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**CLOVER HILL
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

Headteacher: Mrs Ailsa Holden

Friday 1st May 2026

It's been another productive week here at Clover Hill—both in the classrooms and out on the playground. Everywhere I look, there are happy faces, children being active, playing together, and genuinely enjoying their school day. Moments like these make me so proud to stand back and watch our school community in action. The whole staff team do an amazing job, the children bring such energy, enthusiasm and excitement and I absolutely wouldn't change it for the world. I feel incredibly lucky to be the Headteacher of Clover Hill.

Mrs Holden

Walking Wednesdays – Please join us!

Walking Wednesdays are going from strength to strength, with an amazing 46 children joining us this week. It's been wonderful to see so many pupils starting their day with fresh air, friendly chatter and a gentle walk to school. From next week, parents will be able to drop children off (after giving their names to our Mini Health Champions in their bright hi-viz vests) without needing to walk with us—although anyone who still wishes to join the walk is more than welcome. It's a lovely, calm start to the morning and, of course, the children's favourite part: an extra 10 minutes of playtime before the gates open for everyone else!

Times Tables Rock Stars – Summer Showdown!



The Times Table Rockstars Summer Showdown has officially begun, with Year 3 taking on Year 4 and Year 5 battling Year 6. The Times Tables Rock Stars Summer Showdown is a fun, nationwide maths challenge where pupils practise their times tables using the Times Tables Rock Stars online platform.

Children earn points by answering questions accurately and quickly, with every correct answer contributing to their class and school total. The competition runs over the summer term and is designed to motivate pupils, build confidence, and strengthen rapid recall of multiplication facts in an exciting, game-based way.

To keep things fair and manageable for families, children are limited to a maximum of 30 minutes on their TTRS account each day—any time beyond this won't count towards the competition. We've set this limit deliberately, as we know not all families want extended online gaming at home. The competition will begin on **Friday 8th May and will refresh each Friday.** The winning classes will be revealed in assembly. Good luck to all our Rockstars!

School Grounds updates

A huge thank you to our School Association for funding five brand-new picnic benches made from durable recycled plastic. These replace our old wooden benches, which had sadly become rotten and needed to be dismantled. This incredibly generous **£2,500 donation** is something the school simply could not have afforded from school funds, and we are so grateful. The new benches will be enjoyed by all children—whether they're eating lunch outside (which they beg for at the first hint of sunshine!) or playing board games and puzzles at breaktime. Our multi-skilled Mr Toomer has also been busy putting the salvageable wood from the old benches to good use, repairing areas around the school grounds. You may have spotted the new "lollystick" fence around the raised beds, which has transformed an area that was looking tired and worn. The gazebo has also been strengthened with steel rods in its foundations to ensure it remains safe and stable. Looking ahead, we're excited to have a running track and four sprint lanes marked

on the school field, and a brand-new football pitch will be marked out over half term. Lots of improvements that will benefit every child.

Class Highlights – what have we been doing this week?



Reception

Reception have had a fantastic week of learning, all centred around our book of the week, *Oliver's Vegetables* by Vivian French, which has helped us think about healthy eating and trying new foods. The children have been carefully monitoring the growth of the seeds they planted last week, as well as keeping a close eye on the exciting progress of our new class pets – the caterpillars. In Maths, our focus number has been 12, and they have been exploring arrays to show numbers in equal rows and columns. As always, the children have been leading their own learning both indoors and outdoors, making the most of the sunshine and embracing every opportunity to explore, play and discover.

Year 1

Year 1 have had a wonderfully busy week of learning!

In **English**, the children have been writing descriptions of what Mae Jemison was like as a child, thinking carefully about her curiosity, determination and early love of science. In **Maths**, they have been recognising equal groups and practising doubling numbers all the way to 20. Our **Science** lessons have focused on identifying the different parts of a plant and understanding the important jobs each part does. In **Geography**, the children explored the many reasons why people visit the seaside, from holidays and relaxation to wildlife and coastal fun.

To finish the week creatively, Year 1 have been sketching in the style of Vincent Van Gogh, experimenting with expressive lines and texture.

Year 2

Year 2 have enjoyed another brilliant week of learning. In English, the children have been exploring compound words such as *snowball*, *sunshine* and *football*, and comparing different versions of *Jack and the Beanstalk* to spot similarities and differences in characters and events. In **Maths**, they have been busy measuring using kilograms and grams, practising how to read scales accurately. Our **Geography** work has taken us closer to home as we began learning about Newcastle, starting by sharing what we already know about the city. In **RE**, the children have been thinking about why the Bible is a special book for Christians and how it is used. A thoughtful and productive week all round for Year 2 with the highlight definitely being their amazing class assembly performed to their families.

Year 3

Year 3 have had an exciting week. In **English**, they have started reading *The Boy Who Grew Dragons* by Andy Shepherd, using the story to explore imagination, character reactions and descriptive language. In **Maths**, the children have been finding fractions of objects and quantities, building confidence with halves, thirds and quarters. In **Art**, they have been sketching in the style of Claude Monet, experimenting with light, colour and texture in their drawings. During **PE**, the class have been developing their problem-solving skills through a range of team challenges. A brilliant week full of creativity, thinking and teamwork.

Year 4

In **Science**, the children worked in groups to create presentations about famous scientists who invented or discovered things using electricity, sharing some fascinating facts with one another. In **English**, they have been reviewing what makes a strong introduction to a narrative and practising writing their own captivating openings. In **Maths**, the class have been investigating decimals, building their understanding of tenths and hundredths through practical activities. In **RE**, we introduced our new topic on Judaism, exploring key beliefs and traditions. A thoughtful and productive week for Year 4.

Year 5

In **Science**, the children have been exploring the lifecycles of mammals and insects, comparing how different animals grow and change. In **Maths**, they have been working on decimal and fraction equivalents up to hundredths, building confidence in making accurate conversions. In **RE**, the class have been learning about the Exodus story in Judaism and discovering how Jewish families celebrate Passover today. In **Geography**, the children have been investigating time zones around the world and how these affect daily life in different countries.

Year 6

Year 6 have been working incredibly hard this week as they lead their own learning by revisiting tricky areas in Maths and SPaG in preparation for the KS2 SATs, now less than two weeks away. They have really embraced the challenge of our team quizzes, which have been a brilliant way to embed key skills while keeping motivation high. The class have also chosen their SATs-week breakfast menu—bacon sandwiches, sausage sandwiches, pastries and pancakes... it seems their hard work doesn't come cheap, but they've certainly earned it. A focused and determined week for our oldest pupils.

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BETTER

Diary Dates

Friday 8th May onwards

TTRS – Summer Showdown begins

Monday 11th May – Thursday 14th May – Year 6 SATs

School is open from 8.15am for all of our Year 6 children to enjoy delicious SATS breakfast with their friends before school.

Thursday 14th May – Reception trip to Whitehouse Farm

Monday 18th May – Friday 22nd May - Whole School Sports Week

Children will need to be in school PE kit ALL WEEK

Tuesday 19th May – Class photos (PE kit can be worn)

Wednesday 20th May – Sports Afternoon for Parent Spectators

Families are invited into school from 12.30pm to watch our children take part in an afternoon of sport-related activities that sees the battle of the castles... who will be crowned champions this year: Bamburgh, Alnwick, Lumley or Warkworth?

Friday 22nd May

Year 4 trip to Gibside National Trust

Fun Run at Saltwell Park – Further information will be given to those children participating

HALF TERM 25TH MAY – 29TH MAY
