

# North Park Primary School



Bessemer Green,  
Spennymoor,  
Co. Durham  
DL16 6PP

Head Teacher: Mrs P Monk  
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## November newsletter

### 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.** You may be eligible if you claim:

- Income support
- Income based jobseekers allowance
- Income-related employment and support allowance
- Child tax credit, provided you are not entitled to working tax credit or have an annual income that does not exceed £16160
- Guaranteed element of state pension credit
- Where a parent is entitled to working tax credit run-on
- Support under VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal credit

If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or 2, they are entitled to the universal free meal offer – however we still need you to complete the form so that when they move into Key Stage 2 they can continue to access the free school meal entitlement and so we can access the additional funds to help us maintain our pupil premium plans.

### Attendance

**Our current attendance is at 94.7% - this is below the expected 96% target for schools and we ask for your support in helping us maintain a good standard of attendance.**

- 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.
- Pupils whose attendance falls below 90% are classed as persistent absentees.
- Please ensure your child is in school on time – if your child is late after the register closes (9.10am) then this is classified as an unauthorised absence.
- Please try to make appointments outside of school hours wherever you can.
- If there is a genuine medical reason for absence, we ask for medical evidence to support this where it goes beyond a few days.
- 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.

If you have any concerns about attendance please contact school.

### Children in Need

A reminder – please return your colouring competition for Friday, along with 50p to enter the competition. In addition children can come in Non-Uniform for 50p each. All proceeds will go to Children in Need. Thank you.

### St Andrew's Church Fair

Raffle tickets for the church fair are on sale in Reception, if anyone would like to purchase some. The fair will be on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30am – our choir will be singing there.

### What's been happening in school?

- Year 3 visited the Centre for Life and the Mandir – they had a fabulous time and behaved beautifully.
- Year 2 had a great visit to the Word and Durham Cathedral – again we were so proud of their enthusiasm and interest.
- Year 6 pupils enjoyed finding out all about journalism with a visitor from the Northern Echo
- Year 4 took part in a Multi-Skills festival
- Year 3 had a great time cooking outdoors and finding out about how our Stone Age ancestors lived.
- Brilliant costumes and lots of fun at the Friends of the School Halloween Disco
- Year 2 performed for parents at their wonderful Family Assembly – well done!
- We all enjoyed lots of fun activities at our Golden Day – a reward for the hard work and enthusiasm of all the children.
- Year 1 enjoyed their visit to Beamish Museum – again all the children were a credit to the school and themselves.
- Perfect poetic performances from all the classes in assembly after Poetry week



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- Families and children have really enjoyed the stay and read sessions in school.
- Everyone enjoyed the Artyfact Theatre visit and the show – Eureka!
- This week children are undertaking activities as part of Anti-Bullying week.
- We look forward to seeing parents at the parent meetings this week – if you have been unable to make an appointment, please call school to arrange an alternative time.

## Reminders and forms:

- **PE kits** – it is important that your child has the correct kit on PE days – best to leave these in school and take them home at the end of the week to wash. A reminder that jewellery cannot be worn for PE – please remove this before coming to school.
- 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 politely ask that 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.

Mrs P Monk

## Diary Dates

### November

- 16 Year 4 and 5 Diversity workshops  
16 EYFS visit to the Clay Café  
17 Children in Need fundraising  
13-15 Parent meeting week (**appointment slips will be sent out**)  
**Nursery parent session** – 3.15-6pm - 14<sup>th</sup> November  
**Whole School Evening** - 3.15-6pm - 14<sup>th</sup> November  
**Afternoon sessions** (12.50-3.15pm)  
Years 1 and 3 - **13<sup>th</sup> November**  
Years 2, 4, 6 and Reception – **14<sup>th</sup> November**  
Year 5 – **15<sup>th</sup> November**  
21 Owl Man to visit Year 1  
21 Year 2 Stay and Read  
22 Year 6 visit to Eden Camp  
24 Year 2 Multi-Skills festival  
29 Year 4 Family Assembly  
30 Year 2 pupils to visit the Methodist Chapel – a Christmas Journey

### December

- 5 Gymnastics festival  
7 pupils up to Year 4 – visit to Santa in Town Hall  
8 Music show – Years 3, 4 and 5 – 10.30am  
8 Reception to Year 4 – Flu immunisations  
14 Christmas Lunch in school  
15 EYFS Christmas Craft morning  
15 Year 1 and 2 Christmas Show – 1.50pm  
18 Year 5 and 6 Christmas Carols, Crafts and Coffee Morning  
18 Year 1, 2 and 3 Party  
19 Year 3 and 4 Christmas Carols, Crafts and Coffee Morning  
19 EYFS Christmas Show  
20 Year 4, 5, 6 Party  
21 EYFS Christmas party – am  
21 Carol Service – St Andrew's Church  
22 **School closes. Re-opens Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018.**

