



Nettlesworth Primary School
Front Street
Nettlesworth
Chester le Street
Durham

20th April 2026

Welcome back to Summer 1!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school everyone and to Summer 1! I hope you have enjoyed your break and are looking forward to the new half term.

In Class 4, we are looking forward to having lots of fun learning new things and getting to know our new topics. This half term our new Cornerstones topic is 'Alchemy Island!' We will be learning lots about chemistry, solving riddles and doing lots of programming. Please keep an eye on our section of the school website to find out about all the exciting things we are doing in class.

Just a few notes for your diary:

Homework is given out on Mondays and is expected back in school on Fridays. Children's homework can also be uploaded to DB. Spellings are given out on Wednesdays for our spelling tests on Mondays.

Finally, PE kits! Please send in a PE kit on a Monday and leave it at school throughout the week. We will return this home on a Friday. Our PE days change each half term depending on available coaches in school.

If you have any questions please feel free to ask.

Many Thanks,

Mrs Edwards

Alchemy Island

We're going on a magical journey to find the gold hidden somewhere on Alchemy Island.

This half term, a mysterious visitor will arrive to present us with artefacts from the island. Reading stories set in fantasy worlds will inspire our story openings. We'll manipulate digital photographs, adding fantastical special effects. Our geography skills will improve as we look closely at maps of Alchemy Island, plotting routes and using coordinates. We'll examine samples from the island, explore the properties of materials and experiment with changes of state. If we're going to find gold, we'd better find out all about it! In English we'll write soliloquies and poems inspired by the island's magical powers and dramatic landscape. The coding programme Scratch will help us to plot and correct errors in our route, and we'll use technology to create beautiful digital images. We'll compose raps and use sound effects and mood music to reflect the atmosphere on Alchemy Island.

At the end of the project, we'll perform songs about our amazing adventure and present what we have learned. We'll design a map for a new app and a board game based on our adventures.

Help your child prepare for their project

Start your mysterious journey to Alchemy Island at home! Why not investigate foods together that change state when they are heated or cooled? You could also visit the library to find a book to read together which is set in a fantasy world. Alternatively, create a map of your own fantasy island - what landmarks will you include?

Memorable experience	Chief Alchemist's riddle
Innovate challenge	Game soundtrack
English	Fantasy narratives; Non-chronological reports; Soliloquies; Poetry; Lyrics
Music	Composing; Recording and editing software; Music; Graphic scores
Computing	Photography; Debugging programs; Gaming
D&T	Electrical circuits; Designing a board game
Geography	Map reading; Using coordinates; Human and physical features
Science	Properties and changes of materials; Working scientifically
Science investigations	Can you clean dirty water? Do all solids dissolve? Will it erupt? Which materials conduct heat?