

Edition 21
13.02.26

Weekly News



Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors,

This week's newsletter starts with celebrating Maddie.

Maddie has recently performed in 'Across the Line' at His Majesty's Theatre in London's West End. *Across the Line* is a **West End musical production created for the Pauline Quirke Academy (PQA)**.

The show was written and produced solely by the Pauline Quirke Academy where Maddie attends weekly classes in musical theatre, comedy and drama and film and TV.

- It is written by **Will Brenton** specifically for PQA students.
- The show is described as a **contemporary action-adventure musical**, inspired by modern storytelling trends.
- It is designed to give young performers a **professional West End stage experience**, celebrating individuality and inclusive casting.

In the show Maddie took on the role of 'Dink' one of the show's main storytellers. Maddie has a true passion for the performing arts, in particular, musical theatre, and had the most amazing experience. Well done Maddie. We are all super proud of you!



Safer Internet Day

What is AI?

AI stands for **Artificial Intelligence**. It means a computer program that can learn, think, and sometimes even chat—just like a helpful robot!

You might already use AI when you:

- Ask a voice assistant a question
- Play a game where characters react to you
- Search the internet
- Use apps that recommend music or videos

AI can be incredibly useful—but just like anything online, it's important to use it safely.

How AI Helps Us

AI can make life easier, more fun, and more creative. For example:

- **Homework help:** AI tools can explain tricky ideas.
- **Learning support:** Some apps use AI to help you read, write, or practise maths.
- **Creativity:** You can use AI to make pictures, stories, and even music.

But even though AI is clever, it doesn't always get things right—and that's why we need to think carefully when using it.

Think Before You Click: AI Isn't Always Correct

Sometimes AI:

- Makes mistakes
- Gives answers that aren't true
- Might not understand what you're trying to say

So, it's important to **double-check information** with a trusted adult or another reliable source.

Staying Safe When Using AI

Here are some top tips to help you use AI safely and responsibly:

1. Don't share personal information

Never tell AI tools your full name, address, school, passwords, or phone number.

2. Ask an adult before using AI tools

Not all tools are designed for children. A trusted adult can help you choose safe ones.

3. Be kind and respectful

AI learns from the way people behave online. Using kind language helps everyone.

4. Think about what you're seeing

If AI shows you something that feels strange, wrong, or worrying, **tell an adult straight away**.

5. Remember: AI is a tool, not a human

It doesn't *feel*, *think*, or *understand* like people do. Use your judgement and always ask if you're unsure.

What to Do If Something Doesn't Feel Right

If an AI tool gives you:

- A scary answer
- Something confusing
- Something rude or inappropriate

You should:

1. **Stop using it**
2. **Tell a trusted adult** (teacher, parent, carer)
3. **Block or close the site/app if needed**

You are never in trouble for speaking up!

Why This Matters for Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day reminds us that **we all have a part to play** in making the online world a safer, kinder place.

AI is becoming a big part of our digital lives—so understanding how to use it safely helps us:

- Stay smart
- Stay kind
- Stay safe
- Stay in control

Final Thought

AI can be an amazing tool for learning and fun—but **YOU** are the most important decision-maker.

Use your brain, trust your instincts, and always talk to an adult if something doesn't seem right.

SUGAR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL
Learning and Growing Together

Safer Internet Day 2026

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE WITH AI

AI YOUR CHILDREN MAY USE

- **Chatbots & virtual assistants**
 Children may talk to AI tools such as Siri or Alexa to help with homework or play games.
These tools can give incorrect or unsuitable suggestions.
- **AI in gaming & video apps**
 AI is used in games and video platforms such as YouTube or Roblox to:
 - suggest videos or games your child might like.
 - create game characters or chat features
 - recommend what to watch next based on viewing habits.
- **Educational AI tools**
 Some apps and websites use AI to support learning by:
 - explaining topics,
 - generating quizzes,
 - helping with reading, writing or maths.
- **Social media & content**
 AI suggests posts and videos, which are not always relevant and can lead to long screen time.

TOP TIPS FOR KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE:

- **UNDERSTAND THE TECHNOLOGY**
 Talk to your child about what AI is and how they use it in games, apps, and schoolwork.
- **SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES**
 Agree rules for screen time, app use and what information can be shared.
- **SPOT RISKS**
 Help your child recognise:
 - false or incorrect information
 - dangers of chat features in games
 - strangers or harmful content
- **PROTECT PRIVACY**
 Remind children personal details (name, school, address, photos) to be kept private.
- **STAY INVOLVED**
 Use parental controls, check privacy settings and regularly talk about what your child is doing online.



IMPORTANT

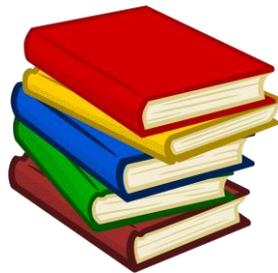
Reminder: Sending Appointment Information to School

If your child has a medical or other scheduled appointment during the school day, please remember to email the details to: sugarhilladmin@durhamlearning.net

Letting us know in advance helps us keep our attendance records up to date and ensures we can have your child ready on time.

Thank you for your support in helping the school day run smoothly!

World Book Week at Sugar Hill



We're excited to celebrate **World Book Week** starting on Tuesday 3rd March. Throughout the week, children will be enjoying a range of book-themed activities designed to spark imagination, build a love of reading, and help them discover new stories and authors.

What's happening in school?

- **Library Visits:** Each class will spend time in the school library and town library exploring new books and enjoying shared reading time. More details will be in next week's newsletter.
- **Fun Reading Activities:** Children will take part in quizzes, storytelling sessions, creative tasks and plenty of book-themed fun throughout the week.
- **Reading Buddies:** Our Year 6 children will be visiting Reception to enjoy stories together.
- **Bedside Stories:** On **Friday 6th March**, children are welcome to come into school in their pyjamas for bedside stories!
- **Extreme Reading competition:** Children can take part in an extreme reading competition – Can your child read in an unusual place? Please send a photograph in to school if your child would like to enter the competition.

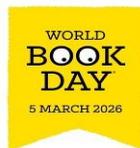
- **Illustrator visit:** Samantha Green will be visiting school to work with children in Early Years and Key Stage One.

Parents and Carers – You're Invited!

We warmly invite **Nursery** and **Reception** parent and carers to an Early Years Reading campfire trail on **Wednesday 4th March**. Nursery parents and carers are invited to attend at 1pm and Reception parents at 1:30pm. *Please note: part of this session will take place outside.*

KS1 and KS2 parents and carers (Years 1,2,3,4,5 and 6) to join us in school on **Thursday 5th March** at 1:30pm for our 'Book Craft' afternoon.

You'll have the chance to take part in reading activities alongside your child and see some of the lovely work they have been doing.



WORLD BOOK DAY is on THURSDAY 5th MARCH. This will be a non-uniform day where children can come to school dressed as book characters.



To celebrate **World Book Week**, we invite families to donate gently used or new children's books to help grow our school library.

If you have books at home you no longer need, we'd love to give them a new home.

Please send donations to school with your child during World Book Week.

Thank you for supporting our readers

Newsletter Survey

Are you reading our newsletter?



If you read this newsletter, tell your child that this week's lucky words to go into a draw to win a surprise are **MENTAL HEALTH**. If they come to school on Monday 16th February with their name and the words **MENTAL HEALTH** on a piece of paper and hand it to **Mrs Legge at the gate** as soon as they arrive at school, they will go into the lucky draw.

To enter the draw, it must be passed to Mrs Legge at the gate!

To be in with a chance of winning a prize the words must be posted in the box on the Monday morning!

We wonder who our lucky winner will be?

This week's winner was Lottie in Class 5. We hope you enjoy reading your book Lottie.



This Term's Rota Kids Community Project



This term, our **Rota Kid Ambassadors**, who work with **Mrs Legge**, are launching a special appeal to support **St Clare's Care Home**.

We are kindly asking for donations of **new toiletries**—including any *unwanted gift sets* you may have at home. If you are able to help, please pass your donations to **Mrs Legge on a morning**.

We have already received some lovely donations. The appeal will close on Thursday 19th February. Please donate if you can.

Our **Rota Kid Ambassadors** will visit the Care Home with Mrs Legge to present the donations. Watch out for the story in a newsletter coming soon.

Spectacles Collection for Rotary



We are also collecting **old prescription spectacles again** to donate to **Rotary Newton Aycliffe**, who will ensure they are passed on to people who need them. Thank you for the donations received so far.



Thank You for Your Support

Every donation, big or small, makes a real difference. Thank you in advance for supporting our Rota Kids as they continue to help our community.

The Importance of Good Mental Health



Good mental health is at the heart of everything we do in school.

When children feel safe, supported, and confident, they are able to learn more easily, form positive friendships, and truly enjoy their time in school. It's not just about managing challenges — it's about building resilience, self-esteem, and a sense of belonging that helps every child thrive.

That's why events like our school discos are far more than just fun events. They provide children with a chance to relax, laugh, connect with their friends, and express themselves freely — all of which play a huge role in nurturing positive wellbeing. Shared experiences,

music, movement, and joy are powerful contributors to emotional health, and our discos were a wonderful reminder of how valuable these moments are.

Events like these remind us why promoting mental health matters — because when children feel good inside, they shine on the outside. And at the discos, our children shone brilliantly.

A huge thank you to all the staff who helped with the organisation of events across the week and to all our parents and carers for all your support.



active future
Mindful Movers

Active Future Darlington are excited to announce our parent and child yoga sessions!

WHEN 3rd February
10th February
17th February
24th February
5pm - 6pm

WHERE Newton Aycliffe Youth & Community Centre, DL5 4HT

WHAT Join us for a fun and relaxing parent and child yoga session, designed to help families move, breathe and connect together

Scan Me!
For more information.

Book now: <https://pbbl.uk/4k1zm7x>



clubbercise[®]

BRINGING A NIGHT OUT TO YOUR WORKOUT

FAMILY CLUBBERCISE sessions

**Wednesdays 6.30pm at the big club
£8 for adult and 1 child (£2 per additional child)
Suitable from age 7+**

**A fun and social way to get fitter together!
(Dark room, glow sticks and party anthems!)**

**Contact Jules on 07966 968388 for more info
Facebook: clubbercise in Aycliffe with Jules**

AYCLIFFE DANCE ACADEMY
PROUDLY PRESENTS

ROALD DAHL'S
Matilda
THE MUSICAL JR.

Book By
DENNIS KELLY

Music & Lyrics By
TIM MINCHIN

AT THE STOCKTON ARC THEATRE, TS18 1LL
SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2026
12PM, 3PM & 6PM

£15.00 ADULT / £10.00 CHILD

PURCHASE TICKETS DIRECTLY FROM AYCLIFFE DANCE ACADEMY

This Amateur Production Is Presented By Arrangement With Music Theatre International
All Authorised Performance Materials Are Also Supplied By MTI
www.mtishows.co.uk

Aycliffe & District
Bus Preservation
 SOCIETY



EVENTS 2026

FEB 21	AYCLIFFE BUS MUSEUM OPEN DAY The Story of the Newtonian • 10:00 - 14:00 Exhibits • Home Fleet • Free Bus Rides
APR 18	DARLINGTON & DURHAM RUNNING DAY 10:00 - 16:00 Guest Vehicles • Stalls & Refreshments • Free Bus Rides
MAY 30	AYCLIFFE BUS MUSEUM OPEN DAY The Story of LHN 860 • 10:00 - 14:00 Exhibits • Home Fleet • Free Bus Rides
JUL 25	AYCLIFFE BUS MUSEUM OPEN DAY The Story of United • 10:00 - 14:00 Exhibits • Classic Vehicles • Free Bus Rides
AUG 08	AYCLIFFE & DISTRICT RUNNING DAY The Story of ADBPS • 10:00 - 16:00 Guest Vehicles • Stalls & Refreshments • Free Bus Rides
AUG 22	AYCLIFFE BUS MUSEUM OPEN DAY The Story of the Newtonian • 10:00 - 14:00 Exhibits • Home Fleet • Free Bus Rides
DEC 12	CHRISTMAS AT AYCLIFFE BUS MUSEUM 10:00 - 16:00 Visit Santa • Exhibition • Free Bus Rides

BURTREE ROAD
NEWTON AYCLIFFE
DL5 6BL

 aycliffe-bus.com

 [aycliffebus](https://www.facebook.com/aycliffebus)

What Three Words: [works.ample.toned](https://www.what3words.com/worksampletoned)

Charity Number: 1158142 • Accredited Museum No - 320



A message from Alex Willis

'I am the Chairman of the Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society, based in Newton Aycliffe. We are a local registered charity dedicated to preserving and sharing the area's rich transport heritage through our vehicles, museum open days and community events.

We are very keen to encourage local students and their families to visit the museum, learn about local history, and enjoy a family-friendly day out right on their doorstep.

Our events for 2026 are as follows:

- Saturday, 21 February 2026 – Aycliffe Bus Museum Open Day: The Story of the Newtonian
- Saturday, 18 April 2026 – Durham & Darlington Running Day (Rally Day)
- Saturday, 30 May 2026 – Aycliffe Bus Museum Open Day: The Story of the Heartbeat Bus
- Saturday, 25 July 2026 – Aycliffe Bus Museum Open Day: The Story of United (Classic Cars and Home Fleet)
- Saturday, 08 August 2026 – Aycliffe & District Running Day: Aycliffe on Wheels (Rally Day)
- Saturday, 22 August 2026 – Aycliffe Bus Museum Open Day: The Story of Darlington Corporation (Classic Vehicles and Home Fleet)
- Saturday, 12 December 2026 – Aycliffe Bus Museum Christmas Open Day: The Story of Our Vehicles

All of our events are designed to be welcoming, educational and enjoyable for families of all ages, and they provide a great opportunity for children to engage with local history in a hands-on and memorable way".

DIARY DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR- Spring Term 2026

PLEASE CHECK CAREFULLY EACH WEEK *Thank you*

WEEK 7	
Monday 16 th February	
Tuesday 17 th February	Author Adam Bushnell in school leading assembly and working with Year 4 classes
Wednesday 18 th February	Author Adam Bushnell in school leading assembly and working with Year 4 classes
Thursday 19 th February	
Friday 20 th February	Non-Uniform- Dress Down for Benny Day- please make any donations directly to Benny's fund if you would like to support Benny and his family- details in this newsletter Last day of Spring Term (1)

Spring Term (2)

WEEK 8	
Monday 2 nd March	SCHOOL CLOSED TO CHILDREN- STAFF PD DAY
Tuesday 3 rd March	School re-opens
Wednesday 4 th March	We warmly invite Nursery and Reception parent and carers to an Early Years Reading campfire trail Nursery parents and carers are invited to attend at 1pm and Reception parents at 1:30pm. <i>Please note: part of this session will take place outside.</i>
Thursday 5 th March	WORLD BOOK DAY is on THURSDAY 5th MARCH. This will be a non-uniform day where children can come to school dressed as book characters. KS1 and KS2 parents and carers (Years 1,2,3,4,5 and 6) are invited to come into school at 1:30pm for our 'Book Craft' afternoon. You'll have the chance to take part in reading activities alongside your child and see some of the lovely work they

	have been doing.
Friday 6 th March	Class 4 and Class 6 Library Visit All children are welcome to come into school in their pyjamas for bedside stories!
WEEK 9	
Monday 9 th March	Class 5 Library Visit
Tuesday 10 th March	Class 9 Library Visit
Wednesday 11 th March	
Thursday 12 th March	Class 7 and Class 10 Library Visits
Friday 13 th March	
WEEK 10	
Monday 16 th March	
Tuesday 17 th March	Class 11 and Class 12 Library Visits
Wednesday 18 th March	
Thursday 19 th March	Class 8 and Class 13 Library Visits
Friday 20 th March	Class 14 Library Visit Red Nose Day- non uniform day
WEEK 11	
Monday 23 rd March	Class 1 Library Visit
Tuesday 24 th March	
Wednesday 25 th March	
Thursday 26 th March	Class 2 Library Visit
Friday 27 th March	
WEEK 12	
Monday 30 th March	
Tuesday 31 st March	

Wednesday 1 st April	
Thursday 2 nd April	Nursery Library Visits with parents and carers- more information to follow via Tapestry Last day of Spring Term

Thank you for all your support this week.

We hope you have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Mrs O'Rourke and Mrs Legge