



Newsletter

October 2026

NSPCC Virtual Assemblies and Workshops

Over the next week, children from Year 1 to Year 6 will take part in a virtual assembly from the NSPCC. Following this, on 14th October, the NSPCC will deliver workshops to Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6.

NSPCC virtual assemblies for primary schools are part of the [Speak Out Stay Safe](#) programme and cover essential safeguarding topics in a child-friendly, age-appropriate way. It includes Children's rights, speaking out and different types of hurt. Please use the link above to find out further detail about what is covered.

If you have any questions or queries, please do get in touch.

Year 5 and 6 Residential Visits

We are very proud of all children who took part in the Year 6 residential visit to Paris and the Year 5 outdoor/adventurous residential visit to Weardale this half term. Staff who accompanied both visits praised the children for their determination, resilience, behaviour and teamwork. Staff at both centres were also highly complimentary about our children's attitudes and behaviour. We're certain children will have many great memories!

Thank you also to staff who give up their time to ensure children have these fabulous experiences.

Clothes Swap – Friday 16th October

Our annual Clothes Swap takes place on Friday 16th October. Please send in your pre loved and pre used clothing. This event is always well attended and we very much appreciate your support!

Parent Governors

Following our request for parent governors, we can confirm that there were 2 nominations for 2 parent governor positions. Therefore, we did not need to hold a ballot. We are delighted to welcome Alana Lowrie and Victoria Nicholson to our Governing Board.

Digital Safety – Filter Bubbles

Information for Parents

The following information is taken from Digital Safety <https://ds-cic.com/> monthly newsletter (October)

Filter Bubbles

The internet is an amazing tool that connects us to endless information, cultures, and perspectives. But over the past decade, how that information flows to us has fundamentally changed. Behind the scenes, invisible algorithms shape the content we see every time we scroll, click, or search. While they make our online experience feel personal, they also trap us in what's known as a filter bubble. As parents and carers, understanding this phenomenon is vital; not only for our own awareness but for guiding young people navigating the digital world. Here's what you need to know and what you can do about it.

What Is a Filter Bubble? The term “filter bubble”, coined by activist Eli Pariser, refers to the personalised online universe created by algorithms that decide what you see, and what you don't.

How it works:

- Algorithms analyse your behaviour: Platforms like Google, Facebook, and YouTube monitor what you click, watch, or like.
- They prioritise content you'll engage with: The goal is to keep you scrolling longer so they can serve more ads and maximise profits.
- They filter out opposing views: By showing you what you already agree with or enjoy, algorithms avoid exposing you to challenging or conflicting information.

Why Filter Bubbles Are Harmful to Children (and How Parents Can Help)

For children and teens, filter bubbles can significantly shape their understanding of the world. Here are some potential pitfalls:

1. Warped Reality: Being exposed only to like-minded ideas can make it harder for young people to empathise with others or consider opposing viewpoints.
2. Echo Chambers: Constant reinforcement of beliefs creates a skewed reality where differing perspectives are dismissed or vilified.
3. Manipulation Risks: Platforms use these algorithms to sell products, ideologies, or even misinformation, making children particularly vulnerable to exploitation.

How to Break Free from the Filter Bubble

1. **Teach Critical Thinking:** Help your child question the source of their information. Who created it? Why? Encourage them to research multiple perspectives on any topic.
2. **Diversify Information Sources:** Show your children how to explore content from various platforms, not just their favourite apps or websites. Subscribing to reputable news outlets or reading physical books are great starts.
3. **Turn Off Personalisation:** Many platforms allow you to adjust settings to limit algorithmic filtering. For example:
 - Use “incognito mode” for Google searches.
 - Turn off autoplay features on YouTube and other platforms.
 - Avoid relying exclusively on curated news feeds from social media.
4. **Have open discussions:** Talk openly about the idea of filter bubbles. Sharing how algorithms work can demystify the process and empower children to make smarter online choices.

YouTube ‘Giveaway’ Scams Targeting Children

A growing trend on platforms such as YouTube and TikTok is seeing children targeted through fake livestream giveaways, particularly those linked to in-game currencies such as Robux from Roblox. These streams are often designed to appear in short-form video feeds and use looping pre-recorded clips to hold attention. Common examples include fake countdowns, impossible ‘spot the difference’ games, or staged moments designed to keep viewers watching.

Once enough viewers join, the livestream typically changes into a ‘giveaway’. Children are encouraged to send paid stickers, gifts or donations in exchange for promises of free Robux or other rewards. In many cases, the same usernames repeatedly ‘win’ the giveaway, revealing that the stream is simply replaying the same video on a loop. Because payment methods are often already linked to devices, younger children may not fully understand that real money is being spent.

There are also wider safeguarding concerns. Some children may post their usernames publicly in livestream chats, creating opportunities for unwanted contact or further scams through gaming platforms.

Key messages: If a creator is demanding money or promising rewards in exchange for donations, treat with caution. Encourage children to check with a trusted adult before spending money online. Content can be reported using YouTube’s ‘Spam or misleading’ reporting option.

Late Arrivals/Appointments

If children arrive late for school on a morning, could parents/carers please come into school when dropping off and sign them in.

Children leaving for and returning from appointments will also need to be signed in and out by parents or carers. Many thanks.

Key Dates 2026-2027

We aim to give advance notice of key events in our school calendar. Whilst we do our best not to change dates, this can sometimes be unavoidable. Where changes are made, we will give as much notice as possible.

Tuesday 13 th October	School Photograph Day - Individuals
Wednesday 14 th October	NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe workshops for Years 2, 5 and 6
Thursday 15 th October	Flu Vaccinations
Friday 16 th October	Clothes Swap
Monday 19 th October	Year 5 & 6 visit to the Life Science Centre
Monday 19 th October	Reception class Halloween family event
Wednesday 21 st October 9.30am	Year 3 Performance Assembly for parents and carers
Thursday 22 nd October	Halloween Discos Reception, Y1, Y2 3.30pm-4.30pm Y3,Y4,Y5,Y6 4.45pm-6.00pm
HALF TERM 26 th October – 1 st November Return to school – Monday 2 nd November	
Monday 9 th and Tuesday 10 th November	Parents' Evenings
Friday 13 th November	Children in Need Non-uniform – wear something spotty
Friday 20 th November 3.00pm – 4.15pm	Toy Swap
Tuesday 24 th November 9.30am	Y6 Performance Assembly for parents and carers
Thursday 26 th & Friday 27 th November	Christmas Markets
Monday 30th November	PD Day – School closed to pupils
Tuesday 8 th December (AM)	Reception Christmas Performance
Tuesday 8 th December (PM)	Nursery Christmas Performance
Wednesday 9 th December	Christmas lunch and Christmas jumpers
Thursday 10 th December – 2.15pm	Y1/2 Nativity Performance
Friday 11 th December – 9.30am	Y1/2 Nativity Performance
Monday 14 th December (PM)	Year 5 & 6 Christmas Party (Bring clothes to change into at lunchtime)
Tuesday 15 th December - morning	Whole School Pantomime – 'Beauty and the Beast' at Consett Theatre
Wednesday 16 th December (PM)	Year 3 & 4 Christmas Party (Bring clothes to change into at lunchtime)
Thursday 17 th December (AM)	Year 1 & 2 Christmas Party (Come to school in party clothes)
Friday 18 th December (AM)	Reception and Nursery Christmas Party (Come to school in party clothes)
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS 21 st December – 3 rd January Return to school – Monday 4 th January	
Thursday 11 th February	School Discos Reception, Y1, Y2 3.30pm-4.30pm Y3,Y4,Y5,Y6 4.45pm-6.00pm

HALF TERM 15th February – 21 st February Return to school – Monday 22 nd February	
Friday 5 th March	Witton World Book Day
Monday 8 th March & Tuesday 9 th March	Parents' Evenings
Friday 19 th March	Red Nose Day
Friday 19 th March	Spring Fair and Raffle – from 2pm
Wednesday 24 th March 9.30am	Year 4 Performance Assembly for parents and carers
Wednesday 24 th March	Easter Egg decorating with families (Rec/KS1 only) KS2 decorate eggs in classrooms
Easter Holidays 26 th March – 11 th April Return to school – Monday 12 th April	
Monday 3rd May	BANK HOLIDAY
Week beginning 10 th May	Year 6 SATs week
Monday 17 th May	Sports Day Option 1 (weather dependent)
Tuesday 18 th May	Sports Day Option 2
HALF TERM 31 ST May – 6 th June PD Days: 7 th , 8 th , 9 th June (school closed to pupils) Return to school – Thursday 10 th June	
2 week window beginning 7 th June	Y4 Multiplication check
Week beginning 14 th June	Y1 Phonics screening check
Monday 14 th June	Reception Family Event
Tuesday 29 th June 9.30am	Year 5 Performance Assembly for parents and carers
Thursday 15 th July	Y6 Leavers' Performance for Parents followed by camping overnight

School holidays 2026-2027

There are 5 days each year allocated for teacher training (PD days). In 2025-2026, schools will close for 5 of these days in term time. In 2026-2027, the term time PD/INSET days are:

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Monday 30th November 2026

Monday 7th June 2027

Tuesday 8th June 2027

Wednesday 9th June 2027

The 3 INSET days in June follow the summer half term – we hope this helps families with holiday planning!

Holiday	Closing date	Date re-open for teaching purposes
Autumn Half Term 2026	Friday 23 rd October 2026	Monday 2 nd November 2026
PD Day Monday 30 th November	Friday 27 th November 2026	Tuesday 1 st December 2026
Christmas 2026	Friday 18 th December 2026	Monday 4 th January 2027
Spring Half Term 2027	Friday 12 th February 2027	Monday 22 nd February 2027
Easter 2027	Thursday 25 th March 2027	Monday 12 th April 2027
May Day 2027	Friday 30 th April 2027	Tuesday 4 th May 2027
Summer Half Term 2027 (includes 3 PD days)	Friday 28 th May 2027	Thursday 10 th June
Summer 2027	Wednesday 21 st July 2027	TBC