

By now all parents and carers will have had, and taken the opportunity to discuss children's progress for the second time this academic year.

Doubtless you'll have applied a simple test of progress, and one we encourage all children to use—"look back at your work in September and look at it now".

In many cases, and this is often most obvious with our youngest children, this can and does show an astonishing rate of progress in writing and maths.

Expert teaching at school, combined with that essential support from home and of course the enthusiasm of our children enable almost all our children to achieve our aim of 'learning to read' in Foundation Stage and Key Stage One, enabling them to 'read to learn' and develop advanced skills in Key Stage Two.

We were delighted at the response from parents of younger children to our Phonics for Families workshops run by Mrs Armstrong and Mrs Balkwill. Similar workshops are sure to take place in the Autumn Term.

As you are aware we make every effort to enrich and enhance our curricular and extra curricular provision and always celebrate success and progress in the arts, sports and social aspects of school life. We never lose sight of one of our core purposes—ensuring our children are literate and numerate. The 'nuts and bolts' of primary education.

Sponsored Maths Event

Many thanks to the children for their efforts earlier this term and to families and friends for support and sponsorship. To date this event has raised over £1800.00. All this money will be of direct benefit to Fellside children.

This year's Sponsored Nursery Toddle raised a record £937.00.



26th Children's Cancer Run

We had hoped to enter a school team for this event. In reality time is too tight for this year. However, we know a number of our children are already entered privately for this event on Sunday 11th May and encourage anyone yet to enter to do so before Friday 25th April 2008. Details at www.neccr.org.uk

We'll explore the possibilities of a school group entry for May 2009.

School Website

Regular updates which include the recent appearance on Match of the Day.

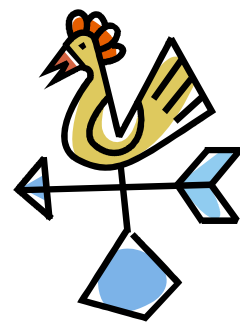
Cello Day

Our own cellists have been joined this week by pupils from across Gateshead for a cello workshop at Fellside. World Class Cello player Mats Lidström (Royal Philharmonic Orchestra) held a master class in our library, impressing and being impressed by the talented children of Gateshead.





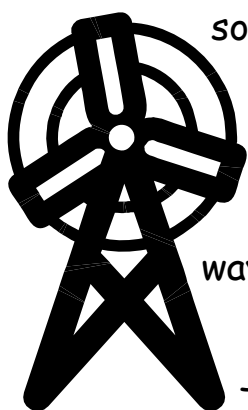
D & T Homework Challenge—2008



Theme—Moving in the wind

Following the success of previous D&T homework challenges this year's challenge is again rather different.

As you may be aware the school has a current initiative to increase the awareness of sustainable energy. We are hoping to install a wind turbine, and solar panels.



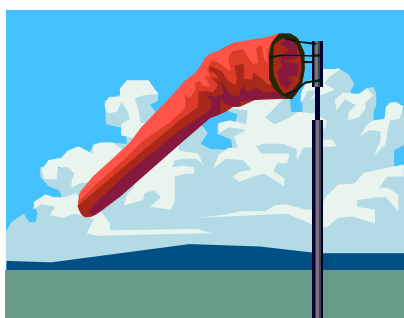
To continue with this environmental theme the D&T challenge this year is to design and construct a device that moves in some way when the wind blows on or at it.

The challenge is to produce the most imaginative and effective design for your model. For ideas you may wish to look at internet sites for inspiration!



The models will be displayed for judging outside, so you may want to consider the effect of the weather on the materials you use.

The completed homework should be returned to the school on the Tuesday 6th May. Judging will take place on the first windy day!



Lynn O'Neill