

North Park Primary School



Bessemer Green,
Spennymoor,
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DL16 6PP

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End of Spring Term 2019 Newsletter

Another really busy term has finished! The pupils of North Park have been involved in lots of activities and as always I am hugely impressed with them and very proud to introduce them to visitors or take them to events – their enthusiasm, hard work, brilliant behaviour and lovely manners has been evident this term in all they have done. Well done!

What have we been up to?

- Children designed amazing wooden spoon characters for World Book day – brilliant creations! Well done to everyone for your creativity and thank you to the families who offered help!
- Children have enjoyed Stay and Read and Stay and Play sessions in school – thank you for attending these.
- Y2 pupils enjoyed a great day out in Durham, looking at the river and visiting Durham Cathedral.
- Year 1 pupils created a wonderful model of Spennymoor following on from their visit to the town – well done, and thank you to Year 6 for the help given. I know Mrs Berry was very proud of your work!
- Thank you for your generosity in supporting comic relief – we were able to donate £151 to this cause.
- Year 5 have enjoyed a visit to Whitworth Park
- Our dancers enjoyed success (especially for the fabulous costumes) at the Dance Festival.
- The whole school had an informative visit from the NHS dental team – learning to have good dental hygiene – and thank you to the Dentist for supporting us in parent week too!
- Year 3 pupils have been baking mad – lovely scones with Chef Sara and then a delicious Mother's Day tea enjoyed by all.
- Class 3 have also been learning about all things Egyptian and treated us to an amazing family assembly – future CSI experts in the making!
- Visitors from the Oriental Museum also came to teach more about Egypt to pupils in Year 3.
- Thank you to all those parents who attended parents' meetings this month – if you were unable to meet your child's class teacher and would like to discuss anything with them, please contact school to make an appointment at a convenient time.
- We enjoyed our Easter Service this week – thank you to Father John for inviting us to the church.
- Thanks also to the Friends of the School for the prizes for the Easter Egg competition and the Easter Raffle this week. The work of the small team of helpers is very much appreciated – if you feel you would also like to offer support, please see Mrs Spooner.
- Our reading prize winners enjoyed their trip to Waterstones and Costa this week – lovely to see children enjoying books so much!
- Well done to all our award winners this term!
- We are still waiting for the final report from our inspection this term and will inform you as soon as the report is published. We were very proud to show inspectors the children's work and I know pupils who spoke to inspectors really impressed them with their knowledge, good manners, behaviour and enthusiasm. All staff and Governors continue to work hard and remain dedicated and committed to continual improvement and development for the benefit of all the children in our care.
- Brilliant news about our AAP funding bid – we were successfully awarded funds to begin our cookery project – we look forward to planning this for the future now! Thank you to parents and pupils who supported us and who voted – it makes all the difference to the children.
- The sports leaders worked with SSP to hold an Intra-School sport competition – brilliant work and a great day!

Attendance

Overall attendance for the year to date is 95.5%. This is just below the DFE target of 96% and an improvement on last term – thank you for your support with this and to all those parents who work with us to improve attendance.

Pupils have their attendance certificates to bring home this week. Well done to everyone who has a green certificate and to all those pupils who have 100% attendance for the term (62 pupils) and the whole year so far (21 pupils).



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If your child has a red certificate, this means attendance has fallen below 90%, which is considered by LA and Government to be persistent absence. Medical evidence will need to be provided for any future absence due to illness (such as an appointment card, letters of they are provided, or evidence of medication prescribed). Where attendance falls below 90% and there are unauthorised absences, this may result in the Local Authority taking enforcement action. Persistent lateness is also classified as an unauthorised absence if your child arrives after 9.10am.

A reminder that 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, including lates after registration). If you have any concerns about attendance, please contact Mrs Harris in school.

Polite Reminders:

- **Community news** – Father Livesley has asked me to extend an invitation to children to come along to **Messy Play at St. Andrew's Church** on Sundays at 10.30 – this includes Brunch!
- **Youth Centre** – Fun afternoon on Wednesday 10th April 1-4pm.
- Please remind your child of the need to have their **PE kit** in school, in order to avoid detention!
- Any child wishing to join the **school bank** and start saving each week, please see Mrs Harris – we collect and bank monies every week.
- 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**.
- Remember we are able to 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.
- **Breakfast club** begins at 8am each day – we stop serving at 8.30am, in order to clear away.

2019-2020 School Holidays

A reminder that schools are required to set professional development days each year – a time when staff undertake professional development and the school is closed to children. In setting the dates for the next academic year (Sept 2019 - July 2020) we have consulted with Governors to put these days together in a block, so parents could possibly benefit from a slightly extended closure and use this as an opportunity to book holidays at a cheaper rate than in normal school holiday time. We are giving you this information well in advance in a hope this may be beneficial in helping you choose your holiday dates and reduce the likelihood of incurring a fine from LA. As you know we are not able to authorise holidays at other times, unless in exceptional circumstances.

The planned dates when school will be closed for PD days in 2019-2020 are:

- **1st, 3rd, 3rd June 2020** – these three days follow the May half term week (thus giving a slightly longer block)
- **Monday 20th July 2020** (holidays officially begin on Tuesday 21st July)

Have an enjoyable Easter Break.

Mrs P Monk



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Summer Dates – 2019

(further information on events will follow)

April

- 5 **School closes for Easter break. Re-opens Tues 23rd April 2019.**
- 26 Year 5 Outdoor Orienteering and Activity session – Hardwick Park
- 30 Reception class vision screening

May

- 2 Year 2 Outdoor Orienteering and Activity session – Hardwick Park
- 6 **School closed for Bank Holiday Monday**
- 10 Year 3 Outdoor Orienteering and Activity session – Hardwick Park
- 13-16 **Key Stage 2 SAT week** (Y6 breakfast club each day)
- 17 Year 6 visit to Weardale House
- 21 Year 1 Class Assembly
- 21 Primary Athletics festival
- 22 Year 3 High Crane Lodge Farm visit
- 23 Year 5 and 6 Puberty talks
- 24 Year 6 High Crane Lodge Farm visit
- 24 Chef in school
- 24 **School closes for half term – re-opens 3rd June**

June

- 5 Year 5 High Crane Lodge Farm visit
- 10-14 **Key Stage 1 Phonics check week**
- 11 Sedgefield Dash
- 12 Year 6 Photographs
- 12 Year 6 Cathedral Service
- 14 Year 6 Multiskills Festival
- 17 Year 4 High Crane Lodge Farm visit
- 18 Reception High Crane Lodge Farm visit
- 18 Super Splash Heroes Show
- 19 Year 2 High Crane Lodge Farm visit
- 21 Year 1 High Crane Lodge Farm visit
- 24-28 Year 5 Curriculum Week – Bishop Barrington
- 25 Kinetic Theatre Show
- 25 Year 2 class assembly

July

- 1 New Reception starters parent meeting
- 1 Year 3 and 4 Thrills and Skills OAA event
- 2 Reception class assembly
- 4 New starters – visit morning
- 5 New starters visit morning and whole school Move Up Morning
- 8 Chef – Year 6
- 8 Chinese students visit
- 9 Rock Band workshops
- 12 Year 2 Fun afternoon
- 15 Chef – Year 6
- 16 Sport's Day – provisional date - TBC
- 17 Year 6 Leaver's Show
- 19 **School closes for Summer break. Re-opens Tuesday 3rd September**

