



(Article 4)



The government has a responsibility to make sure your rights are protected. They must help your family to protect your rights and create an environment where you can grow and reach your potential.

Friday Letter



29th November 2024

www.billquayprimary.org



Dates for the diary:

Break up for Christmas - Friday 20th December

Inset Day (School Closed) - Monday 6th January

Return to school - Tuesday 7th January

School Lottery

To purchase tickets please follow the link below;

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/>

All money raised from tickets purchased will help to fundraise for our school. Tickets are £1 per ticket, per week and the more tickets purchased the higher the weekly prize is. There is a winner from our school every week!

Year 5 - Swimming

Children will not be swimming on Tuesday 10th December due to our annual Christmas fayre taking place in school.

Elf Day - KS1

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are invited to come to school dressed as an Elf on Monday 2nd December.

Year 6 - Discovery Museum

Year 6 will be visiting the Discovery Museum in Newcastle on Tuesday 3rd December to take part in a WW2 workshop. Children will require a packed lunch. School uniform to be worn with a warm coat. The cost of this trip is £6.00 and can be paid using the SchoolGateway app. A link to the consent form has been sent to you via email.

Year 5 - Pelaw Bowling Green Project

Year 5 children will be working with Pride Radio, learning how to make a TikTok video for a project with Pelaw Bowling Green. They will commence this project on Wednesday 4th December at Stonehills Industrial Estate between 10.00am and 11.30am and then again in January when we return to school following the Christmas break. No consent form is required for this trip due to it being in our local area.

Year 1 - Northern Stage

Children in year 1 will be visiting Northern Stage in Newcastle on the morning of Friday 13th December to watch 'Wolf!'. The cost of this trip is £16.00 per child which can be paid using the SchoolGateway app. School uniform to be worn. Children can bring a drink and a small packet of sweets to eat during the performance. A link to the consent form has been sent to you via email.

Dance Festival Auditions

Children in KS2 are invited to audition for the Gateshead Schools Dance Festival with Mrs Lennon after school on Tuesday 3rd December 3.30pm until 4.30pm. The Dance Festival will be held in March 2024 at The Glasshouse. For the audition, children need to perform a short routine either on their own or with a partner.

Reception - Hall Hill Farm

Children in reception class will be visiting Hall Hill Farm in Durham to visit Santa and the animals on Wednesday 4th December. They will also be taking part in an elves' workshop. Children should come to school wearing their school polo shirt and jumper along with tracksuit bottoms or leggings and suitable footwear for the farm. They will also require a warm waterproof coat, hats, gloves and scarf, packed lunch and a bottle of water. The cost of this trip is £28; however, school has subsidised the cost of this by £12.00 per child, leaving £16.00 to be paid by parents and carers. Payment can be made online using the SchoolGateway App. A link to the consent form has been sent to you via email.

Reception Nativity

Children in reception class will be performing 'Whoops-a-daisy-angel' on Tuesday 17th December at 9.30am with refreshments being available from 9.00am. Tickets for this performance cost £2.50 and can be purchased using our SchoolGateway App. Each ticket purchase includes a tea or coffee and a sweet mince pie. For health and safety reasons, we unfortunately have to limit numbers in our school hall; therefore, parents can purchase up to three tickets each initially. Tickets should be purchased no later than Friday 13th December to allow us to offer any spare tickets to other families.

Christmas Cards

If children wish to send each other Christmas cards, they should post them in the Christmas post box located in the foyer by the school office. The cards will be sorted and delivered weekly by the School Council.

Christmas Fayre Help

In readiness for our Christmas fayre on the afternoon of Tuesday 10th December, we are wondering if any parents/carers would be willing to help out on a stall? If you are able to help, please contact the school office. This will allow us to plan accordingly.

Non-Uniform Day

Children are invited to come to school wearing non-uniform on Friday 6th December. Instead of the usual cash donation, we ask that pupils bring in a small unopened/unused prize which will go towards hampers for our Christmas raffle or the Tombola. These can be left in the foyer outside the office where they will be collected.

Reception/Year 1	Sweets, chocolates or biscuits
Year 2 and Year 3	Toiletries
Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6	Bottles

Christmas Parties

Children may go home for lunch on their party day to get changed if they wish. Please notify the class teacher by class dojo if they are being collected at 12.00pm so that we can ensure they are ready to collect from the school office. Children should return for 1.30pm. Children who are not going home for lunch, may come to school in their party outfit. All parties will be finished by 3.30pm.

In order to cater for our children at the Christmas parties, we would be grateful if each child could bring in a small amount of the following on the morning of the party:

Reception	Notified by Mrs Bone
Year 1 (Monday 16 th December)	Savoury
Year 2 (Monday 16 th December)	Sweet
Year 3 (Tuesday 17 th December)	Savoury
Year 4 (Tuesday 17 th December)	Sweet
Year 5 (Wednesday 18 th December)	Savoury
Year 6 (Wednesday 18 th December)	Sweet

***Children who have dietary requirements should bring their own plate of food clearly labelled to prevent them having anything that may cause an allergic reaction.**

Raffle Tickets

Our Christmas raffle tickets are now on sale at £1.00 per strip and can be purchased using the SchoolGateway App. Tickets must be purchased by no later than Friday 6th December.

Year 6 - Kingswood Residential

A reminder, if you have opted to pay by instalments for your child's residential at Kingswood, the next payment of £40.00 is due today.

Money Tree

We are once again going to have a money tree at our Christmas fayre on Tuesday 10th December. Your child has been sent home with a small coloured envelope this week. Could we please request parents/carers donate anything from 20p-£1 and return the envelopes to the school office by Thursday 6th December. The envelopes will be hung on a tree and you will have the opportunity to choose an envelope and win up to £5.00.

Reindeer Dust

Our environmentally friendly reindeer dust is now available to be purchased from the school office for £1.00. This can also be purchased using the SchoolGateway app. If you choose to purchase online, this will be sent home with your child however, if you would prefer to collect, please let us know.

Trim Trail

Due to health and safety, could we please ask that children do not play on the trim trail and other outdoor play equipment before and after school hours. Should a child have an accident, there may not be a first aider on site during these hours.

Design a Sign

As you may be aware, as part of OPAL, we have spent a lot of time over the past few months redesigning our garden to make a space for our children to play. We would like children to create a sign that will be used to welcome us into the 'Secret Garden'. All entries must be handed into either Mrs Lennon or the school office by Friday 6th December. The winning design will be made by a specialist company and then displayed at the entrance to our garden.

OPAL

We would once again like to say a big thank you to the volunteers from Nissan who spent a day this week helping us to prepare the garden for the opening in the near future.





County Lines

Information for parents and carers of children aged 11+

What is County Lines?

County Lines is a form of criminal exploitation involving the transport and sale of drugs. It can involve moving drugs and money from one street to the next, or from one end of the country to the other, and the people who do the 'running' are often children who have been targeted and groomed into doing so by criminal gangs. Drugs are advertised by text message on dedicated 'deal lines' and on social media. Some of the platforms used are lesser known: Signal and Kick are two examples.

How do criminals exploit children?

TARGET

Criminals will watch an area - e.g. children coming and going from school or hanging around a park - to see if they can spot a particularly vulnerable child. They will then strike up a friendship and get to know them before moving to the 'test' stage.

TEST

The criminal will offer gifts such as money, expensive trainers, a phone, and will aim to make the child feel special and part of the gang. They will then test the child's loyalty by asking them to run small errands or hold onto items for them, whilst rewarding this loyalty with more gifts.

TRAP

The criminal will now control the child by isolating them from their friends and family, making threats against them if the child tells anyone about what the gang does. They will demand payback for all the gifts previously given, which could include moving and selling drugs, and sexual exploitation. The child will now feel indebted and trapped.

[This video illustrates the process.](#)

How do I protect my child, and what are the signs that a child could be being criminally exploited?

Be curious about their friendship groups and where they are when they're not at school or at home. Make sure they know they can come to you if they are approached by new 'friends' when they are out and about, especially older people. Remind them about [Childline](#) as a source of support, too. If you have concerns, share them with family members and the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at your child's school.

Signs could include changes in behaviour, being particularly active on and defensive about their phone, staying up late, and acquiring new clothes and jewellery: there are many more. Visit this [NSPCC weblink](#) for more information.

Report

You can report any information to the police: 999 in an emergency, or otherwise via 101 or [our website](#).

Visit [Crimestoppers](#) for advice on how to report County Lines-related information anonymously.

[Fearless](#) (part of Crimestoppers) is available for young people to make anonymous reports.

Crimestoppers.



Support

[Unseen's County Lines campaign](#) - Request an information guide to learn more about County Lines.

Unseen also runs a [free helpline](#) offering advice and support.

[SafeCall - Missing People](#)

- A free and confidential anonymous helpline for children and their families affected by County Lines.

[NSPCC Helpline](#)

- Help and advice if you have concerns about a child's welfare.

