

Dear Parent / Carer



'Water palaver' as one parent said in response to our water supply being cut off this week, while another echoed the thoughts of many: 'water relief' when it was all sorted. It's not easy when something like that happens, and I wish to thank Northumbrian Water for all they did to deal with it, and get us back as soon as was possible. Thank you also to all our community for your patience and understanding while this was resolved.

I really do think we've now collected the Utilities set on the Monopoly board, what with all the engineers we had in the Autumn term to fix our Electricity, Phones and Broadband after the lightning storm in September, and now the Water board. And before you say it, no we don't have Gas mains, so we're good on that front! So, I guess it's now time to start collecting stations (Nunnykirk Station? Now wouldn't that be something?). Or build some hotels, perhaps? Old Kent Road, anybody?

- Talking about monopoly and all the places on it, you might have noticed that I finally ran the **London Marathon** last Sunday. My heart is in the country, rather than the city, but I actually spent my first 19 years in London, so it was nice to take it in a different way, albeit whizzing past as a blur (well, for the first 32km anyway). It was an amazing event, and I feel very privileged to have taken part. To cap it all, the Duchess of Cambridge presented me with my medal (it was something of a 'Cambridge sandwich', with the Duke presenting medals just behind me). A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who sponsored and/or encouraged me (see pic). The 'lines are still open' to donate. Google: [justgiving nunnykirk](http://justgiving.nunnykirk)
- You might know that the marathon is sponsored by Virgin Money, who also run the '[Make £5 grow](http://www.virgin.com/richard-branson/launching-made-dyslexia)' challenge. A huge well done to **all our young people** who gained first place for a second time.
- And seamlessly moving on from those two items of news, take a look at Richard Branson's new charity, which aims to raise the profile of Dyslexia: <https://www.virgin.com/richard-branson/launching-made-dyslexia>. Another new site which I think looks very interesting is: www.dyslexia.io/
- We welcomed **Max and Violet Deeks**, who became part of our special community this week. They had a super first week. Well done, and thanks as always to everyone for helping them to feel at home.
- **Eggs Galore!** Thank you to Bob Mitchell and the organisers of the [Northumbria Easter Egg Run](http://www.northyorkshire.gov.uk/northyorkshire-eggs) for bringing an extra-chocolatey smile to Nunnykirk this week (see pic). Over 1000 motorcyclists took part (PS don't tell anyone, but I'm tucking in to one of the left-over eggs while I'm writing this week's news!)
- It's been wonderful seeing all the new life springing up around Nunnykirk, the fields suddenly bursting with skipping lambs, calves, and even llamas! One of Maggie's new arrivals is shown here. Cute!
- Our y10 and 11's visited the new Italian bistro in Rothbury this week (see pic). **Claire, Emily, Jack, Tom and Harry** joined Tabbi and me for an opportunity to experience a little of traditional Italian cafe culture, and hear some real Italian spoken. Several of them even braved speaking in Italian, with Tom ordering and Jack (surprise) talking about football (well, Juventus anyway). Grazie, Gina e Alesso. Ciao.
- Our next Open Forum will be on Supporting Children's Mental Health. The Department for Education's '[Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/598212/mental-health-and-behaviour-in-schools-march-2015.pdf)' (March 2015) suggests 1 in 10 pupils have a clinically diagnosed mental health disorder. A key part of our mission at Nunnykirk is to support physical and emotional wellbeing, and while some young people may need to access more specialist provision, we use a range of strategies to help prevent poor mental health becoming a barrier to achievement. Our Open Forum is due to take place on Wednesday, 14th June, 6.30pm-8.00pm. All welcome and refreshments are provided. Please let me know if you are joining us.

And lastly...

- Have you heard about **Tax-free Childcare**? This is designed to help parents with the cost of childcare. To qualify, parents must be working and each earning at least £120 a week (on average) and not more than £100,000 each a year. Visit www.childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk for info.
- **Options Choices (Stage 3)** forms will be distributed early in this Term. As with last year, pupils will have opportunities to amend their choices up to two weeks into the Autumn term.
- Please see **Boarders Timetable** for next week on p2

It's May Day on Monday, so we're back Tuesday, 2nd May. Have a super long weekend!

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Boarders Timetable w/b Tuesday, 2nd May 2017			
Time	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
4.00pm	4.00pm – 4.30pm Snacks	4.00pm – 4.30pm Snacks	4.00pm – 4.30pm Snacks
4.30pm	4.30pm- 6.00pm Photo Hobby	4.30pm – 5.15pm Prep	4.30pm – 5.15pm Prep
5.00pm			4.30pm – 5.15pm Prep
5.30pm			Free Time
6.00pm	6.00pm – 6.30pm Dinner	5.30pm - 8.00pm Cinema Trip. (Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2)	5.45pm – 6.15pm Dinner
6.30pm	6.30pm – 7.15pm Prep		6.30pm - 8.00pm (Boarders choice)
7.00pm	7.15pm - 8.30pm (Boarders choice)		
7.30pm			
8.00pm			8.00pm – 8.45pm Prep
8.30pm	8.30pm Supper	8.30pm Supper	8.30pm Supper
9.00pm	Free Time	Free Time	Free Time
9.30pm	Preparation for bedtime.		
10.00pm			
<p>Activities in WHITE and before Dinner are open to non-boarders, but please ensure these are arranged with Houseparent's in advance.</p> <p>Listed below is a guide of pocket money needed for each activity....</p> <p>Cinema: Minimum of £10.00 each. Packed lunches are available from school, on request. (first come, first serve basis, due to available bus seating)</p> <p>If you would like your young person to join in our evening activities, or to board. Please arrange this at least a day in advance, directly with Mr & Mrs Gray, as this ensures a quick response.</p> <p>nkhouseparents@gmail.com</p>			