

North Park Primary School



Bessemer Green,
Spennymoor,
Co. Durham
DL16 6PP

Head Teacher: Mrs P Monk
Deputy: Mrs E Atkinson
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E-mail: northpark@durhamlearning.net
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May Newsletter

Staffing news

- We would like to congratulate Miss Farley on her forthcoming marriage – she will return after the May week break as Mrs Swindells. We wish her and her husband David every happiness for the future.
- Miss Gallone will leave us at the end of this term to move to Dubai to work. We will be very sorry to see her go and would like to thank her for her hard work, energy and enthusiasm whilst teaching at North Park. Good Luck Miss Gallone and keep in touch – we will miss you!
- Miss Horan also leaves us at the end of this term to take up a new post in Durham – we will miss her and thank her for her hard work and enthusiasm whilst teaching in Year 5 this year. Good luck Miss Horan – keep in touch!
- We welcome a new member of staff to the team - Miss S Dowson joins us in September.
- We also welcome Mrs Nixon as our new cleaner.

Attendance: Attendance has improved this term and is now 96.4%. The Government target for schools is 96% so we are delighted to have reached this. Your support in helping us make sure we meet national targets is vital. It is especially important to make sure your child is punctual – lates beyond register are classified as an unauthorised absence. Please make sure your child is in school at 8.55am. School cannot authorise leave of absence unless in exceptional circumstances and the local authority will intervene if your child accrues **seven days or more** of unauthorised absence in a term.

Attendance for classes is:

Reception - 96.9%	Year 1 - 94.5%	Year 2 - 97.2%	
Year 3 - 97.1%	Year 4 - 98.5%	Year 5 - 95.5%	Year 6 - 95.4%

MUFTI days

The support we get from parents on these days allows us to provide little extras in school; recently it has helped us to subsidise some of the fantastic trips we have been on. Transport for these trips is very costly so your ongoing support is vital. Please continue to support the school – all we ask on these days is 50p per family. It really does make a difference.

PE Kits

A number of children do not arrive with a PE kit on their day in school. Please ensure your child has the appropriate kit, which includes a change of shoes, available in school. It is often a good idea to send it in at the beginning of the week and children can then have it on their peg until the end of the week. Whilst we do have some spare kit, we do not have sufficient for all children; children will also be sent to detention if they do not have their kits repeatedly. We appreciate your support in this.

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



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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:

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.

What's been happening in school? – as ever we continue to be busy, with lots going on!

- **EYFS** had a great day at Hall Hill Farm
- **Year 3 and 4 pupils** enjoyed their **Rugby** coaching and tournament, organised by Newcastle Falcons.
- **Year 4** enjoyed their invasion of **Richmond Castle** and the walk to **Easby Abbey**.
- It was lovely to join families at our **Easter Service** in April.
- **Eggcellent Eggs** – well done to everyone who entered the FOS competition!
- Well done to all our **award winners** – reading, handwriting, citizenship, homework and attendance – well deserved!
- We had two amazing days when **Adam Bushnell** visited school, working with all classes!
- **Year 6** pupils worked really hard on their SATs this month! Well done. We are proud of how hard you all tried.
- **Year 3** and **Year 5** pupils enjoyed their visits to **Hardwick Park**.
- **The Dental Hygienist** visited **Reception and Nursery** to tell us all about keeping our teeth clean.
- **Year 3 pupils** had a fabulous visit to the **Mandir and the Hancock Museum**.
- **Year 6** pupils visited the theatre at the end of SATs week and enjoyed the **Gangsta Granny** show before visiting **Barnes Park** – a lovely day!
- Thank you for your support for the **Book Fair** – we got £125 commission so have been able to get some great books for school.
- **EYFS** have had a busy time – visiting **Washington Wildfowl Park** and seeing the **Hungry Caterpillar**, before enjoying a visit to **Saltwell Park**.
- The **chef** has been in school to work with **Year 4 and 5 pupils** in DT week – delicious Mexican and Greek food!
- **KS2** pupils performed brilliantly at the **Athletics Festival** this week.
- **Year 1** pupils performed their fabulous assembly, with information, songs and stories all about plants!
- **Year 5 and 6** pupils will have a talk from the **PCSO** this week about safety.
- Our **Go-Givers** have had a visit from **Dementia Awareness** – they are fundraising for this charity.
- Mrs Spooner's class have enjoyed a visit to the **Farm**.

Reminders:

- Please can we ask parents **do not drive into the school yard** to drop off before Breakfast Club – most are very supportive of this safety rule; however some people are still driving in, which causes issues for staff arriving, deliveries, but most importantly for pupil safety. Thank you for your support with this.
- A reminder that After School Care via **Jack in the Box Daycare** is available each day in school– this runs from 3.15 – 5.45pm each night. Contact school for registration forms and cost information.

Have an enjoyable half term break!

Mrs P Monk



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Diary Dates - 2017

May

26 Year 5 and 6 Police Talks
26 School closed for half term. Re-opens 5th June.

June

6 Year 4 Farm Visit
7 Year 6 Emotional Wellbeing Transition Workshop
7 Year 5 visit to Whitworth Park
12 **Phonics test week – Year 1**
12 Year 5 Multi-skills festival
13 Sedgefield Dash
13 Robinwood Parent Meeting – 5.20pm
15 Year 6 photographs
15 Year 6 visit to FBEC
19 New Starters Parent Meeting
19 Waster and Recycling Assembly
27 NSPCC Assembly for KS1 and 2
28 Year 6 Farm Visit
29 Primary Olympics

July

3 Go Givers Presentation and Performance
4 NSPCC workshops for Year 5 and 6
4 Miss Bowron's Class – Farm visit
6 Move up morning and New Starters visit
6 Year 6 Chocolate Challenge
7 EYFS Family Assembly
11 New Starters visit
12 Year 2 Family Assembly
13 Year 6 Fun Day
14 Robinwood
17 Year 5 visit to FBEC
19 Year 6 Leaver's Show – 2pm
21 **School closes for summer. Reopens 6th September 2017.**

