

North Park Primary School



Bessemer Green,
Spennymoor,
Co. Durham
DL16 6PP

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March 2016 Newsletter

Building work:

Our extension will begin in the Easter holidays. This is an exciting time for us and means we will have more places in school. Inevitably, however, there will be some disruption in school, although we will endeavour to keep this to a minimum and ask for your patience and understanding. DCC aim to have all work completed for September. At all times we will be liaising with the building team in school and ensuring children are kept safe; we will also organise for some safety talks for the children. Work will start in the Easter holidays and will continue throughout the summer term; we hope the following information will be useful to parents and carers regarding the build:

- **Building** – this will involve installing a new yard area on part of the school field, building 3 more rooms in the area that is currently the KS1 yard and extending the hall into the ICT suite. The infant yard will be out of bounds for the entire build, and part of the junior yard will be blocked off to allow for access. Alternative access will be organised so we will still be able to use the field. The work in the hall will take place in the summer holidays so will not disrupt the day to day running of the school.
- **Access gate:** The main access for workers and machinery will be from the Rushmore car park area. Please be mindful of this as there may be some congestion in parking; wherever possible we would advise and encourage parents to walk and avoid parking there. There will be no access to the small gate or to the bike shed, so **no bikes, scooters**, etc. will be allowed into school until September. All children, other than Reception and Nursery, should enter the yard via the main double gates.
- **Reception class** – after the Easter holidays we ask that all Reception children are brought in via the Nursery entrance. This is because access around the rear of the building will be blocked during the building work. Please also collect children at home time via this door. If you have other children in school to pick up we ask that you then make your way around to the yard (they will not be allowed to come through school because of supervision and congestion), where teachers will bring them to meet you. In order to keep our youngest pupils safe whilst exiting from Nursery please **there will be no access to the school car park from 8.30am - 9.15am and from 3 – 3.30pm** (unless by prior arrangement). Mrs Wayman will have her cones out as usual, please do not drive through her cones.

Parent Governor – After the recent election we are pleased to welcome Mrs Maxine Blackett as a parent Governor.

Parent Questionnaires – Thank you for your support and for sending in your responses to the recent parent survey. We are delighted with the overwhelmingly positive response we have had to the questions, and have also considered the comments made on questionnaires; the feedback is very useful to us and allows us to reflect on policies and practices in place; the majority of responses were 'agree', with a small number who said 'don't know' (no disagree responses). Responses were as follows (agree):

1. **My child is happy** – 98%
2. **My child feels safe** – 100%
3. **My child makes good progress** – 98%
4. **My child is well looked after** – 100%
5. **My child is taught well** – 100%
6. **My child receives appropriate homework** – 98%
7. **School makes sure pupils are well behaved** – 90%. One parent said they were unsure of policies related to behaviour – these are available on the school website.
8. **School deals effectively with bullying** - 79%. All other responses were 'don't know' as parents told us they have not had any issues of bullying to deal with. One parent said they were unsure of policies in relation to bullying – these are available on the school website.
9. **School is well led and managed** – 94%. One 'don't know' response related to after school clubs; these are organised by Jack in the Box, so please ask for details from the Jack-in-the-Box staff.
10. **School responds to concerns I raise** – 90%. Other responses were 'don't know' as parents told us they had never raised any concerns.
11. **I receive valuable information about progress** – 100%



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12. ***I would recommend this school to another parent*** – 100%.

We are proud of the partnerships we have with parents and carers and if there is anything that you would like to discuss individually with teachers or myself in relation to your child, please contact school.

Travel Plan

Parents, Staff and Governors met to review and update the travel plan. Previous targets to build a bicycle shed have been met. A discussion was held regarding ongoing issues related to parking and comments will be passed on to the police to continue to monitor this.

No unauthorised vehicles should use the school car park, unless by prior arrangement/appointment, or in an emergency. We do realise that in reality parents drive into school when dropping off at breakfast club at 8am and picking up when after school club is finished. The vast majority of people who do this are sensible and considerate and do not park dangerously or restrict staff access, but we would ask that if you drop off early, you insist your child uses the paths to come into school, not to come across the car park – safety is our most important concern. Anyone who has to drive into school (for example in an emergency) is reminded that the speed limit is 5mph. If the cones are out please do not come up the drive to the school entrance.

In addition the school will be writing to the council to enquire about changing the speed limit outside of school to 20mph and to improve the signage in order to guarantee our children's safety. Wherever possible, we ask that families please consider walking to school – this improves pupil (and adult) fitness, our environment and most importantly safety.

What's been happening in school?

- Year 3 delivered a fabulous family assembly this week – well done to everyone!
We had a lovely stay and read morning, followed by the Fair Trade Coffee Morning – thank you for everyone who joined us to enjoy a cuppa and a fair trade bake!
- Year 1 and 2 enjoyed a Taekwondo taster session this week.
- Year 5 children have been to visit the Methodist Chapel for a fabulous Easter Journey.
A group of children from Year 4, 5 and 6 visited Toft Hill Primary School to undertake a smoothie making challenge, alongside pupils from other primaries in the county. Well done – first prize to our children for their fabulous design and presentation!
- EYFS had a lovely Mother's Day tea – delicious cakes shared by all!
- Thank you for the kind donations for World Book day and the fabulous costumes the children wore!

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. If you have any concerns about attendance please contact school or the EWO Jen Quigley on 03000 261113 (Ferryhill One Point)

After School Care - Jack in the Box Daycare – available for after school care from 3.15 – 5.45pm each night. Contact school for registration forms and cost information.

Mrs P Monk
18.3.16



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Diary Dates

March

- 21 EYFS and KS1 Farmyard Flier
- 22 KS1 SATs – Parent Meeting – 5.15pm
- 22 Dance Festival
- 24 Easter Service – St Andrew's Church – 2pm

School closes for Easter break at 3.16pm, Thursday 24th March. Re-opens 8.55am Monday 11th April.

April

- 14 Year 4 trip to Richmond Castle and Easby Abbey
- 19 Father John Assembly
- 29 Year 3 Outdoor Orienteering – Hardwick Park

May

- 9-12 KS2 SATs week
- 13 Year 2 Outdoor Orienteering – Hardwick Park
- 23-27 Design and Make week – DT challenges
- 24 Chef in school – Year 4
- 25 Chef in school – Year 5
- 26 Year 1 Family Assembly
- 27 **School closed for Staff training and half term holiday. Re-opens Monday 6th June.**

June

- 7 Father John Assembly
- 13-17 Phonics Week – Year 1 and 2 testing
- 13-17 Science week
- 17 Kinetic Theatre – Electricity Show
- 20 Year 6 Primary Maths Challenge
- 20 Reception Class – New Starter's Parent Meeting
- 22 Spennymoor Schools' Conference
- 23 Year 6 Induction visit to Whitworth Park
- 23 Reception Class – New Starters visit morning
- 23 Move-up Morning – whole school
- 24 Year 5 Outdoor Orienteering – Hardwick Park
- 27 Robinwood – Parent Meeting 5pm.
- 29 Year 2 Family Assembly

July

- 1 Reception Class – New Starters' visit morning
- 4 Go Giver's Celebration Event – Year 5
- 6 Whole school trip to South Shields - TBC
- 8 Year 6 Fun Day
- 12 Year 5 theatre visit – the Groovy Greeks
- 14 Year 6 Show
- 15-17 Robinwood residential visit
- 19 School closes for end of term.

