

WNA NEWSLETTER

Friday 16th October 2026

Contact: wna-admin@westnewcastleacademy.org
Website: www.westnewcastleacademy.org
Facebook: <https://share.google/CQnNePeWvHfLbsCl2>

Telephone: 0191 2739477



Ben's Blog

Dear Families,

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us at the Harvest assembly this afternoon. Moreover, thank you for the donations which we will share with the Newcastle West Foodbank. One of the questions we have been discussing is why more people are increasingly having to use foodbanks? Whilst we haven't discussed welfare system failures or in-work poverty, we have discussed the escalated cost of living, housing and energy demands as well as unexpected financial shocks or existing family structures. Whilst these subjects are sensitive, it is important we create safe spaces to discuss these.

Next week is the last one before the half term holiday. Some of the classes in school have finished their class novels for the term whilst some are at the very end. We will ensure that all of the children have an appropriate book with them for the holiday so please encourage your child to read daily; this may well be part of their routine already. We are all grateful for the continued whole school effort with regard to attendance and trust this will continue week by week.

Happy Weekend- Ben.

**Please note our upcoming Staff Team Training day on the 2nd November.
School will be closed for all children on this day.**



Year 5's catapult inventions and **The Explorers** on their first visit together to Gibside.



Diary Dates

21.10.26- Ways to Wellbeing parent meeting (Anxiety) 9am

26.10.26- October Half term

02.11.26- Staff Training Day

03.11.26- Children return to school

03.11.26- Open Day 9.45- 10.45am

04.11.26- Open Day 4.30-5.30pm

09.11.26- 11.11.26- Parental Consultations.

Unauthorised Leave of Absence

Last year, Newcastle Local Authority changed their guidance around holidays in term time. Taking your child out of school during the school term is now known as an **Unauthorised Leave of Absence**. Any instances of absence during term time for holidays are unauthorised absences and will impact negatively on your child's attendance. As well as this, the information we have received from our attendance partner means that **you will receive a fine** for choosing to take a holiday during term time.

School term dates are published on our website:

<https://westnewcastleacademy.org/Families/Term-Dates/>



Y5 LotC

Year 5 have been learning about forces during their Learning Outside the Classroom sessions over the last few weeks. They have investigated

how the shape of a leaf can impact the length of time it takes to reach the ground. They used scientific methods and equipment to measure and record. This week, they have made and tested their own catapults. The children began using the photos for support and then got creative themselves which was great to see!



LotC

This week, **Year 2** have visited the Great North Museum, to look at their animal exhibits.

Year 1 had planned on visiting Thornley Woods, but the high winds that day meant that they could not do this safely. Instead, they went to the shops and bought some ingredients to make autumn themed treats.

Laura, Alison, Adriana and our newly formed '**Explorers**' group, which is made up of children from across the school, spent a lovely morning at Gibside. They had a great time looking at the fallen leaves and the apple harvest.

Nature Park News

We have had another lovely week in school. The children in EYFS have enjoyed continuing their exploration of autumn. This week, they looked at the many different colours we see at this time of year and collected lots of natural treasures. Year 1 also had an exciting week, taking a trip to Lidl to buy the ingredients needed to make delicious apple and cinnamon muffins. The children enjoyed learning about where ingredients come from and developing their independence while shopping.



Harvest Assembly



Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Harvest collection, your generosity and thoughtfulness will be greatly appreciated by the recipients. Your donations will be collected by the foodbank and distributed to families within the local area.

Thank you for your outstanding attendance at our Harvest Assembly this afternoon, we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.



Year 7 Applications

All parents of children in Year 6 are required to complete an application for the school of their choice for a place in Year 7. The application information and forms to complete are available at:

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/apply-school-place/applying-transfer-places>

Alternatively, pop in and see Jeanette or Renas who can give you a form to complete.

The Application deadline is 31st October 2026.





West Newcastle Academy
Primary School and Nature Park
Open Day

Tuesday 3rd November 9:45–10:45am or
Wednesday 4th November 4:30–5:30pm

We warmly welcome all parents and carers looking for Nursery, Reception or Primary School places.

Call us on 01912739477 or Email
wna-admin@westnewcastleacademy.org
to book your space.

West Newcastle Academy, Armstrong Road, Benwell, NE4 8QP