



Newsletter

July 2025

MILECASTLE SUPERSTARS!

With just over three weeks to go until the end of term, I wanted to send out some information and updates for parents. Firstly though, I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to all of our school community: children, staff, parents and carers, governors, Friends of Milecastle and the ONE Trust for another fantastic year at Milecastle. Next year will see me enter my twentieth year working at Milecastle and I cannot wait to see what amazing things that brings and what Team Milecastle can achieve. I hope you are looking forward to enjoying your summer together with your children and making lots of great memories.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We will be putting our current stock of pre-loved uniform out on the KS1 yard before the end of term at the end of the school day. Parents will be able to pick up items ready for September, taking what they need and leaving any donations in the honesty box.

Next week we are also accepting donations of **good condition**, re-sellable uniform which is **freshly washed** for our stock.

IMPORTANT DATES

School closes 3.20pm Thursday 17th July 2025

- Tuesday 2nd September - Return to school
- Monday 20th October - Individual school photos
- W/c 27th October Half-term holiday
- Tuesday 2nd December 2025 - Flu immunisations in school
- W/c 22nd December 2025 - Christmas holiday

TRAINING DAYS

School will be closed to pupils on the following dates for staff training.

Monday 1st September 2025

Monday 5th January 2026

Monday 1st June 2026

Please note a final training day is yet to be confirmed

CLUBS

The last sessions for after school clubs take place w/c 7th July 2025 (except for CUBA Club) and most will restart after the October half term. Details will follow in the new year for signing up.

STAFFING 2025 - 2026

Reception - Mrs Walton & Mrs Dillon
Year 1 - Mrs Haynes and Mrs Dillon
Year 2 - Miss Todd
Year 3 - Miss Butler
Year 4 - Miss Hatto
Year 5 - Mrs Armstrong
Year 6 - Miss McNestry

MOVING ON!

Mrs Saleem is leaving Milecastle in the summer, when she heads off back to Dubai to live and teach over there. We wish her all the best for the future. Miss McMullen is also leaving us as she heads off on a very exciting adventure travelling in Australia. We wish her all the best for the future and can't wait to hear about her journey. I am sure you would like to join our school community in saying thank you to both staff for their hard work and commitment to Milecastle and your children.

PAYMENT REMINDER

Please can parents and carers ensure they have cleared **all payments** for school meals and breakfast club before the end of term, this is particularly important for our **Year 6 leavers**.

ATTENDANCE

This year saw some quite significant changes with the new statutory Attendance framework which came into force in August 2024. The continued focus on attendance will remain a priority for the DfE and in school. For those who may have been issued holiday fines from the Local Authority this year, it is worth noting that rolling fines are in place which means any holidays taken next year, in term time, will face an increased fine of **£160 per child per parent with no option of a reduced fine**.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please remember, as you seek to purchase uniform ready for the new school year that children **do not need uniform with a logo** on and the old logo is still absolutely fine to wear. Our school uniform policy is shared with this newsletter as a reminder of what uniform expectations are including: school shoes, **not trainers; book bags only; and no earrings permitted**.

Milecastle Outdoor Play and Learning (MOPS)

Our outdoor play and learning programme (**MOPS**) has proven to be a real hit with the children. Over the course of the year we have gradually added a further selection of activities to keep the children engaged and active at lunchtime. As always we take feedback from our pupils about what they would like to do at lunchtime and we do our very best to meet their wishes and needs. We are always very grateful for any donations to school. Can I ask that you let school know if you have anything that would be suitable for playing with outdoors before throwing anything away? Thank you!

