



Dear Parent/Carer,

What a gorgeous sunny end to a half term. I hope the sunshine continues for everyone and you all have an enjoyable break, possibly with some BBQs and outdoor leisure. We return to school **Monday 1st June**.

Check the dates below for the countdown to the Summer Holidays as it will be busy.

A huge thank you for all of your support during our Sports Days this week. Despite it being somewhat cool, the children had a great time. I hope you've seen the videos on Facebook.

Thank you to FOFS for their tuck shop.

The children who have attended the Fun Run at Saltwell Park today have been blessed with the weather and have had a great day. The rest of school participated in Sign 2 Sing this morning. Look out for the video on our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/frontstreetcommunityprimaryschool/>

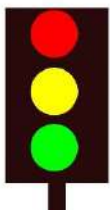
AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

There will be no after school clubs the last week of the summer term. Clubs will finish week commencing 6th July.

ONLINE SAFETY

Please see attached online Safety Newsletter.

ATTENDANCE



Red - Danger Zone - Below 90%
Amber - At Risk Zone - 91% - 94%
Green - Safety Zone - 95% - 100%

Rec 1	91.2 %	Rec 2	92.3 %
Year 1D	98.5 %	Year 1KB	96.1 %
Year 2ON	91.4 %	Year 2S	86.7 %
Year 3E	91.9 %	Year 3S	97 %
Year 4H	91.9 %	Year 4R	92.2 %
Year 5H	90.2 %	Year 5W	94 %
Year 6K	96.6 %	Year 6LA	96.7 %

Well done to this week's attendance winners Class 1D!

I have a duty of care to safeguard all children.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs H Gladstone, Deputy - Mr Lakey, Miss Houlton, Mrs O'Neill, Mrs Wilkinson, and Mrs Bolton. We have a duty of care to pass on any concerns to Children's Services.

If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

H J Gladstone Head Teacher

WHATS ON NEXT TERM

HALF TERM - MONDAY 25TH MAY - FRIDAY 29TH MAY

03.06.26	Year 1 - Hatten Art Gallery Visit	9:00-14:00
03.06.26	Year 3 & 4 Quad Kids (Selected Children)	TBC
05.06.26	School Council Planting Up Whickham	AM
08.06.26	Year 1 Phonics Screening and Year 4 MTC All Week	
08.06.26	Class Photos - Reception & Year 6	9:00
08.06.26	Year 5 & 6 Girls Cricket (Selected Children)	TBC
10.06.26	Year 5 & 6 Angels of the North Concert	All Day
10.06.26	Year 2 - Centre for Life	10.00-14.00
11.06.26	M&M Productions - Pinocchio	AM
11.06.26	Year 6 Tennis (Selected Children)	TBC
12.06.26	Year 5 Parent Sharing Assembly	09:00
12.06.26	Year 6 Netball County Finals (Selected Children)	TBC
12.06.26	Gymnastics County Final (Selected Children)	TBC
18.06.26-19.06.26	Science Boffins Workshops (Funded by FOFS)	All Day
19.06.26	Year 4 Parent Sharing Assembly	09:00
19.06.26	FOFS Summer Fair	All Day
22.06.26	SCHOOL CLOSED - INSET DAY	
23.06.26	Nursery Induction	9.00
23.06.26	Reception Induction	17.00
24.06.26	Reception Summer Fun Games	13:15-14:45
25.06.26	Year 6 Beamish	9.15-16.00
26.06.26	Year 2 Parent Sharing Assembly	09:00
26.06.26	Athletics Festival (Selected Children)	TBC
29.06.26	Year 6 Beach	9.15-14.30
30.06.26	Whole School Transition	
01.07.26	Year 6 Visit Their Secondary School.	
03.07.26	SCHOOL CLOSED - OCCASIONAL DAY	
08.07.26	Reception Parent Sharing Assembly	09:00
08.07.26	Year 6 Weardale 8 th -10 th July	
08.07.26	Reception Summer Fun Games	13:15-14:45
10.07.26	Year 1 Parent Sharing Assembly	09:00
13.07.26	Year 6 Leavers Party (Swalwell)	17.00-19.00
15.07.26	Music Workshop	AM
15.07.26	Nursery Celebration of Achievement	14:30
17.07.26	Year 6 Leavers Assembly	9:00

BREAK UP FOR SUMMER HOLIDAYS

SCHOOL REOPENS ON **WEDNESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2026**

You can also stay up to date with dates/times of events on your Arbor Calendar

Viral Trend Risks Causing Severe Burns to Children



Microwaving NEEDOH Toys and Squishies

Parents and Carers Guide

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

A viral trend is encouraging children to microwave squishy silicone toys, known as NEEDOH toys or squishies, among other names (Jelly Cubes, Nice Cubes) in order to make them softer and more pliable. Often, the packaging warns against this, but children are ignoring it because online videos and trends on TikTok, Instagram and YouTube encourage them to do the opposite. The toy feels cool to the touch after microwaving, but bursts when squeezed, spraying boiling material on hands, neck and face. A child in Bristol was seriously hurt on 4th May 2026 and children in America have experienced significant burns and injuries. This has happened to children as young as seven.

Please note - Your child does not need to have searched for this. The algorithm shows it to children based on other content they have watched.



IF YOUR CHILD HAS ONE OF THESE TOYS

It is natural to feel concerned, but the most important thing is to remain calm. Children are far more likely to talk to you, now and in the future, if they know they will be met with a steady response rather than alarm.

This is also a valuable opportunity. What your child sees online, from friends or from trends, does not always show the full picture or the consequences. Safety conversations are not about restricting their fun, they are about making sure they understand how to protect themselves and others.



STARTING THE CONVERSATION

You do not need to be an expert. A relaxed, open and honest conversation is enough. A few things that can help:

- Use the toy as a natural conversation point rather than sitting them down for a formal talk.
- Tell them simply that children their age have been seriously hurt following this trend. Reality carries more weight than a rule.
- Avoid taking the toy away without explaining why as providing a reason builds trust. Removing it without understanding may lead a child to hide things from you.
- If the toy feels too firm, the manufacturer's recommendation to soften it is to knead it with your hands for a few minutes. Encourage them, or help them, to do this instead.
- If they have already seen the videos, remain calm. The algorithm does its job quietly. What matters is the conversation that follows.



KEY POINTS TO DISCUSS...

You do not need to be an expert. A relaxed, open and honest conversation is enough. A few things that can help:

- The toy looks and feels completely normal after microwaving, the outside stays cool to the touch. But inside, it has reached temperatures as hot as boiling water so when squeezed, it bursts and dangerous hot liquid can explode.
- The injuries include severe burns, potential scarring and in some cases, a risk to eyesight. Some children have been hospitalised because of the trend.
- Remind them it could hurt anyone nearby - a friend, a sibling, whoever is in the room when it bursts.
- Online videos are designed to look like helpful tips, sometimes to get more followers. They do not always show what happens afterwards.
- If a friend suggests trying it, knowing and explaining the real danger makes it much easier for them to say no.
- If they have already tried it, or something has worried them, they are not in trouble. What matters is that they are safe.



If your child is worried or needs help, make sure they know they can always come to you first or an adult they trust. They can also:

- Talk to a trusted adult at school – their teacher, a youth worker or the school Safeguarding Lead or Child Protection Co-ordinator.
- Contact Childline, free, confidential and available any time
- If they have been hurt, seek medical attention straight away - call 999 immediately. Burns from this can continue to cause damage after the initial contact.

Please do not search for this on TikTok or Instagram yourself. Every search feeds the algorithm and makes this content more visible to others. For news coverage, use the links below and share this and our alert with friends and family to raise awareness.

For verified news coverage: [BBC News](#) | [The Independent](#)

If your child has seen these videos or even tried this trend, do not react with panic or anger. That is the response most likely to close the conversation down. Staying calm keeps the door open, and an open door to conversations with adults they can trust is what makes children safer.

SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE

Childline – free, confidential support for children and young people: 0800 1111 | www.childline.org.uk

NSPCC Helpline – support and advice for adults with concerns about a child: 0808 800 5000 | www.nspcc.org.uk



THIS SATURDAY MORNING!

1st Wickham Scouts

Alternative Flower Show Morning

Saturday 23rd May 2026

Raising money to attend the World Scout Jamboree in Poland

Categories

1. Tallest Garden Weed (Dig it up, put it in a pot or bag-for-life and bring it along)
2. Worst House Plant (The more neglected / uglier, the better!)
3. The Unfinished Tabletop Craft Item You Wish You'd Never Started
(Small enough to display on a table in the Hut)
4. Best Photograph of a Pet Dog in Wickham
(Make sure we can tell it was taken in Wickham)
5. Most Original Use of an Edible Packet Mix
(e.g. cake mix, stuffing mix, instant mash – must be displayed with original packet. NO NUTS)
6. Longest Daisy Chain
7. Cutest Cactus (Paper cartoon eyes provided on arrival!)

**Wickham Scout Hut,
Park Drive, NE16 4SP.**

Children's Categories

8. Best Looking Living Daisy (Decorated pot counts too – dig one up and present it!)
9. Best Miniature Garden
(e.g. use a Mr Kipling apple pie case as a pond, decorate with stones, soil, flowers, twigs, etc.)
10. Animal Made from Fruit & Veg

Entry Details

- Entries: £2 each
- Staging time: 9:00am – 10:00am
- Open to the public: 10:00am – 12 midday
- Entry to Scout Hut: £2
(includes a drink & biscuit – gluten free available)

All welcome – come along and join the fun!