

North Park Primary School



Bessemer Green,
Spennymoor,
Co. Durham
DL16 6PP

Head Teacher: Mrs P Monk
Deputy: Mrs E Atkinson

Tel: 01388 815943

Fax: 01388 815260

E-mail: northpark@durhamlearning.net

Web-site: www.northpark.durham.sch.

December Newsletter 2018

What's been happening?

- Well done to all our amazing super savers – those children who have been saving in the school bank each week have all received an extra £5 bonus, thanks to Livin – that's 18 of our children! Fabulous saving!
- All the children enjoyed Poetry week and performed brilliant poetry in the showcase assembly
- We thoroughly enjoyed our visit from the Artyfact Theatre
- Children in school all enjoyed taking part in Judo taster sessions
- The book fair in school helped raise £50 in commission towards books for school – thank you.
- Your kind generosity also helped raise £184 for Children in Need – thank you so much.
- Year 6 have enjoyed a fantastic visit to Eden Camp, and took along their designs for the Poppy display.
- Children in school also attended the town Poppy Parade – school laid a wreath in remembrance.
- Year 5 pupils have thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Seven Stories to work with the author.
- The Owl Man visited Year 1 – he brought along his lovely birds and children all enjoyed learning about them and the chance to hold one.
- Year 5 and 6 pupils enjoyed a cycling session in school
- The chef, Sarah, visited Year 5 to introduce us to the lovely cuisine of Greece.
- Year 6 pupils have been upskilled in all aspects of Safety after their visit to the Carousel
- Year 2 have enjoyed a Multiskills session
- Year 3 pupils had a brilliant Stone Age cooking day, linked to their History work – cold and messy but really enjoyable!
- Year 5 pupils presented a wonderful class assembly, all about Ernest Shackleton – brilliant written work!

Nursery Provision

As we currently only have a small cohort we have been offering morning only Nursery provision (15 hours). However some working parents who are entitled to 30 hours have now enquired whether we could offer full days and we have had some expressions of interest. At present I am reviewing the feasibility of offering full days, to see if we have enough interest to be able to fund staffing. If anyone is interested and eligible, and would like a 30 hour place, please can you let Mrs Harris know; I will let you know if we have enough interest in order to offer this to families in future.

Parent Survey

Thank you very much to the parents who took the time to complete the recent survey. We have collated the information and I would like to thank you for the many positive responses and comments we received. The information is very useful and will be shared with staff and governors. Results show the following proportion of parents who responded answered **yes** to questions:

- *My child is happy – 98 %*
- *My child feels safe –96% - one parent pointed out the need for teaching about hygiene*
- *My child makes good progress – 98%*
- *My child is well looked after –98%*
- *My child is taught well –98%*
- *My child receives appropriate homework –94% - a couple of parents told us they would like more challenging homework*
- *School makes sure pupils are well behaved -100%*
- *School deals effectively with bullying –86% - others told us they did not know as they had not had to raise a concern*
- *School is well led and managed –98%*
- *School responds to concerns I raise -98 %*
- *I receive valuable information about progress -100 %*
- *I would recommend this school to another parent –100%*



North Park Primary School



Bessemer Green,
Spennymoor,
Co. Durham
DL16 6PP

Head Teacher: Mrs P Monk
Deputy: Mrs E Atkinson

Tel: 01388 815943

Fax: 01388 815260

E-mail: northpark@durhamlearning.net

Web-site: www.northpark.durham.sch.

All comments are recorded and discussed. Some points raised included:

- Homework – one parent responded to say they would like more challenging homework and another about the difficulty supporting with this when working shifts; this included difficulty in signing reading books.

Listening to your child read, especially in the earlier school years, is vitally important. As a child becomes more independent, establishing good habits is crucial. Rather than hearing them read every word, ask them to chat about what they have read and help them check vocabulary meaning with you, or in a dictionary; it may not be necessary to hear them read every page – we can check this too at school when they quiz. This should help you be able to sign their books regularly, and remember, any adult who is caring for them can listen and sign – especially if you are at work in the evening!

I will continue to review the homework being set with staff and ensure it challenges and engages children – it is an opportunity for them to have a try at home. Let the teacher know if you have any concerns.

- A parent mentioned the need to teach children to wash hands regularly – particularly in relation to the recent virus we have had in school. Please rest assured staff are vigilant in getting children to wash their hands – especially younger children. Children are directly taken to the toilet to wash hands before lunch and supervised in doing this in the infants. As soon as children come in from outside play in EYFS they are also taken to wash their hands. Older children are also reminded to wash hands and are directed to do so after any activities.

In relation to the recent virus we have stopped messy play and liaised with Public Health England in order to monitor and track the recent virus outbreak. I would also remind parents not to send children in for 48 hours after the virus hits to ensure it is out of the child's system. Cleaning staff have also used bleach products to cleanse school, as advised, and we alert parents as soon as a child feels unwell.

Hygiene is a part of the curriculum in school and we teach this as a unit as part of PSHCE week every year. We also remind children of hygiene in assemblies. Learning these hygiene rules at home also reinforces this.

- One parent mentioned that school could deal with parents swearing, smoking and driving into school more. I share your frustration when this happens – I would ask parents to take responsibility when around children and support school in refraining from this behaviour. I try wherever possible to speak directly to parents if I am aware of swearing and also send reminders out. I send reminders by text and on monthly newsletters about not driving into school (unless authorised by the Headteacher) and the school is a no smoking site so parents should not be smoking on site or nearby.
- Parents are sometimes not informed of activities in time – we try our hardest to ensure events are communicated in a timely manner and I apologise if this has not been the case. Monthly newsletters have an **updated** diary that is added to each month and any changes are made to this. Once in a while we are asked to undertake tasks at short notice too – I am keen for children to take part in whatever activities are sent our way, as they enjoy so many community events – however I will ask staff to bear this in mind when planning future events and try and ensure you are given as much notice as possible.
- One parent asked for detention information and information about progress more often. At present we have parent meetings in the autumn and spring terms and a report is sent home in the summer. If you are concerned about any aspect of your child's progress please speak to the teacher. As far as detentions go we monitor these and if we feel the number of times a child is in detention is too much, the class teacher endeavours to speak to parents. I will ask teachers to be vigilant in checking this and sending messages home.

If you feel there is any matter you would like to discuss that I have not been able to cover in this newsletter in relation to individual pupils, please feel free to contact school directly.

Administration of medication in school

We have recently reviewed and updated our guidance on **administration of medication** – full details can be found on the school website. If your child needs medicine to be administered in school, please note the following guidance:



North Park Primary School



Bessemer Green,
Spennymoor,
Co. Durham
DL16 6PP

Head Teacher: Mrs P Monk
Deputy: Mrs E Atkinson

Tel: 01388 815943

Fax: 01388 815260

E-mail: northpark@durhamlearning.net

Web-site: www.northpark.durham.sch.

- Medication **MUST** be brought into and collected from the main office in school by an adult. Medication must be signed in and out of the main entrance office. **Children cannot be given medication to bring into school or to take this home themselves.**
- The adult must complete a **form** to detail the management of the medication in school, alongside a member of staff.
- **ONLY** medication **prescribed by a doctor**, with clear guidelines detailing dosage etc. can be accepted. We cannot administer any over-the-counter medication. We cannot administer over the counter painkillers. Parents may come into school to administer these, if necessary.
- **Children are not permitted to carry or administer medication themselves.** This includes items such as Lipsyl – this is NOT permitted in school as we have been advised it may contain traces of nut and is therefore a risk to our pupils with allergies. However if a lip balm is needed (ideally this should not be the case) then ONLY tubs or tins of pure Vaseline (e.g. Blue tin) are permitted. Any other lip salves will be confiscated.
- **We will only administer medication as detailed on the completed forms** – we will not administer missed dosage, etc. or continue medication beyond the date when the course is meant to be completed. Administration of missed dosage is parents' responsibility.
- If this is the first time a child has been prescribed medication, it is recommended they stay at home for the first day – this is to ensure they have no adverse reaction to a new kind of medication (obviously not necessary if they begin medicine over a weekend).
- Medication will only be administered if needed **four** times a day or if it specifically states that it must be taken at a certain time (e.g. at lunch) – if medication is needed three times a day this should be given before school, after school and at bedtime.
- Parents should consider asking their pharmacy for a **split prescription** if medication is needed during school hours – this way there is no need to sign in and out each day.
- **ALL** medication, including inhalers, will be signed back to parents for the six week holiday period. Medication should be collected at the main entrance.

Reminders:

- Any child wishing to join the **school bank** and start saving each week, please see Mrs Harris – we collect and bank monies every week.
- Please remember to avoid nut based products in packed lunches – for those pupils on packed lunch we do not allow sweets of any kind, fizzy drinks or pop.
- Please remember **reading books and bags** should be returned to school every day so we can hear children read, change books and encourage progress reading.
- 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.
- 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; 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. The speed limit for those with permission is 5mph – some parents are not adhering to this, unfortunately.

Mrs P Monk
3.12.18



North Park Primary School



Bessemer Green,
Spennymoor,
Co. Durham
DL16 6PP

Head Teacher: Mrs P Monk
Deputy: Mrs E Atkinson

Tel: 01388 815943

Fax: 01388 815260

E-mail: northpark@durhamlearning.net

Web-site: www.northpark.durham.sch.

Diary Dates for the remainder of the Autumn Term

December

4	Gymnastics festival
5	DLI workshop – Year 6
6	Year 2 stay and play – 2.15pm
7	Reception to Year 5 Flu Immunisations
10	Reception and Year 6 Height and weight screening
11	Tilly Two Tales – RE workshops across school
11	Year 5 pupils – Life Centre, school based workshop
12	Nursery to Year 4 visits to Santa in Town Hall
13	Year 2 – Christmas Journey – visit to Methodist Chapel
14	Year 1 and 2 Show -2pm
17	Year 5 and 6 Carol, Craft and Coffee Morning – 9-10.30am
17	Year 1, 2 and 3 Disco – pm
18	Nursery Christmas Activity morning
18	Year 3 and 4 Carol, Craft and Coffee Morning – 9-10.30am
19	EYFS Show – 10am
19	Year 4, 5 and 6 Disco – pm
20	Reception and Nursery party and magic show – pm
20	Carol Service – St Andrew's Church – Year 1 to 6 – 2pm
21	Christmas Jumper Day (50p per child to charity)
21	School closes

Spring Term Dates

January 2019

Tuesday 8 th -	School reopens for teaching purposes
10	KS1 PE coaching starts – 5 weeks; Year 1 and 2 pupils must have a PE kit
16	Year 1 Multiskills
16	Y5 Beamish Museum – outreach programme workshop in school
18	Year 6 visit to Tyneside Cinema – film making
22	Basketball Festival
24	School photographs – individuals and family groups

February

1	Year 5 writing workshop with Adam Bushnell
5	Year 4 Class Assembly
6	Reception class visit to Hancock Museum and Northern Stage – Bear Hunt
7	Valentines Disco
8	Whole school fencing workshop
12	Theatre Show – The Selfish Giant
15	Reception Multiskills festival
15	School closes for half term – re-opens 25th February
25	Multicultural week
25	Chef in school
26	Zulu warriors visit to school – presentation and workshops

March

5	Football tournament
22	Dance Festival
26	Parent night – more information to follow about daytime meeting dates

April

2	Class 3 Assembly
2	Netball Tournament
4	Easter Service – 2pm – St Andrew's Church
5	School closes for Easter break. Re-opens Tues 23rd April 2019.

May 13-16 – KS2 SAT week

June 10-14 – KS1 Phonics Check week

