

Active News



Hydrotherapy

Charlie and Richard have made some amazing progress in their swimming PLP. Charlie used to find the swimming pool difficult, but now is able to float in the deep end independently, using only buoyancy aids. He continues to walk around the shallow end of the pool independently. While Richard has progressed from being dependant on staff support in the water at all times to now swimming independently on his back to complete a whole length!



Charlie has developed his stamina and can now walk over 10 widths! This has allowed him to have the confidence to start using his walking frame in school. Something both Charlie and the staff are very proud of!

During Duke of Edinburgh sessions students in Year 10 have been focussing on the 'physical' aspect this term. This part of the award encourages young people to develop a better understanding of physical skills and fitness, and share these skills with others. Year 10 have been creating fitness circuits. Each week they have been leading their planned circuit, telling their classmates what to do and make sure they complete the activities safely. 'We have enjoyed Duke of Edinburgh because it's been fun doing lots of exercises. It was better doing it this way because we had to go switching stations. So at one station it was like jogging on the spot then the next station was shadow boxing, then star jumps. Each week we took turns of deciding what was going to happen at each station so we had to tell everyone the circuit we planned before they started.



Joe leading the fitness circuits for this week, everyone had to listen carefully



Breaktime Fun...

As the weather is looking up students have been using the outdoor play equipment more regularly. The accessible swing now has it's own dedicated 'club' because it was so popular! We recognise that some students like to stay indoors too. We recently received this



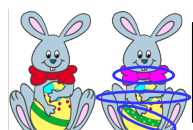
donation of a large draught board which students have been enjoying at breaktimes in the hall. If you have any outdoor activities or indoor games that you think students in school may enjoy they can be donated via the school office.

After School Clubs Reminder

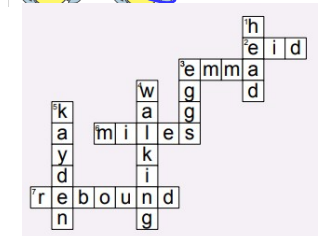
After school clubs run every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights. If you would like to find out more about your young person accessing clubs or extra clubs, please get in touch with Helen Clarkson via the school office.

Tuesday	Cooking, Hydro/Swimming, Rebound
Wednesday	Football and Sports, Rebound, Bollywood Dance/Zumba
Thursday	Hydro/Swimming, Team Games, Singing and Signing

Puzzle Answers



Sudoku answer from prev paper



Easter egg hunt - Eggs can be found on pages 1, 2, 3, 4, 7,



School News



Contact us on — Tel: 0191 2952280 email: admin@scp.newcastle.sch.uk



At the beginning of March we went to the Calvert Trust in Keswick. The Calvert Trust is an outdoor activity centre. We left school on the school bus and had a stop off at Talkin Tarn, which

is on the way, so that we could have our lunch. When we got there we found our rooms and unpacked our bags. We had a bit of time to chill then some of the group went swimming and some of the group went on a walk. We did the walk and got wrapped up nice and warm before we left. It was in a wood behind the accommodation and it was very dark. It was a little bit scary, especially when we had to turn the torches off to make it really dark so we could hear the owls. After we got back from the walk we went into the games room. There was a pool table, board games and a little tuck shop in there where you can buy snack stuff. The next day we woke up and had a shower and breakfast. The breakfast was really nice. There was cereal, croissants and a full English breakfast. My favourite bit of the breakfast was the sausage. After a big breakfast we went canoeing. It was a long skinny canoe that was tied to another one with rope so that we couldn't roll over. We paddled over to the other side. On the way we played some games like throwing the balls in the hoops that were in the water. We also had to try and paddle fast to chase the manager who was in his speedboat. Our arms were very tired when we got back. For lunch we went back to the centre for a packed lunch before our afternoon activity. In the afternoon we did bushcraft. We thought it was a bit

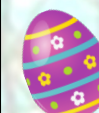
Although the ghyll scramble was a real challenge everyone had lots of fun working together



One of the things that we did was make a fire. We had to find the wood, we had to look for small bits and big bits. We used flint and rubbed it on metal to make a spark, then we used the spark to light cotton wool balls which went on the fire. When the fire was lit we put on a 'Kelly kettle' so that we could boil the water. When the water was hot we all enjoyed a hot chocolate. We even made popcorn on the fire to have with the hot chocolate. By Wednesday we were very tired but excited to do more activities because it was fun. After our breakfast we started the activities straight away. First we did 'rock & rope' where you get attached to a harness then you have to climb up the wall. The wall has different holds on, like lumps that you use, then when you get to the top you ring a bell then drop down. It's a little bit scary but it's ok because it's quite slow because of the rope that is attached to you. The ghyll scramble activity in the afternoon was even more scary but we loved it. We had to wear waterproofs that Calvert Trust let us borrow and then had to climb up the waterfall. The rocks were slippery but we just followed the water to get to the top. At the top you could either climb through a tunnel which had water through it or you could go over the top. We didn't have any activities planned for the Wednesday night, but that was good because we were just chilling because we were so tired. Thursday was our last full day. The activities weren't too tiring, we did a rope course in the morning with the zip line which was really long. In the afternoon we did a walk then we all made our way back so that we could get ready for the leavers disco on the last night. We had dinner then we got ready in our disco clothes and went to the games room. There was music on and disco lights. Everyone got up to dance, but Mrs Craig definitely enjoyed it most! On our final day, we just ate breakfast then got packed up. We left at 10am so that we could make sure we got back to school. Talia and Katie, 6G



Sadia enjoyed taking part in all of the activities but really liked the rock 'n' rope swing



Sir Charles Parsons School





Although this term has been relatively short, we have still found time to make strides forward with our charities work. At the beginning of this term, 'FOSCPS' had a staff committee meeting to plan how to identify our next large fundraising project. All school staff were given a voting slip and asked to choose one large project and one small project that 'Friends of...' could take forward.

The votes were counted, and from that, the top three possible large projects were identified as a dedicated sensory room, a soft play room, and a multi use games area.

These three suggestions have been shared with all school stakeholders on a voting slip. Everyone has been asked to choose what they think the charity should raise funding for. We'll be

counting the votes up straight after the holiday when our new project drive will be announced.

The suggestions from staff also highlighted a number of smaller projects that they felt the charity could support, such as the purchase of a new 'Star Lab' projector and sensory packs for each classroom.



Zach's grandparents supported our Easter fayre yet again with donations from their local community



Nyle & Callum on the Easter egg extravaganza

support from our families and friends. In addition to all those

that attended, or bought raffle tickets that were sent home, we also had two families who provided for and held their own stalls on the day, there were homemade donations from two other families which

our students created a stall for. Finally, the tombola could not have run quite so smoothly without input from another parent. All of this support allowed us to raise a fantastic £2,642.43!

'Play Your Cards Right' proved to be a very popular stall



In other news, we have loved hearing all of the updates from 'Baldy Holly' AKA Jamie. We wrote in the last newsletter how he would be taking on a huge challenge, riding his bike 100 miles a day for ten days. As the weather has been getting better Jamie has been out and about training, which is not only preparing him for his trip but also raising more awareness of our school and our amazing young people. Jamie even gave an interview to a local magazine ('Northern Insight') and talked about his fundraising efforts for our school. If you would like to follow Jamie's progress you can find out more on Facebook by searching for 'The Baldy Holly Band'. Currently Jamie's total is £21,830. If you would like to donate you can find his fundraising page on Just Giving.



All year round events such as 'Rag Bag' continuously bring funds in to support our charity. Our most recent collection awarded £51.20

Contact the office should you require donation bags.



Eid Mubarak



Jay and Liam explore the Koran

We have been learning about Islam in our RE lessons. The Five Pillars of Islam are - believing in Allah, praying, fasting, giving to charity, and performing Hajj.

The Koran is the holy book. It needs to be kept on a special stand and it isn't allowed to be put on the floor because that would be disrespectful.

Muslims pray on special pray mats. The mats must be facing East because that is the direction of Mecca. Mecca is where Islam all started.

Muslims go to the Mosque to pray. When you go to the mosque you have to leave your shoes outside.

At the minute Muslims are fasting for Ramadan. Fasting means you can't eat or drink. When Ramadan is on, you can't eat all day while the sun is in the sky. You can only eat during the night when it is dark. At the end of Ramadan there will be Eid, everyone has big parties and celebrations with lots of food. Some families go to the fayre to celebrate!

We have really enjoyed learning all about Islam this



Students in 7W explore prayer mats, making sure they facing East

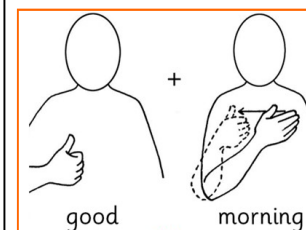


In music lessons we have been learning Makaton signing. Makaton is using signs with your hands to help people talk to each other if they can't

speak. You don't just do Makaton in music though, we do it all around school.

In music we have been learning Makaton signs to different songs. It's good because it's not just saying things over and over to practise and doing it with music helps us to learn and remember it a bit easier.

Before we came to this school our other schools didn't do any signing so we didn't know any when we came here. Now we know how to sign 'good morning' and 'happy' and 'sorry'. The video that we are doing is part of a project with something called the 'Music Hub'. When we have finished our part of the video it will get added to a big video with other schools in Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland and then it will go on YouTube. - Riley and Carly, 7W



Speech and Language Team (SaLT) News

This term the SALT team have run a workshop

'Supporting Autistic Communication' for the parents/carers from Sir Charles Parsons, Thomas Bewick and Hadrian schools. We spent time thinking about autistic communication, and what this may look like for each child.

It was a really supportive group of parents/carers who were able to share their experiences, knowledge and understanding as well as ask questions and think more about their children's communication and how they can best support this by providing reasonable adjustments throughout the day e.g. using visual supports, adapting their communication, giving time, decreasing a demand and use of a total communication approach etc.

We have also delivered 'Total Communication' training to all staff at school which was brilliantly received. We spent time thinking about **how** and **why** we communicate, and ways to support our children when communication breaks down. We played games that challenged our ability to be good listeners and communicators, as well as communicating without using spoken words. It was a fun and informative session that got everyone thinking about the importance of a Total Communication environment!

Dates for your diary next term:

Carry on Signing (Makaton sign support) - Wednesday 1st May, 10-11:30am at Hadrian School

Communication Partner Strategies - Wednesday 5th June, 10-11am at Sir Charles Parsons School

Get Signing - Summer Holidays, Wednesday 12th June, 10-10.45am at Thomas Bewick School



I'm Rachel and I am new to the team. I may see a child for communication or swallowing difficulties. I am enjoying working as part of the students SALT team and getting to know the pupils and staff in schools. Thanks to everyone who has made me feel welcome, I look forward to meeting more of you!

Computing

I have been enjoying computing lessons, we have been learning about how computers work. At the start we were remembering about hardware and software. Hardware are the things that you can touch that are connected to the computer that help it to work, like a mouse you use to control the screen by moving it, or the keyboard lets you enter information to search for things in Google. Software are the programs inside the computer. You can't touch them but they help you do your work and organise the information that you enter.

The new learning that we did was about components. They are the things that are inside the computer. You can touch them, but we don't because they might break! Before we started learning about the components, we thought about different systems. A system is lots of things working together to make something happen, like the Metro system. We thought about our school system and all the jobs that have to be done, like Diane in the kitchen makes sure that we have energy for the day and all of the students save the information the teachers give us.

Next we started to explore inside a computer. We learnt that the motherboard is the thing that keeps everything together, a bit like Mrs Hamilton. Next we looked at the RAM which is the computers short term memory so when you turn it off the RAM is cleared. Helen in school is like the RAM because she has lots of different instructions for staff each day, but at the end of the day they are wiped and she has to start again. The students are more like the hard drive because they save the information long term and all of the teachers are like the CPU processing tasks and information to keep everything going.

When we have been learning about the components we have found out that before everything was made smaller and for home, the computers used to be huge, sometimes the size of our lunch hall, or even bigger.

We also found out that a lot of women have been in charge of the teams that have made some of these inventions, like Patty McHugh who invented the motherboard.

- Javid and Emma, Year 11



Bradley, Ryan and Javid finding and naming computer components that they have learnt about



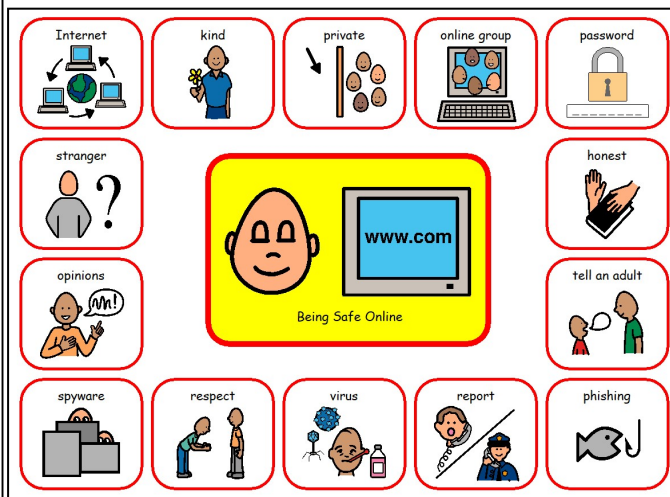
In computing lessons students in Sixth Form have been developing their understanding of being safe online. Students started off by talking about activities that they like to do online. Out of the class all of nine students there was a wide range of activities chosen as 'the best'. Some students said they like to watch reruns of TV shows such as 'Match of the Day' or gameshows. Other students liked to play online games, and some students liked to research recipes. Most of the class also said they liked to use the internet to communicate with their friends using social media apps such as Facebook.

The group then talked about what was good about using the internet to do these different activities and what made it unsafe. Students used word boards to help them consider and talk about different factors such as when to find help, consent and privacy.

To help share their learning with other students in school, the group worked together as a class to make some information posters, sharing their top tips for what to do to stay safe. These posters have also been made into a booklet which is in the school reception so that visitors can have a look if they are waiting in school.

All of the year groups in school address e-safety in their computing lessons each year. In addition to this, students are encouraged to talk about their use of technology so that they can chat openly about anything that might have happened, and feel more confident asking for help.

Should you need any help with particular issues with your young people, please contact Jo Anderson through the school office who will be able to provide further information and support, such as conversation prompts as shown below.



Happy Easter!

Thanks once again to the members of Westerhope Golf Club who have kindly donated a number of chocolate Easter eggs. This year's donations will be given to the student of the week from each pastoral class.



'What are PLP's all about?'

more information about what goes on.



Atena decorating her craft

PLP stands for 'Personalised Learning Programmes'. PLP sessions are delivered by our student support team. The sessions are in addition to both the formal curriculum and the sensory curriculum which are delivered by our teaching team. PLP sessions run throughout the week so we thought we'd share a little more information about what goes on.

In one of our sensory learning groups PLP sessions, students have used clay to make bowls (with support) to sell at the Easter Fayre. The students explored the clay - squashing, rolling, and pinching to make different shapes and using different tools. The bowls were painted and decorated when dry. The finished bowls were a big hit with our visitors at the coffee morning!

During SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) this term some year 7 students have completed a variety of tasks and challenges. They have worked on supporting each other to complete the trim trail as an assault course challenge and record their best time. They have been getting involved with nature at our pond. We are lucky at school to get lots of Newts visiting our site and sometimes they need to be relocated to the pond. Students have been netting them, identifying which species they are and releasing them to the pond.

Now that spring has arrived the boys have been learning to care for plants. They are running a friendly competition to see who can grow the biggest sunflower. Students tried their hand at product design too. They created their own version of a 'Prime' hydration drink and explained to their friends why it was unique. We took turns listening to feedback, in order to help students accept constructive criticism.

Riley encouraging his teammates along some tricky parts of the trim trail



Kayden can now braille most of the alphabet with very little support

There are many more PLP sessions running each week in school, including Sensory Drumming, Horticulture, Bike Maintenance and Switch Cookery, we will bring news of them next time!

Letter from the Head



The Spring term always seems to go by very quickly, but as always, lots has happened in school. The Friends of Sir Charles Parsons has followed the spring theme of fresh starts with the launch of their consultation on our next big fundraising aim. Its great to be doing something as a whole community again, really thinking about what we want to work together to achieve to make the school facilities even better for our young people.

For Jamie of Baldy Holly spring brings his long distance bike ride start date closer - we are all looking forward to following his progress and hope you will help us spread the word and help him achieve his aim of raising enough money to buy the school a much needed new mini-bus. He has already made a great start on reaching his target - there is more information about this in the newsletter.

6th form students have just returned from their residential visit to the Calvert Trust in the Lake District. As always it was a fantastic experience for everyone with lots of opportunities to enjoy, learn and achieve in very different type of setting. Students - and staff - took part in exciting activities, visited new places and, most importantly for the students, spent time socialising with their friends. Year 10 and 11 are looking forward to their visit to Kielder next term and the opportunities that will provide for them to enjoy, learn and achieve and to spend time together outside of school.

We are grateful to the local authority who have funded the creation of some new learning spaces within school to support us to continue to deliver small group and individual learning to an increased number of students. The pods and the safe space are small, indoor rooms which can be used for a variety of learning activities, from sensory and therapy sessions to 1:1 lessons or small group meetings. If you were in school for a meeting or to support the Easter fayre you may have noticed one of the new pods in the heart area of school.

As always, the Easter Fayre was well attended by families, friends, and past students. Our School Improvement Partner, Mr Ian Lane, was very impressed by his visit to the fayre and the opportunities it provided for students to put their learning into practice, both in the preparation work and on the actual day. He also enjoyed the chance to buy some treats!

Thank you to everyone who has supported the school this term and helped to us to continue ensuring that our students can enjoy their time school, learn as much as they can and achieve the best possible outcomes.

I hope you enjoy the Easter break and I look forward to seeing you all again in the Summer term.

- Karen Hamilton

Independent Travel

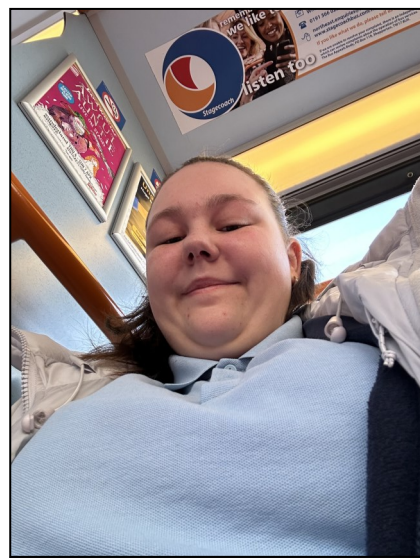


This morning I woke up at 6am because it was my first day doing independent travel from my house to school. My nana woke me up and I felt amazing, I was so happy to be doing it. I have been practising since September, going out with Haley who is an independent travel trainer from the council. When I have been going out with her she has been showing me how to put my arm out for the bus and read bus timetables. She's also been helping me to find the different number buses I can get and work out what time I need to leave my house.



Selfie 1 - #busstop

Apart from teaching me how to get the bus, Haley has also taught me how to relax myself when I am on the bus. If it is very full I sometimes feel anxious but Haley has taught me that I can look out the window, use my phone to watch the route by going on maps, or read a magazine.



Selfie 2 - #busjourney

After I get on the bus and it starts to head to school, it goes through town. I like to look at all the shops as the bus passes. My favourite one that I like to see is Start Fitness because I like to look at the tennis racquets, bikes and water bottles in the window. After Start Fitness the bus goes up to Shields Road, and at the top of Shields Road we pass McDonalds so then I know I'm nearly at school. When I'm on the bus I send a message home to let my Nana and Dad know where I am so they don't worry. When I get home after school they say well done that they can't believe I've done it! I'm pleased I've been able to learn how to do it so that when I'm at college I can get the bus and maybe meet up with my friends at weekends. Then when I'm older and finished college I'll be able to get the bus to work and maybe even on holiday.

- Emma, 11W

The students who work in 'Charlie's Pop Up Café' every Wednesday have been very proud to welcome an increasing number of community groups into the café.



On the days that groups have visited, as well as delivering the usual lunchtime service to school staff, 'Charlie's Café' team have also had to prepare for and deliver an additional café experience.

'Flow', who are an art group based in the 'Low Lights' in North Shields, came along and ordered from a breakfast menu. This was the first time this café group had prepared and served breakfast so it was a chance for the young to develop their skills. Flow said 'The cheese scones were the best ever!'

The café have also had groups in from 'Journey' who are based in Kenton. By chance, one of the members of the group who visited was an ex student from our school who left about 18 years ago.

The team have also welcomed two groups from 'Learning for Life' and it was lovely to catch up with some more recent ex-students (Emma, Davood, Harley, Ava and Zain).

Most recently the head teacher from Walker Riverside (Gareth) came to visit and try out our toastie menu. He was very impressed and there are plans in the pipeline to start



Above - young people from Flow Art hub.
Below - some old faces who now attend 'Learning for Life'



offering the café services to Walker Riverside staff. The biggest news for the café, is that now they have their own bank account which means they can task contactless payments. This has provided very popular with some staff, and has allowed the café team to develop further life skills in terms of reading numbers and having an understanding of different payment methods.

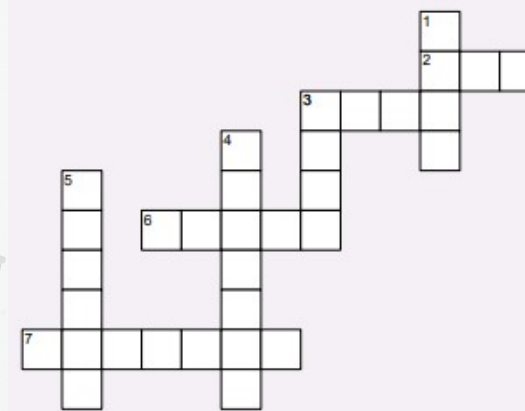
Next steps are to look at the café having their own mobile telephone so that any outside orders can be placed directly with us. This would be a massive learning opportunity for our young people.

SCP Kids Zone Sudoku

DIRECTIONS: Fill in the grid so that each horizontal row contains each letter once, each vertical column contains each letter once, and each sub grid contains each letter once.

SPRING						NEWS					
		N					W				
I			R			S					
					S		S		E		
	R		G		I	E	N		W		
		I	N								
				G							

CROSSWORD



across:

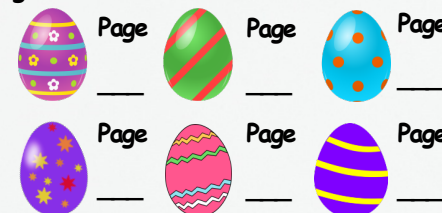
- 2: Some students will be celebrating this during the holidays?
- 3: this student has been enjoying her travel training?
- 6: Baldy Holly is riding 1000?
- 7: One after school club on Tuesdays and Wednesdays?

down:

- 1: We always have a letter from the?
- 3: A big thank you for our Easter eggs?
- 4: Charlie has got really good at doing this in the pool?
- 5: he's doing so well with his Braille typing?

Easter Egg Hunt

Can you find these 6 Easter eggs hidden throughout 'School News'?



Calvert Word Search

Can you find the Calvert Trust words hidden in the grid?

paddle
fire
climb
canoe
bushcraft
torch
rockandrop
swimming
hotchocolate
walk

Spot the Difference



Can you spot 3 differences on the Easter bunnies?

Answers on page 8