

# 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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## December Newsletter

### **Children have enjoyed lots of lovely activities in a busy November!**

- KS2 enjoyed a visit from the Mad Alice Theatre Company
- Year 3 pupils loved learning all about Hinduism from their special visitor, Kirtida Dhasi
- Year 5 have been practising steel drumming in preparation for a visit to Appleton Lodge. The children have found out a lot about Alzheimers as part of their community work this term.
- Year 3 and 4 have enjoyed coaching sessions and after school clubs practising skills in Invasion Games.
- Year 3 and 4 pupils had the opportunity to develop their Bikeability Skills.
- The DLI came into school and Year 6 pupils had a fantastic morning learning about the war.
- All the classes loved Poetry week – amazing performances of poems at the end of their studies.
- Pupils learnt about how to deal with E-safety in Anti-Bullying week, and the importance of telling an adult.
- Children across school have enjoyed stay and read sessions – thank you to those of you who could attend. It is vitally important that children develop their fluency and reading skills, and of course we promote a love of reading and enjoyment of books across our whole curriculum! Please encourage your child to develop good habits in their reading.
- Pupils in Year 4 enjoyed a Wellbeing Festival this term – learning about how to keep physically and mentally well!
- Year 2 pupils loved visiting the Methodist Church to enjoy the Christmas Journey.
- Year 5 and 6 pupils performed brilliantly at the Football Festival – super feedback!
- Year 5 had a fabulous visit to Yorvik Viking Museum – learning loads about the Invaders and Settlers! Afterwards they delivered all this information to a packed house in their amazing family assembly – brilliant!
- School Council members hosted a sessions with pupils from Kirk Merrington School, telling them all about their good work and sharing their great ideas.
- Pupils in Year 1 and 2 were treated to a superb sandwich making workshop courtesy of Warburton's. Delicious!
- Year 2 kept fit in their Multi-Skills session.
- Well done to the whole school and to the pupils from SSOC – we love our Gold School Games Award!
- Year 5 enjoyed a visit to Whitworth Park School
- Year 1 have been learning all about the Church as part of their RE work with a visit to St Andrew's.
- Well done to the School Choir who attended St. Andrew's Church Fair and performed their Christmas songs – a lovely start to the event!
- Mr and Mrs Logan were really proud to take some children along to the town's Remembrance Service this last month to lay a wreath. Our thanks in raising funds for this cause too.

### **We now look forward to an even busier December!**

#### **Latest news**

- Staff changes - our congratulations to **Mrs Hutchinson**, who has been successful in her application for a new job. We will be sad to see her go this month and will miss her, but we wish her well in her new career. We will also be sad to see **Mrs Cope** leave at the end of this month, as she moves to a new school – again we wish her well in her new role.
- **Reverse Advent Calendar** – as a way of both saving costs and helping others, we have decided to encourage the children and their families to think about not spending lots of money on Christmas cards this year – instead we thought you would prefer to donate spare change and/or the money that would have been spent on buying those cards to charity. We are hoping to raise as much as we can to purchase a **Christmas Lunch for homeless** people at Christmas, and will send all donations (from families and staff) to the **People's Kitchen** in Newcastle, who will be providing a Christmas Meal for those in need this year for £5 per person. We look forward to your support with this appeal and thank you in anticipation – if we collected £1 from everyone we could purchase 50 Christmas dinners!
- We are also supporting two other appeals this coming December – **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Dec. is Christmas Sock day** – 50p to wear Christmas Socks; donations to Teenage Cancer Trust. **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December is Christmas Jumper Day**– 50p to wear your Christmas jumper – donations to Save the Children.



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- It is vitally important that children are at school on time each morning; school begins at **8.55am** and phonics and reading lessons begin as soon as children are in class – if children are late they are missing important teaching time. Please ensure a prompt morning start. Lateness is also recorded and could impact on your child's overall attendance.
- The **Friends of the School Christmas Fair takes place on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December** – come along to our stalls and support the event. Refreshments are available, as well as a wide range of stalls selling crafts, cakes, toiletries, candles, homeware, books, sweets. In addition Hesse Photography will be hosting Christmas Mini-Shoots (props provided!).
- The **Christmas Raffle** is also running in the next few weeks – amazing prizes, including first prize of Christmas in Box, as well as a huge amount of donations from local business, including beauty vouchers, restaurant vouchers, children's activity vouchers and many more.

## Reminders

- A reminder that we do not allow fizzy drinks, pop or sweets in packed lunches. These will be confiscated and returned to children to take home (please see the Packed Lunch Policy). Water and milk is freely available at lunchtimes.
- Please also remember 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.
- 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).
- **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:
  - **1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020** – these three days follow the May half term week (thus giving a slightly longer block)
  - **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> 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  
2.12.19



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## December dates – 2019

### December

3	Year 3, 4 and 5 Theatre Visit – The Snow Queen
3	Year 6 Gym Festival
4	Friends of the School Christmas Fair – 3.30pm
9	Christmas Sock Day – 50p
9	Nursery parents - Christmas Craft session
9	Year 1, 2 and 3 Christmas Movie Night – tickets available until 6.12.19 - £1.50
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 – tickets available until 6.12.19 - £1.50
12	Reception Christmas Performance – 2pm
13	Christmas Jumper Day (50p) 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 – 9.15am
18	Year 1 Christmas Music Show – 10.30am
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	<b>School closes for the break and re-opens January 6<sup>th</sup> 2020.</b>

### January 2020

6	<b>School re-opens.</b>
10	Skipping Day
14	Year 1 Multi-Skills
21	Year 5 and 6 Basketball
28	Reception Visit to Pizza Express

### February

3	National Storytelling week
10	Multi-cultural week
11	Year 3 and 4 Dance and Gym Festival
11	Image Theatre – Robin Hood
14	<b>School closes for half term</b>
24	<b>School re-opens</b>

### March

5	World Book Day
24 and 25	Parent meetings – evening sessions

### April

3	<b>School closes</b>
20	<b>School re-opens</b>

