



Nettlesworth Primary School
Front Street
Nettlesworth
Chester le Street
Durham

3rd September 2026

Welcome back to Autumn 1!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school everyone and to Autumn 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 'Road Trip USA'. We'll be 'visiting' all of the states of America and creating postcards along the way! 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 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.

Swimming will begin again this half term for Class 4 on **Thursday** mornings! Please ensure that your child comes to school on a Thursday morning with appropriate kit. **Swimming sessions will not begin until next week, Thursday 10th September.**

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

Road Trip USA!



Buckle up and put your sunglasses on – this half term we're going on a road trip across the USA!

We'll start by 'visiting' the states where Native American tribes settled. We'll use travel brochures and the internet to research New York and write postcards to family members. Using maps, we'll locate the USA and find the names of the states. We'll look at the amazing lights of Times Square, make circuits and create a program for a tourist trip around New York. The story, *The Indian in the Cupboard*, will inspire us to write diaries. We'll explore Native American myths and write our own. After learning about their cultural significance, we'll weave beautiful dreamcatchers. Looking at aerial views of natural landmarks, we'll think about how they might have been formed. We'll create travel brochures and make illuminated models of different landmarks. Then we'll cook delicious dishes – would anyone like a corn dog?

At the end of the project, we'll make a 'journey stick' so we can remember where we have visited. We'll use this to explain our learning journey.

ILP focus	Geography
English	Postcards, emails, diary writing, myths and legends, poetry
Geography	Using world and US maps, human and physical geography
Art & design	Native American dreamcatchers, weaving, journey sticks
Computing	Collaborative databases and spreadsheets, using logical reasoning, writing programs, effective online research, digital presentations
D&T	Preparing US dishes, model making, totem pole design
History	Native Americans
Music	Traditional and cultural music
PSHE	Expressing opinions, stereotypes and discrimination
Science	Electricity

Help your child prepare for their project

The USA is an incredible place, with a varied landscape and culture. Why not choose a state to research together and create a scrapbook of exciting locations? You could also make a playlist of American songs from different genres that you could listen to on your road trip. Alternatively, visit the supermarket together to see if you can identify any foods associated with the USA. You might even try some of them!