

Message from Mrs Milburn

Dear Parents and Carers

Wow, I can't believe we are already at the end of our second week! The children continue to settle confidently into their new routines.

At Sele First, we want every child to feel that they belong, are valued and are part of our school community. Our approach to behaviour is centred around positive relationships, helping children feel safe, understood and supported to make positive choices.



Children in Y1-Y4 start their day with a 'soft start', entering school without needing to line up when the bell rings. Staff greet them at the door and help them settle into their classrooms, where a calm activity supports a smooth transition from home to school and encourages independence.

I hope you have heard your children talking about our approaches, including Positive Notes, Positive Messages and Recognition Boards. All adults are looking out for children demonstrating our values – Ready, Respectful and Safe – which together reflect the Sele Spirit.

Each classroom also has a Recognition Board, where children are recognised for a shared focus, such as kindness. Once everyone has been recognised, the class votes on a celebration activity, such as a story in the garden, extra playtime or a dance party.

This year, we have introduced Enrichment Time on Friday afternoons, giving children dedicated time for activities such as art, music and sport. Older children will also have opportunities to support younger children.

Our annual curriculum workshops will take place soon. These are a great opportunity to learn more about your child's year group, daily routines and the team. Workshops take place in your child's classroom at 3.30pm on the following dates:

21 September - EYFS

22 September - KS1

23 September - KS2

Good luck to everyone taking part in the Mini, Junior and Great North Run!

Have a great weekend,
Steph Milburn

Attendance Matters - Term Time Absence

Every day in school counts. Please plan holidays and non-essential appointments outside of term time / school time wherever possible

Term-time holidays are not an automatic entitlement. Requests for leave must be made in advance and will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances.

Unauthorised absence can lead to a Penalty Notice. 10 sessions (usually 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school-week period may result in a fine of £80.00 per parent, per child, if paid within 21 days, increasing to £160.00 if paid within 28 days.



Attendance Stars

Each week will share and celebrate the three classes in school with the highest attendance. This week's top classes are:

1st place — RH/1P/3S/1W 2nd place - RM 3rd place - 1R/4H



Filtering and Monitoring - IT Security

Sele First uses a layered approach to safeguarding pupils online, combining both monitoring and filtering to maintain a safe and secure digital environment.

Internally, we use Senso as our monitoring solution, enabling us to track user activity, identify potential safeguarding concerns, and respond quickly to any alerts. At the network level, all internet traffic is filtered externally through Fortinet/FortiGuard, provided via Northumberland County Council's ISP service.

Our IT support team works closely with NCC to tailor and refine these filtering controls, ensuring they remain robust and compliant while avoiding unnecessary restrictions that could impede teaching, learning, or access to essential educational resources. This partnership ensures pupils benefit from strong protection without compromising the quality of their digital learning experience.

Free School Meals - Eligibility Changes from September 2026

There have been important changes to Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility from September 2026, meaning that more children may now be entitled to a free school meal. If you receive Universal Credit your child can now qualify for Free School Meals regardless of your household earnings.



Information has been shared with families via School Gateway this week, you can also read more [here](#). You can apply through the Northumberland County Council Citizen Portal. [Apply for Free School Meals through GOV.UK](#)

If you are unsure whether you qualify or need help with an application, please contact the school office and we will be happy to help.

School Uniform - Red Hoodies

Please note, red Sele First hoodies have now been phased out and are no longer part of our uniform options.



Going Home Arrangements Forms

Please complete, and return to school, asap, adding all adults who have consent to collect your child from school.

important

School Admissions Portal Middle School 2027

The School Admissions Portal opens tomorrow for Y4 families to apply for middle school entry September 2027. The Portal closes at midnight on 31 October. You must register with the Citizen Portal first to generate an email link which you can apply through. Apply here: [Citizen Portal - Sign in \(northumberland.gov.uk\)](#).



Pocket Toys

We are seeing a number of toys being brought into school



A reminder that only small pocket toys are allowed in school. Children should not bring cuddly or larger toys. If your child does bring a pocket toy to school, please note we cannot take responsibility if they become lost.

Nursery 2027 Admissions

A poster for Nursery Admissions 2027. It features a red background with a yellow scalloped border. At the top left is the 'SELEfirst' logo. In the center is a photo of a nursery room with colorful toys. Below the photo is the text 'Nursery Admissions 2027' and 'Apply from 1 September'. At the bottom left is a photo of a child playing in a sandbox. At the bottom right is a QR code. Text on the poster includes: 'Sele First Nursery offers a nurturing, stimulating environment where children learn through play, build friendships and develop confidence and independence.' and 'Our Nursery children benefit from a teacher-led, dedicated EY Team and a varied curriculum using our indoor and outdoor spaces at Sele First.' At the very bottom, it says 'FIND OUT MORE AND DOWNLOAD APPLICATION FORM HERE'.

Sele First Open Morning

A poster for Sele First Open Morning. It features a yellow background with a red border. At the top is the 'SELEfirst SCHOOL' logo. Below it are four circular photos showing different parts of the school. The text reads: 'SELE FIRST SCHOOL OPEN MORNING FOR PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES For children from Nursery to Year 4 SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER 10.00AM - 12.00PM'. At the bottom, it says 'Sited in the heart of Hexham surrounded by the beautiful Sele Park and the historic buildings of Hexham Abbey, we aim to provide an exciting, motivating and high quality education for every child through effective organisation, committed knowledgeable staff, challenging expectations and high standards.' and 'Scan the QR code to book' with a QR code.

Key Dates

Key Dates can be found here
<https://www.selefirst.org/Parents-and-Carers/Term-Dates/>

F.O.S.F. updates

Sele First Carnival is only 1 week away! Make sure you buy your tickets now to take advantage of our early bird discount prices. From only 37p per game stall token and just £7 for our unlimited bouncing wristband the discounts are huge compared to our on the day prices. Tokens and wristbands available at:

<https://friendsofselefirst.school/events/fa144339-cef0-4f98-884b-044b745e5708>

Please still donate Preloved children's books and teddies to the school office for those stalls.



F.O.S.F. updates

SELE FIRST Summer '26 CHALLENGE



Running total = £7987

Let us please take a moment to recognise all the children, parents, careers and staff who have taken part in our Sele First Summer Challenge. It has become so much bigger than we envisaged.

Feedback has been lovely, with many children growing in ways no one imagined through challenging themselves, we are so proud of each and every one of them.

We still have some events to come, but the challenge is drawing to a close now, and will finish at the end of September. Good luck to all those who are doing the Great North Run this weekend!

Please hand any cash into the school office, in a named envelope (with **last year's** class on it - we've kept the classes as per last year to avoid confusion if you have given links to sponsors).

If you or a child was involved in the Summer Challenge please let us know so they can be in our final **celebratory round up** at the end of the month.

DIARY DATE

FOSF Meeting

Next meeting will be focusing on the Christmas events.



*Friday 9th October
9am Mura Lounge*

WEBSITE



Your central space for everything FOSF, including events calendar, ticketing, and donations.

[HTTP://friendsofselefirst.school](http://friendsofselefirst.school)

WHATSAPP



*Keep informed of
FOSF events*

*Join FOSF
Announcements here*

(You can remain anonymous with a nickname.)