

# North Park Primary School



Bessemer Green,  
Spennymoor,  
Co. Durham  
DL16 6PP

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## February 2019 Newsletter

We have enjoyed a lot of great activities:

- Year 5 had a brilliant writing workshop with Adam Bushnell – showing off their amazing writing skills!
- Year 4 Class assembly taught us all about the Romans – great stuff! Well done!
- Reception class enjoyed a wonderful visit to the Hancock Museum and the Northern Stage to see a production of Bear Hunt – they then did their own amazing performance for very proud parents!
- Year 4 enjoyed their visit to Arbeia Roman Fort in South Shields, finding out all about life in Roman Britain.
- Year 3 did some amazing work learning about Pollard's Bear in a workshop in school – fantastic!
- Thank you to Friends of the School for organising the Valentine's Disco
- Year 1 visited St Andrew's Church to find out all about the things in a church as part of their RE studies.
- The whole school enjoyed both a fencing session and an archery session in PE – two brilliant days!
- We all enjoyed a theatre show too - The Selfish Giant
- Reception class continued their keep fit work at a Multiskills festival
- The children have been creating some amazing work linked to their Multicultural week studies – learning all about Africa. They have been cooking, creating artwork, and the week has been extra special because of the visit we had from the Zulu Nation – all the children enjoyed the amazing singing and dancing shows, and the singing and dance workshops that followed. It was an experience to remember!

## World Book Day

World Book day activities will take place on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March**. The theme is 'Share a Book'. Activities organised include:

1. A chance for children and adults to **share stories** that day and over the week
2. **Book Swap** - please continue to send in any books if you would like your child to take part in the Book Swap – this will take place on Thursday.
3. **Book character competition** – we are asking children to create a **Wooden Spoon Book Character** this year and enter our competition. The character can be from any book chosen by the children and there will be a prize for each class for the most creative and inventive characters. Wooden spoons old or new can be used (a new spoon costs approx. 40p from Asda) and these will be displayed in school. Some ideas will be uploaded to the school Facebook page if you need inspiration. Please send the spoon characters in on the day.
4. **Photographs** – we would love to receive photographs of your child sharing books with family, friends and others – wherever that might be! Please email these to the school email.

## 2019-2020 School Holidays

Schools are required to set professional development days each year – a time when staff undertake professional development and the school is closed to children. In setting the dates for the next academic year (Sept 2019 - July 2020) we have consulted with Governors to put these days together in a block, so parents could possibly benefit from a slightly extended closure and use this as an opportunity to book holidays at a cheaper rate than in normal school holiday time. We are giving you this information well in advance in a hope this may be beneficial in helping you choose your holiday dates and reduce the likelihood of incurring a fine from LA. As you know we are not able to authorise holidays at other times, unless in exceptional circumstances.

The planned dates when school will be closed for PD days in 2019-2020 are:

- **1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020** – these three days follow the May half term week (thus giving a slightly longer block)
- **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020** (holidays officially begin on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July)

## Polite Reminders:

- Attendance - Overall attendance for the autumn term was 94.7% - we are aiming to improve this, with your help, this term, to reach the government target of 96%. A reminder that we are **not** authorised to grant leave of absence in term time except for exceptional circumstances, and the Local Authority will now intervene if your child accrues **seven days or more** of unauthorised absence in a term (this includes ALL unauthorised absence – holidays and any unauthorised sessions, including lates after registration). Pupils whose



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attendance falls below 90% are classed as persistent absentees. Any absence must be supported by medical evidence. We will monitor this absence with the Local Authority. If you would like to discuss any concerns about attendance, please contact school.

- If your child is late after 15 minutes (9.10am) their absence is marked as unauthorised. Please ensure children arrive promptly at 8.55am, ready for the school day. Lessons begin immediately and if children are late they miss vital parts of phonics and reading lessons at the beginning of the day.
  - Please remind your child of the need to have their **PE kit** in school, in order to avoid detention!
  - Any child wishing to join the **school bank** and start saving each week, please see Mrs Harris – we collect and bank monies every week.
  - A reminder that we ask that parents **do not drive into school to drop off or pick up, including for breakfast club – especially into the staff car parking area** - unless by prior agreement with the headteacher. The speed limit for those with permission is 5mph – some parents are not adhering to this, unfortunately.
  - Remember we are able to offer parents **After School Care** via **Jack in the Box Day-care** – this runs from 3.15 – 5.45pm each night. Contact school for registration forms and cost information.
  - **Breakfast club** begins at 8am each day – we stop serving at 8.30am, in order to clear away.
  - Anyone interested in supporting **Friends of the School**, we would be grateful for the support. Please check with Mrs Spooner.

Mrs P Monk



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## Spring and Summer Dates - 2019

### March

5 Football tournament  
7 World Book Day  
8 Year 1 Stay and Read – 2.15pm  
14 Year 2 visit to Durham Cathedral  
22 Dance Festival

### Parent Meeting week (*appointment slips will be sent out next week*)

25 Year 2, Year 4, Year 6 – Afternoon session  
26 Year 3 – Afternoon session  
26 **Parent night** – whole school, **except Year 1 and Nursery**  
27 Year 1, Reception and Year 5 afternoon session  
27 **Year 1 Parent night**  
28 **Nursery – Parent night**  
  
27 Intra-school sport competition

### April

2 Class 3 Assembly – **INCORRECT DATE ON PREVIOUS LETTER - APOLOGIES**  
2 Netball Tournament  
3 Oriental Museum workshop – Year 3  
4 Easter Service – 2pm – St Andrew's Church  
5 **School closes for Easter break. Re-opens Tues 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019.**  
26 Year 5 Outdoor Orienteering and Activity session – Hardwick Park  
30 Reception class vision screening

### May

3 Year 2 Outdoor Orienteering and Activity session – Hardwick Park  
10 Year 3 Outdoor Orienteering and Activity session – Hardwick Park  
13-16 **Key Stage 2 SAT week** (Y6 breakfast club each day)  
21 Year 1 Class Assembly  
21 Primary Athletics festival  
24 Chef in school  
24 **School closes for half term – re-opens 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

### June

10-14 **Key Stage 1 Phonics check week**  
12 Year 6 Photographs  
14 Year 6 Multiskills Festival  
18 Tennis Tournament  
18 Super Splash Heroes Show  
25 Kinetic Theatre Show  
25 Year 2 class assembly

### July

8 Reception Class assembly  
8 Chef – Year 6  
15 Chef – Year 6  
12 Year 6 Fun Day  
17 Year 6 Leaver's Show  
19 School closes for Summer break. Re-opens Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

