

North Park Primary School

'Achieving and growing, together in friendship.'



Bessemer Green,
Spennymoor,
Co. Durham
DL16 6PP

Head Teacher: Mrs P Monk
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November Newsletter

Latest news

- **Crossing Patrol** – Durham County Council (who employ the Crossing Patrol Officer) have informed me that we still do not have a replacement crossing patrol officer this term. Please continue to be very careful when crossing the road – we have asked the local police to undertake speeding checks when they can as an added precaution.
- **Attendance reviews have been undertaken** – we have had a couple of nasty bugs in the last half term and attendance has been significantly affected – **attendance this half term is 94.02%** – below the government target of 96%. Letters will be coming out soon requesting medical evidence for any absences if your child's attendance has fallen below 90% (appointment cards or other medical information). Absence may be because of illness, but is also impacted because of unauthorised holidays. Unauthorised absences are reviewed by the Local Authority and may result in the LA issuing a warning or fixed penalty notice. A Durham LA Attendance Factsheet is enclosed for your information. A reminder about **Holiday requests** - 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 not accounted for, including late after registration).
- A reminder that we have a child in school with a nut **allergy**. Please bear this in mind when organising packed lunches for children (particularly those pupils in Year 3). **Please avoid putting nut based products and nuts (e.g. Nutella etc.) into packed lunches.** School will take precautions to avoid possible cross-contamination and contact, and your support with this would be very much appreciated. For those pupils on packed lunch we do not allow sweets of any kind, fizzy drinks or pop – the packed lunch policy is available on the school website.
- The **Friends of the School** will be holding a **Christmas Raffle** – donations of any prizes for this would be gratefully received. Raffle tickets will be on sale at the Christmas Fair and other events in school. The **Christmas Fair** will take place after school on 4th December – some super stalls will be available for Christmas purchases! We look forward to seeing you there.
- We have had a report of children running around the roads outside the youth club at the end of term, straight after school. I know a few children go along on Friday evenings to the Youth Club session which starts at 3.30pm – however this means any children going straight there after school unsupervised by parents need to be extra careful. Please can you have a chat with your child if they go along to youth club to wait inside the fence and not to chase around near cars? We do not wish for any accidents to happen as cars leave the car park area after school.
- We are delighted to have been awarded the **Gold School Games Award** and the **Music Mark**, celebrating the school's success in these areas.
- An updated list of dates is attached to the newsletter. Please remember to ensure you book your appointment to see your child's teacher in parent meeting week.

Children have enjoyed lots of activities in a busy October!

- We enjoyed our lovely Harvest Festival in St Andrew's Church – thank you so much for your food donations, which we have sent to the Foodbank
- Reception class also gave us a lovely rendition of their harvest work – super singing and storytelling! Well done!
- The children enjoyed their visit from the NSPCC to learn about their Speak out, Stay safe campaign; pupils in Year 5 and 6 attended follow-up workshops.
- Year 6 enjoyed a super visit from the LA to further their exploration of climate change. They passed on lots about what they have learned in their fabulous class assembly! Well done to the climate change rockstars!
- Year 3 enjoyed a brilliant Stone Age cooking day – learning all about cooking outside.
- Year 2 enjoyed a superb visit to Durham Cathedral, undertaking workshops there to learn all about St Cuthbert.
- Year 1 were fascinated by the amazing creatures brought along by Zoo Lab!
- All of the children have enjoyed Judo Taster sessions.
- Year 2 enjoyed an afternoon of dance and gymnastics



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- Thank you to Friends of the School for organising the Halloween Disco.
- Reception and Nursery classes enjoyed their spooky Halloween party.
- Year 1 enjoyed a visit to Durham Town Hall to see Jabberbabble! A brilliant show!
- Year 5 and 6 pupils loved their visit to Greenfield Arts Centre to see Macbeth!

Reminders

- **2019-2020 School Holidays** - remember some of our professional development days are blocked together so families can benefit from a slightly extended closure and use this as an opportunity to book holidays at a cheaper rate. The planned dates when school will be closed for PD days in 2019-2020 are:
 - **1st, 2nd, 3rd June 2020** – these three days follow the May half term week (thus giving a slightly longer block)
 - **Monday 20th July 2020**
- Any child wishing to join the **school bank** and start saving each week, please see Mrs Harris in September – we collect and bank monies every week and it is a wonderful way for children to save up.
- 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**.
- **Breakfast club** begins at 8am – staff are not in school to supervise before this time – please avoid arriving earlier, unless supervised.
- Remember we 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.

Mrs P Monk
4.11.19



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Autumn Term dates – 2019

November

- 4 Schools re-opens**
4 Mad Alice Theatre Show – Key Stage 2 – Rose and Robin
4 Poetry week
5 Reception and Year 6 pupils' height and weight screening checks
5 Year 3 – Kirtida Dhasi visit – Hinduism workshop
7 Year 3 and 4 Invasion Games coaching
8 Year 4 Bikeability
8 DLI workshop for Year 6 pupils
10 Remembrance Sunday Parade
11 Anti-bullying week
- 11-14 **Parent Meetings week** - please book appointments with your child's class teacher.
11 – afternoon session – Year 1, Year 3
12 – afternoon session – Year 2, Year 6
12 – Whole School Parent evening, including Nursery parents (**NOT** Reception class)
13 – afternoon session – Reception, Year 5
13 – evening session – Reception Class
14 – afternoon session – Year 4
- 12 Reception class Stay and Read – 2.15pm.
13 Year 2 – A Christmas Journey – Methodist Church
14 Football tournament
15 Year 3 Stay and Read – 2.15pm
16 Choir perform at St Andrew's Church Fair
19 Nursery Stay and Read – 11am
19 Year 5 visit to Yorvik Viking Centre
21 Year 5 Family Assembly
21 Year 2 Warburton's sandwich making workshop
22 Year 1 Warburton's sandwich making workshop
22 Year 2 Multi-skills
27 Year 5 visit to Whitworth Park Academy

December

- 3 Year 3, 4 and 5 Theatre Visit – Snow Queen
3 Year 6 Gym Festival
4 Friends of the School Christmas Fair – after school
9 Nursery parents craft session
9 Year 1, 2 and 3 Christmas Movie Night
10 Nursery to Year 4 visit to Town Hall – Santa's Grotto
11 Year 5 visit to Appleton Lodge – music and steel drumming session
11 Year 3, 4 and 5 Christmas Movie Night
12 Reception Performance – Nativity Show
13 Christmas Jumper day and Christmas Lunch Day
16 Year 5 and 6 Craft, Carols and Coffee morning
16 Year 1, 2, 3 Christmas Party
17 EYFS Party - am
18 Year 2 Christingle Show and Year 1 Christmas Music Show
18 Year 4, 5, 6 Christmas Party
19 EYFS – theatre visit to Northern Stage
19 Year 3 and 4 Craft, Carols and Coffee morning
19 Carol Service – St Andrew's Church – 2pm – families welcome
20 School closes for the break and re-opens January 6th 2020.



SCHOOL MEMBER

