

North Park Primary School

'Achieving and growing, together in friendship.'



Bessemer Green,
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DL16 6PP

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September Newsletter

It has been a really busy month, and we are all getting used to our new routines and some of the changes to the way we do things normally! It has been so lovely to have welcomed back all the children and to have the classes settled into their routines. As I have been around classrooms it has been so good to see children enjoying their work and getting along well with their classmates – just as it should be!

A **BIG thank you** to all our families for supporting us by dropping off and collecting children promptly – it is SO important, now that the virus is beginning to rise in local communities again, that we remember the rules of social distancing and follow the guidelines and measures set out by the Government. We aim to do all we can to ensure school remains a safe and happy place for the children and your support is vital to that. I know there are some instances already where classes or schools in other areas have had to isolate for short periods – of course we will try our best to avoid this, and to help please remember the following:

- It is vitally important NOT to send your child to school if they, or members of their household have any coronavirus symptoms
 - **a new, continuous cough**
 - **a high temperature**
 - **a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)**
- If this does happen **please isolate and do not go out.**
- Please inform us as soon as possible and organise for a test. Let us know the outcome of the result, and we will contact the LA or PHE for advice on possible isolation of other pupils. If someone in a group does test positive, then we will take the necessary steps, following that advice, and will inform parents immediately about the actions needed.
- If the test is negative, children can come back to school.
- If you are uncertain as to whether you should keep your child off, seek medical advice and keep us up to date.
- If a member of your household has symptoms, then please follow the isolation guidance until that person has a test – a positive test will mean the household members need to isolate for 14 days (10 days for the person with symptoms).

Remote learning

If for any reason your child does need to isolate, we will provide work for the isolation period. Thank you to everyone who has responded to the survey about home internet capacity or about a preference for paper-based resources. That information will help us to support your child in case remote learning is needed.

We have worked as a school to develop our use of **Class Dojo** to support with this. This is a programme that children are already getting used to in school. Children gain 'dojo' points for their hard work and good behaviour in class. The programme also allows us to post messages to parents, share individual and group work, letters and reminders, and to set work for children to undertake at home. Children can also upload work, photographs of work, etc and will be shown how to do this in school. We can share links via this site to online learning resources, such as phonics, reading and maths, for your child to access at home. Teachers can then feedback to your child, individually, on the work that they do.

To set this up, your child will be sent home with an activation code from the week beginning 28th September – please follow the instructions (I know some children already have these). We will then start using this to send messages and to put homework etc. on. You are able to contact the teacher this way and they will get back to you as soon as they can (although staff won't monitor this after 6pm at night, or if they are otherwise busy in a meeting after school).

We look forward to developing the use of this resource in the next few weeks, and then if needed, it can be used to support remote learning. We will continue to share information and updates on Facebook and via text too, as usual; however, the Class Dojo site will be the resource used for any remote learning now.



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Updates and news:

- Classes are currently planning a performance for **Harvest** – we will share this on Facebook as we are unable to do this in Church this year – please support our **harvest collection for the Durham Foodbank**, which we are pooling together with St Andrew's Church again this year – please send your donation to school on Thursday 1st October, and we will take this to the church.
- **Staff news** - we bid farewell to Mr Fothergill next week – he is leaving to begin a new job. We would like to thank him for his hard work during his time at North Park. We will welcome a new teaching assistant to school in October – Mrs H Clarke will join us in Mrs Summerill's class.
- Any child wishing to join the **school bank** and start saving each week can do so – please contact Mrs Harris; we collect and bank monies every week and it is a wonderful way for children to save up
- Year 5 enjoyed a fabulous visit to **Jarrow Hall** this month – the children are learning about all things Anglo-Saxon and Viking and it was great to hear the staff of Jarrow Hall praise the children for their lovely manners and hard work! As always, we are really proud of the children!
- We also enjoyed having **Captain Chemistry** in school – Mr Summerill arranged a series of science visits across classes this month and children had a great time exploring and experimenting!
- To reassure parents, if we organise any visits or visitors in future, this will be in accordance with our safety measures – for example, we ensure that buses are not shared with other schools and that we are not mixing with other groups. Visitors follow our strict handwashing guidance, etc.
- Please read the information on the **Flu Vaccination** letters that have come home this week – it is especially important these vaccinations go ahead in December.
- A reminder – **PD days are on 2nd and 5th October** – we will be closed on these days.
- We are hoping to arrange telephone **parent meetings** this term and at present anticipate these will take place in the week beginning 16.11.20 – more information will be sent home soon about this
- In early October we will resume selling cookies – watch out for the text about the new arrangements for this.

Mrs Monk

DIARY DATES – AUTUMN 2020

October

- 1 Harvest Festival (to be held virtually) – Food collection for Durham Foodbank
2 **SCHOOL CLOSED FOR PD DAY**
5 **SCHOOL CLOSED FOR PD DAY**
15 Zoo Lab for Reception and Mrs Wood's Class
23 **SCHOOL CLOSED FOR HALF TERM WEEK**

November

- 2 School re-opens
3 Year 6 Kensuke's Kingdom Experience Day
6 Bikeability taster day – Year 4
8 SSP coaching starts for Year 2 and 3 – 5 weeks
9 Hoopstarz day
9-11 Bikeability – Year 6
16 Anti-Bullying week
16 Parent Meeting Week – more information to follow

December

- 9 Whole school, Flu vaccination day
14 Christmas week – more details to follow
18 School closes for end of term



SCHOOL MEMBER

