

# North Park Primary School



Bessemer Green,  
Spennymoor,  
Co. Durham  
DL16 6PP

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## December 2015 Newsletter

### Internet Safety

Many children will be getting new electronic toys and gadgets over Christmas – and it important to help them use them safely. The best way of protecting children is to play alongside them and help them learn safely, but setting up Parental Controls on new devices will provide additional safety. This website provides guidance on how to set this up on a wide range of devices.

<http://www.internetmatters.org/controls/interactive-guide/>



### Vandalism

We have experienced quite a lot of vandalism, despite our efforts and camera installation; this is especially on the school roof. We are working with Durham Police to meet some of the perpetrators, who have been caught and charged, and will discuss the problems they are causing. We have had to replace doors in the EYFS unit and roof tiles, and the costs are now running into the thousands. This is money that would otherwise be spent on the children, and it is very frustrating when our lovely school is spoilt by these mindless acts. I would urge parents to be vigilant when school is closed and please ring the police immediately if anyone is in the school grounds.

### Year 5 – Mrs Henderson

We say a fond, but temporary farewell to Mrs Henderson next week, as she leaves to have her baby. We are looking forward to meeting the new arrival next term! In the meantime Miss Walker, an experienced Year 5 practitioner, will be joining school to cover during Mrs Henderson's absence, teaching in Year 5 and also across other classes in school – we welcome her into North Park.

### What's been happening in school? **Lots! We have been VERY busy!**

- Fair trade – well done - £110.15p was raised through the Fair Trade Tuck Shop. Thank you for your support.
- Year 1 and 2 – performed their wonderful play today – a real treat! Fabulous singing and acting – well done. We are looking forward to the Carol service, the craft and coffee mornings and the EYFS productions next week.
- Year 5 Family Assembly- a fantastic journey through space – thank you for attending the assembly.
- KS2 X-Factor Christmas sing-along – voices were in full swing this week, as classes performed for each other alongside MR Waites, our Music specialist. A wonderful performance from everyone!
- EYFS Christmas Craft Morning – the delicious smell of baking Christmas cakes filled the school leading up to the craft morning. The children had a lovely time!
- Change for Life Club celebration event – well done to all those children who have been keeping fit with Miss Welch at Breakfast Club – a great afternoon, enjoyed by everyone.
- Durham Gate Christmas Lights turn on – carol singing. Despite the terrible weather, the singing group sang beautifully and thank you all those parents who turned out to provide a soggy, but appreciative audience!
- EYFS trip to Beamish – and guess who was there? Santa called in to make the day a special treat.



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- Years Nursery to Year 4 visited Santa in the Town Hall – lots of goodies given as gifts from Spennymoor Town Council.
- KS1 Gymnastics Festival – a great display – well done to all those who took part.
- Year 2 and Year 6 Stay and Read Coffee Mornings – it was lovely to see parents supporting us and spending some time reading and chatting about books with children.
- Year 5 trip to Centre for Life – a fabulous guide to the outer reaches of Space and a trip around the centre.
- Year 5 Enterprise Event at Sunderland Stadium of Light – well done for the fabulous designs and for making us proud of you as you all delivered your presentations.
- Year 6 Safety Carousel – many important aspects covered in this visit.
- Anti-Bullying week events and Roadshow
- Youth Forum – the school council attended and worked with other schools to design a **Speed-draw** animation on E-safety. Look out for this on our school website soon.
- Year 2 visited Rosa Street Chapel to take a 'Christmas Journey'
- Year 5 and 6 pupils did an amazing job at the Athletics Festival, making it to the final too! Well done!
- Year 4 invaded South Shields, visiting the Roman Fort of Arbeia to find out more about the Romans.

## Reminders:

**Attendance:** A reminder that the Government has now changed the level at which children are deemed as a persistent absentee from 85% to 90%. In accordance with the changes the Local Authority has also changed the threshold at which they intervene via statutory enforcement. As you already know, 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 more than **seven days** of unauthorised absence in a term.

**Fruit:** children in KS1 have fruit each day and fruit is available for children in KS2 at a charge of 20p each day.

**Jack in the Box Daycare** – available for after school care from 3.15 – 5.45pm each night. Contact school for registration forms.

*Finally I would like to wish everyone, on behalf of all the staff, a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous, peaceful New Year.*

Mrs P Monk  
11.12.15



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## Diary Dates

### December

14 Year 5 and 6 Christmas Carol, Craft and Coffee Morning  
14 Year 1, 2 and 3 Christmas Party  
15 Year 3 and 4 Christmas Carol, Craft and Coffee Morning  
16 EYFS Nativity Show – St Andrew's Church  
16 Year 4, 5 and 6 Christmas Party  
17 EYFS Christmas Party Morning  
17 Carol Service – St Andrew's Church – 2pm  
18 Christmas Jumper Day – proceeds to charity  
18 Christmas Dinner Day  
18 School closes for end of term. Re-opens 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

### January

5 School re-opens  
12 Year 5 and 6 Basketball taster sessions  
18&19 Adam Bushnell – Author – in school  
28 Year 5 and 6 Basketball Festival – Whitworth Park

### February

3 Year 4 Family Assembly – 10.10am  
8-12 Multi-Cultural Week  
8 Chef in School – Year 2 and Year 5  
9 Safer Internet Day  
9 Key Steps Gymnastics Festival  
11 Chef in School – Years 1, 3, 4 and 6  
11 Year 5 – Chinese Artist – Lip Lee  
15-19 **HALF TERM – SCHOOL CLOSED**  
22 School re-opens  
**22-25 – Parent Meeting Week**  
22 Morning session – Year 2 and Year 5  
23 Morning session – Year 1 and Year 4  
23 Afternoon session – Reception  
23 After school – whole school  
24 Morning Session – Year 3 and Year 6

### March

3 World Book Day  
9 Year 2 Football Tournament  
15 Taekwondo taster session – Year 1 and 2  
16 Year 3 Family Assembly – 10.10am  
21 Year 5 visit to Bede's World  
22 Dance Festival  
24 Easter Service – St Andrew's Church – 2pm – to be confirmed

