

# North Park Primary School



Bessemer Green,  
Spennymoor,  
Co. Durham  
DL16 6PP

Head Teacher: Mrs P Monk  
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## December 2017 Newsletter

### What's been happening in school?

Another busy month in North Park – the children have been an absolute credit on their visits out, showing great enthusiasm and superb attitudes to their learning – well done!

- We raised £111 for children in need – thank you for your support.
- Year 3 pupils have had Pedestrian awareness training
- We had a fantastic theatre visit – Eureka! – enjoyed by all
- Children thoroughly enjoyed performing their poems at the end of Poetry Week.
- Year 1, 2, 5 and 6 enjoyed the stay and read sessions.
- Children did a variety of activities in Anti-Bullying week, including Year 4 and 5 taking part in workshops about Diversity.
- I hope you have taken advantage of the opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher to discuss progress and view their hard work.
- Year 6 had an amazing visit to Eden Camp finding out all about life during the war.
- Year 2 enjoyed their multi-skills festival
- Year 4 gave us a wonderful family assembly all about the power of positivity
- Year 4 braved the snow to visit Arbela Roma Fort and learn all about life in Roman Times.
- Year 2 enjoyed their visit to the Methodist Chapel taking a Christmas Journey.
- Well done to the pupils who sang at St Andrew's Church Fair this term and thank you to Mrs Eason.
- Pupils in Year 5 and 6 attended a Gym festival this week – well done.

### Homework

A reminder of the importance of getting into good routines for homework; children are given tasks as an extension of work being done in school, or to find out information for learning in class.

As pupils move into Key Stage 2 we expect them to take increasing responsibility for remembering work and it is especially important that they read regularly – little and often is best. Children show great enthusiasm for reading and this is an area that we are constantly developing.

Please support your child in helping them get into good routines and in remembering to bring homework and reading books into school when required. There is an expectation, especially for junior aged pupils, that they will do any missing homework or reading in their own time if it is not completed at home, therefore your support is vital.

### Staffing news

- We offer our congratulations to Miss Welch and Mr Fothergill on the birth of their babies. Both have two healthy baby boys – great news!
- Mrs Snaith leaves her post as a lunchtime supervisor this week. Mrs Cahill also leaves us at the end of term. Mrs Dowson also leaves us at the end of this week. We thank staff for their hard work and wish them well for the future.
- The school office is currently being run by Mrs Harris and we welcome her to North Park.

### Parent Governor

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. We would like to hear from anyone who is interested in this important role. Anyone who has parental responsibility for a pupil at the school can become a Governor. Parent Governors are elected/appointed by the parent body and become part of the overall body responsible for making decisions for the benefit of the whole school. In brief, Governors are responsible for raising the standards of achievement for all pupils. This involves several main responsibilities:

- *plan the school's future direction*
- *be accountable for the overall performance of the school*
- *ensure that the school makes appropriate provision for all its pupils*
- *ensure that the school actively promotes the pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development*
- *have strategic oversight of the school's budget and staffing*



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- ensure financial probity.

The Governing Body meets in full three times per year. In addition there are other committee meetings, usually on a termly basis, that take place to consider different aspects of the Governing Body's role. Further information on the work of the Governing Body can be found by ringing the school or contacting the LA School and Governor Support Service.

In order to become a Governor you need to:

1. Contact the school (01388 815943)
2. Complete a nomination form. You will be expected to undergo a DBS application.
3. You may need to undergo an election process if we have several interested parents.

We look forward to hearing from interested parents.

**Attendance - Our current attendance is at 95.5% - this is just below the expected 96% target for schools and we ask for your support in helping us maintain a good standard of attendance.**

- We operate first day absence procedures and you will be contacted after registration if we do not have a reason for your child's absence.
- Pupils whose attendance falls below 90% are classed as persistent absentees.
- Please ensure your child is in school on time – if your child is late after the register closes (9.10am) then this is classified as an unauthorised absence.
- Please try to make appointments outside of school hours wherever you can. If there is a genuine medical reason for absence, we ask for medical evidence to support this where it goes beyond a few days.
- Holidays in term time also impact significantly on attendance, and as you know, we are not authorised to grant leave of absence in term time except for exceptional circumstances; the Local Authority will intervene if your child accrues **seven days or more** of unauthorised absence in a term, and a fine may be issued.
- At the end of term you will receive your child's attendance certificate. **Green** – great and well done; attendance of 95% or above! **Yellow** – 90.1 – 94.9% - this needs some improvement and could improve to green. **Red** – attendance is below 90% and is a concern, as this falls into the Government's persistent absentee bracket: we will monitor this attendance alongside the LA attendance officer.
- Attendance is monitored closely for improvement. If you have any concerns about attendance please contact school.

## Reminders:

- We politely ask that parents **do not drive into school to drop off or pick up**, 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. This is especially important as our youngest pupils are dropped off and picked up from the EYFS entrance each day.
- **Free School Meals** - Do you think your child is entitled to Free School Meals? Are you unsure? **Then please ask at the main office and complete a form – we can then check for you.**
- **PE kits** – it is important that your child has the correct kit on PE days – best to leave these in school and take them home at the end of the week to wash. A reminder that jewellery cannot be worn for PE – please remove this before coming to school.
- 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.
- **Breakfast club** continues to run from 8am each day.

Mrs P Monk  
5.12.17



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## Diary Dates

### December

- 7 Pupils up to Year 4 – visit to Santa in Town Hall
- 8 Music show – Years 3, 4 and 5 – 10.30am
- 8 Reception to Year 4 – Flu immunisations
- 13 Book Fair in School (one week)
- 14 Christmas Lunch in school
- 15 EYFS Christmas Craft morning
- 15 Year 1 and 2 Christmas Show – 1.50pm
- 18 Year 5 and 6 Christmas Carols, Crafts and Coffee Morning
- 18 Year 1, 2 and 3 Party
- 19 Year 3 and 4 Christmas Carols, Crafts and Coffee Morning
- 19 EYFS Christmas Show
- 20 Year 4, 5, 6 Party
- 21 EYFS Christmas party – am
- 22 Christmas Jumper day – donations for Save the Children (50p each)
- 22 **School closes.**

### January

**School re-opens for teaching purposes - Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018.**

- 11 Police visit to Year 5

### February

- 12-16 **School closed for half term. Re-opens 19<sup>th</sup> February**
- 19 Multi-Cultural week – chef in school
- 20 Theatre visit – The Wind in the Willows
- 22 Chef in school
- 27 Sports for Schools

### March

- 6 Year 6 Safety Carousel
- 29 School closes for Easter Break. Re-opens 16<sup>th</sup> April

14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May – KS2 SATs

