

North Park Primary School



Bessemer Green,
Spennymoor,
Co. Durham
DL16 6PP

Head Teacher: Mrs P Monk
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End of term 2017 Newsletter

What's been happening in school?

- A really busy, but really lovely end to the term – the children performed beautifully at the Christmas shows and Carol and Coffee mornings; it made the end of term very special and everyone is definitely in the Christmas spirit now!
- We all enjoyed our lovely Christmas lunch and the Christmas parties!
- Thank you for coming along to the Year 3, 4 and 5 Music show – the children have all worked really hard this term in music and should be proud of their growing abilities.
- Miss Bowron gets married in the holidays – we offer her our warm congratulations and best wishes for the future – from January she will be known as Mrs Cope.
- The school has suffered at the hands of vandals recently – stones have been thrown to smash four windows in the Early Years unit; this will incur considerable cost for the school and use up valuable resources. Your support in contacting the police if you see anyone on school property in the holidays is much appreciated.
- Unfortunately we have had reports of adults using bad language near the entrance to school – please support us in refraining from swearing, especially around children.

Attendance - Our current attendance is at 95.5% - this is just slightly below the expected 96% target for schools and we ask for your support in helping us maintain a good standard of attendance.

Your child's attendance certificate is included with this newsletter:

Green – at or above the Government target of 96%. Well done – great attendance.

Yellow – between 90 and 95.9% - the closer to 96% the better – room for a little improvement

Red – falling below the persistent absentee criteria of 90% attendance. Medical evidence will be required if your child is unwell.

We appreciate all the efforts parents make to ensure good attendance and punctuality, including the medical evidence provided for illness, and the efforts that you go to make appointments out of school time wherever possible. These really do make a difference and help keep attendance at good levels, and thereby help improve pupil achievement.

Please remember:

- We operate first day absence procedures and you will be contacted after registration if we do not have a reason for your child's absence.
- Holidays in term time also impact significantly on attendance, and as you know, we are not authorised to grant leave of absence in term time except for exceptional circumstances; the Local Authority will intervene if your child accrues **seven days or more** of unauthorised absence in a term, and a fine may be issued.
- If you have any concerns about attendance please contact the school. We work closely with the LA attendance officers to monitor and improve attendance.
- Awards for excellent attendance have been given out this week – well done to all our winners.

Parent Governor

We still have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. We would like to hear from anyone who is interested in this important role. Anyone who has parental responsibility for a pupil at the school can become a Governor. Parent Governors are elected/appointed by the parent body and become part of the overall body responsible for making decisions for the benefit of the whole school. In brief, Governors are responsible for raising the standards of achievement for all pupils. This involves several main responsibilities:

- *plan the school's future direction*
- *be accountable for the overall performance of the school*
- *ensure that the school makes appropriate provision for all its pupils*
- *ensure that the school actively promotes the pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development*
- *have strategic oversight of the school's budget and staffing*
- *ensure financial probity.*

The Governing Body meets in full three times per year. In addition there are other committee meetings, usually on a termly basis, that take place to consider different aspects of the Governing Body's role. Further information on the work of the Governing Body can be found by ringing the school or contacting the LA School and Governor Support Service.

In order to become a Governor you need to:



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1. Contact the school (01388 815943)
2. Complete a nomination form. You will be expected to undergo a DBS application.
3. You may need to undergo an election process if we have several interested parents.

We look forward to hearing from interested parents.

Reminders:

- **Free School Meals** - Do you think your child is entitled to Free School Meals? Are you unsure? **Then please ask at the main office and complete a form – we can then check for you.**
- Remember we are able to offer parents **After School Care** via **Jack in the Box Daycare** – this runs from 3.15 – 5.45pm each night. Contact school for registration forms and cost information.
- **Breakfast club** continues to run from 8am each day.
- We remind parents **do not drive into school to drop off or pick up**, unless by prior agreement with the headteacher; some children are dropped off by prior arrangement so we cannot lock the gates – however no-one should be driving in unless you have arranged this with the headteacher. This is especially important as our youngest pupils are dropped off and picked up from the EYFS entrance each day.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year from all the staff at North Park.

Mrs P Monk
21.12.17

Diary Dates

December

- 22 Christmas Jumper day – donations for Save the Children (50p each)
22 **School closes.**

January

School re-opens for teaching purposes - Tuesday 9th January 2018.

- 10 Football training – Year 5 and 6 – 4 weeks
11 Police visit to Year 5
11 Year 5 and 6 Art session – Road Safety poster design
12 Reception hearing screening
16 Dance workshop – Years 1, 2 and 3
18 Father John assembly
19 Dance workshop – Years 4, 5 and 6
25 Whole school photographs

February

- 8 Year 6 Family Assembly- 10.15am
12-16 **School closed for half term. Re-opens 19th February**
19 Multi-Cultural week – chef in school
20 Theatre visit – The Wind in the Willows
22 Chef in school
22 Father John assembly

March

- 6 Year 6 Safety Carousel
19 Parent night (other dates for meetings during the day to follow)
22 Year 5 Family Assembly – 10.15am
22 Year 1 visit to Durham Castle
27 Easter Service – 2pm – St Andrew's Church
29 **School closes for Easter Break. Re-opens 16th April**

14th – 18th May – KS2 SATs

11th June – Phonics screening test week

