punctuation in an engaging and purposeful way. Parents saw the routines, explanations, and interactive approaches we use to help children apply these skills confidently in their writing. We hope the workshop gave you a valuable insight into the strategies we use every day to support pupils' progress.

## Spotlight on British Values

Fundamental British Values underpin what it is to be a citizen in a modern and diverse Great Britain valuing our community and celebrating diversity of the UK. These values are **Democracy, Mutual Respect, Rule of Law, Respect and Tolerance and Individual Liberty.**

### Remembrance Day

Our whole school community came together for a thoughtful Remembrance Day assembly, joining in quiet reflection to remember, show respect, and promote peace. Across the school, pupils have been learning about the significance of Remembrance Day and why the poppy is used as a symbol of honour and reflection. Each class created its own poppy wreath or poppy inspired artwork, which they brought proudly to the assembly. To create a stunning display of Remembrance. Together, we observed the two minute silence, united in remembrance. We reminded children where this fitted with British Values around mutual respect and individual liberty.



## Year 5 Intergenerational Splash of Colour

Our Year 5 children took part in a wonderful intergenerational *Splash of Colour* project with the residents of Preston Court. After spending time talking with the residents and getting to know their stories, the children worked alongside them to create vibrant pieces of artwork that will be displayed in the communal areas before forming part of a larger exhibition in Wallsend Library in 2026. We were incredibly proud of our pupils; they engaged beautifully with their older friends and gained so much from the experience. The residents, along with Katrina from NTLT, praised the children's lovely manners and excellent behaviour throughout the visits.



## Plea for Resources

Are you having a pre-Christmas clear out? If you are, please keep us in mind. We are desperate for dolls, figures, dinosaurs, barbies etc for our outdoor play areas. Anything you would like to donate (that is in good condition) please take items to the school office and we will give them a good home! As well as this, we need more items for our mud kitchen, such as, pots, pans, spoons, ladles etc

Nursery have had a cable-reel table in their outdoor role-play cafe for a number of years, but time and the weather have taken their toll, and it's rotting. If you are able to supply any cable reels of a small or medium size, we'd be most grateful!

### **School Choir**

The choir sang beautifully at the Bereavement Event at Tynemouth Crematorium, carrying out their role with great sensitivity and understanding. The children demonstrated a strong sense of respect and empathy throughout, recognising the importance of the occasion and contributing to a comforting atmosphere for those attending.

They were delighted to receive a selection box along with juice and biscuits as a thank you for their contribution, which added to what was already a meaningful and memorable experience for them.



### **Creating a Safer Culture**

We wanted to remind parents that all devices managed by school with the filtering and monitoring software, Impero, on them have the highest restrictions set to keep children safe online. If you as a parent have not opted for this filtering on a home device, please ensure your restrictions are set to keep your children from the dangers online.

#### **Online safety Messages**

**Hentai** is a form of animated or illustrated content that depicts sexual themes, often involving explicit or adult situations. While it may appear as cartoons or drawings, it is not appropriate for children and can be harmful to their understanding of relationships, boundaries, and consent. Children may come across Hentai online, particularly on devices that are not managed or monitored by school, such as personal phones, tablets, or home computers. It is important for parents to be vigilant, have open conversations with their children about safe and appropriate content, and use parental controls or content filters where possible to help protect them from accessing adult material.

If you have any concerns about your child's online activity or want guidance on parental controls, please contact the school for advice and support.

#### **Online safety parents meeting**

We would like to invite all parents and carers to our Online Safety Meetings on **Tuesday 2nd December at 5:00pm** or **Wednesday 10th December at 8:45am**. During these sessions, we will share our updated Acceptable Use Policy and provide a helpful guide on using the Jamf Parent app so you can set restrictions on iPads at home and ensure children are using them safely and appropriately. We will also explain what children can and cannot access when using a school-managed Apple ID, including which apps have age restrictions and are therefore blocked on school devices. These sessions aim to help families feel confident and informed about keeping children safe online.

#### **Dangers of computer games and age restrictions why they are there.**

Computer games can be lots of fun, but it's important to understand why age restrictions exist. These limits help keep children safe by making sure the content is suitable and by reducing the risk of contact with strangers online. For example, Roblox has recently increased its age restriction to 13, and in Australia the platform is introducing age-verification checks to protect younger users. This is because anyone can join the app, and some children have reported being contacted by people they don't know who ask personal questions. To support safe online use, children using school-managed iPads will no longer be able to access apps that have an age restriction. Similar safety measures may soon be introduced in the UK, helping to make online gaming safer for everyone.

#### **Promoting Positive Attendance**

We want every child to have the best start in life, and regular attendance and punctuality play a key role in achieving this. Children who attend school 96% of the time or higher are more likely to keep up with learning, build confidence, and reach their full potential. Missing even a week or two can make it harder to keep up with learning. We kindly remind families that holidays during term time may result in fines, so please plan trips during the school holidays whenever possible.

**All second holidays of 10 sessions (5 days) or more, within a 10 week period will receive an automatic fixed penalty notice fine and any first holidays where attendance is below 90% will also**

**receive a fixed penalty notice fine. Where parents have had one fixed penalty notice fine, the second fine will then increase.**

### **Yr 5 / 6 Athletics**

Miss Forster and Miss O'Neill had a fabulous time taking some children from Yr5 & Yr6 to the athletics event. The children were really brave, trying new skills, working with people they may not have worked with before and supporting their peers when it was their event. There was even an impromptu lesson from Max Boyle, where he showed his peers how to be successful at the triple jump. We are so proud of them all for their effort and personal achievements. Well done!



### **Robinwood 2025**

Yet again, we have taken part in another fantastic residential trip to Robinwood in Alston. Miss Gibson, Mrs Hutchinson and Mr Gallant were extremely proud and impressed by everyone's attitude towards each activity; to give new things a go even when it may have been challenging or made us feel out of our comfort zones. Each year, it is a pleasure and privilege to watch our children represent both themselves and our school so brilliantly!



### **Family Opportunities Outside School**

#### **North Tyneside - easeINTO**

You may have seen in the news that the Government has agreed to fund HAF (Holiday Activities and Food programme) for the next 3 years. In North Tyneside, our HAF programme is known as easeINTO and this is great news for families.

The HAF provides funded places for school aged children in receipt of benefits related free school meals. We have a great list of fun activities within clubs across the whole borough across the Christmas holiday. A full list of activities will also be found on our website from November. Funded spaces are also available if your child fits one of these criteria too.

There are a small number of free spaces available for children who are not eligible for income-related free school meals, these are called 'non-eligible' spaces. The criteria for these 'non-eligible' spaces includes:

- children with a special educational need or disability (SEND)
- children in care
- young carers
- children on EHCP plans
- children and young people from low-income working families
- children and young people known to social care
- children of refugees and asylum seekers
- young people between 16 and 18 with SEND

\*Please make sure you fill in this information when you register on the booking system. Your child can then be approved to access non-eligible spaces. Places will be limited but please use the waiting list option so providers can contact you if a place becomes available. Please remember these are funded places and include a meal per child so no-shows still cost money if the place cannot be filled. Register now so you are ready for when the activities appear mid-November:

<https://easeinto.northtyneside.gov.uk/>

## North Tyneside Early Years & Special Education Needs and Disability Family workshop

NTC are offering a series of informal training sessions for parents and carers designed to introduce the Graduated Approach within Early Years SEND support.

These informal sessions aim to:

- Provide a clear overview of SEND processes and procedures in the Early Years.
- Create a welcoming space for parents and carers to ask questions.
- Empower families with knowledge to better understand and engage with the support available for their children.

Please click the link or view the flyer below to find out more and how to register - <https://ntpcf.co.uk/events>

North Tyneside Parent Carer Forum  
North Tyneside Council  
North Tyneside Teaching Alliance

### Early Years & Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) Workshop

When? 24 November 2025 2.30pm - 4.30pm  
Where? Howdon Family Hub

**Do you have a child(ren) 0-5 years with additional needs and/or disabilities?**

- Does my child have additional needs?
- What can I do and where can I go for support?
- What support can I expect my child to receive?
- What if my child needs a lot more help?
- Who will support my child's transition into Early Years childcare providers, nursery, or Reception?
- How can I access the 2-year-old offer if my child has additional needs?

Come along and find out the answer to these questions! Also, the opportunity to ask your own questions and chat with other parents in a similar situation.

To book your place please use the QR code:

**Future events:**  
5 March 2026 9.30am-11.30am Riverside Family Hub  
13 May 2026 9.30am-11.30am Riverside Family Hub

We're excited to invite you and the families you support to our upcoming Coffee & Chat Meet and Greet session, created especially for parents and carers of children aged 0–5 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The sessions are below:

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 18:00–19:30 at the Riverside Family Hub**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 13:00–14:30 at Hadrian Park Primary School**

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November at 15:30–17:00 at St Bartholomew's Primary School**

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 9:30–11:30 at Appletree Garden's First School**

This informal session offers a welcoming space for families to:

- Connect with others who understand the journey of raising a child with SEND
- Access information about local services and support
- Speak with professionals in a relaxed, friendly environment
- Feel heard, supported, and empowered

To book your space, please email: [EYIS@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:EYIS@northtyneside.gov.uk)

## Christmas is Coming!



Christmas can be a very exciting time for children but the anticipation, coupled with changes to routines can be unsettling for many children, not just those who are neurodivergent.

AJ's tips can help families negotiate any challenges and help the festive period run more smoothly. Click the link to access a variety of resources. [Packs](#)

## Dates for your Diary

### Future Statutory Assessment Dates

11th - 15th May 2026 Year 6 SATs week

8th June - 12th June 2026 Year 1 Phonic Screener

1st June - 12th June 2026 Year 4 Multiplication Check

**HOLIDAY DATES 2025 - 2026**

	<b>School Closes (<i>last day of term</i>)</b>	<b>School Re-opens</b>
<b><u>AUTUMN TERM 2025</u></b>		
<b>OCTOBER MID TERM</b>	<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Oct 2025</b>	<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2025</b>
<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</b>	<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025</b>	<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026</b>
<b><u>SPRING TERM 2026</u></b>		
<b>SPRING MID TERM</b>	<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026</b>	<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026</b>
<b>EASTER HOLIDAY</b>	<b>Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026</b>	<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b>
<b><u>SUMMER TERM 2026</u></b>		
<b>SUMMER MID TERM</b>	<b>Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026</b>	<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026</b>
<b>SUMMER HOLIDAYS</b>	<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026</b>	

**TRAINING DAYS**

**School will be closed on the 3 following days:**

<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025</b>	<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026</b>
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026</b>	

**BANK HOLIDAY - SCHOOL IS CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS ON THIS DAY:  
MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026**