

North Park Primary School



Bessemer Green,
Spennymoor,
Co. Durham
DL16 6PP

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End of term Newsletter 2018

Year 6

I would like to take this opportunity to wish our wonderful Year 6 cohort a fond farewell – they are such a lovely bunch of children and showed that off to great effect with their fantastic Year 6 show this week! As they move on to their new schools they leave behind very proud teachers and lots of fond memories. They should be very proud of their achievements and I look forward to hearing how well they are all doing in future.

Mr Donkin

We also say a very fond farewell to Mr Donkin. He really does not like a lot of fuss, but I think he knows how fond the children and staff are of him and how much we appreciate his years of dedication and hard work at North Park (I promised I wouldn't mention how many years, but it's a few!). We wish him the very best of luck as he moves to his new school, which I am sure, will be a very exciting time for him, and send with him our thanks and very best wishes!

Mrs Sidebottom

We also say a very fond goodbye to Mrs Sidebottom, who has worked here a few years too! She has been a dedicated and hardworking member of staff and we wish her the very best of luck as she starts a new chapter in her life training to be a children's nurse – we know she will be a success and look forward to seeing her in future! Thank you, Mrs Sidebottom and best wishes.

Mrs Willcock

And it is a temporary goodbye to Mrs Willcock, as she leaves this summer to have her baby. We are all excited to meet the new addition to the family and hope you have a restful break leading up to the baby's arrival. We look forward to seeing you very soon.

What's been happening in school?

- We were delighted to be awarded Investors in Children Status for the third year running. This process is led by the children and celebrates their hard work and the voice they have in school. We are committed to ensuring children are always at the heart of what we do in school and this achievement celebrates our work in this area. As ever, our children could tell the assessors about everything they do in school and about their ideas and contribution to school life.
- Our six Chinese students have enjoyed nine days in school and the pupils have taken them under their wing and formed new friendships. It has been lovely to see our children welcome these visitors warmly, look after them and learn from each other. Thank you to KMN International for the generous donation towards school funds for the benefit of our pupils and we look forward to welcoming more exchange students next year too.
- Y2 enjoyed a brilliant visit to High Crane Farm. Thanks to Mrs Atkinson for organising all these visits.
- Pupils in Year 6 have been on various transition visits to their various comprehensive schools.
- Families have enjoyed a range of Stay and Play and Stay and Read sessions.
- Children in Year 4 and Year 6 have enjoyed their sessions with Gillian Fortune. She has been very impressed with the pupil's work ethic and it was great to have parents join the sessions and learn about techniques for reducing stress.
- Our new Reception pupils enjoyed their first transition visits to school and everyone in school has also had the opportunity to visit their new classes and work with their new teachers.
- The School Nurse has been in visiting Year 5 and 6 Pupils for 'Growing up' and puberty talks
- Leisure Leaders have been trained in school – pupils who are trained to lead play on the yard.
- Jet and Ben – the police dogs – paid a visit to school this month to see our youngest pupils.
- Children across the school have continued saving in their school bank accounts – well done our super savers! For those who have saved hard this half term you will receive an extra boost to your accounts, courtesy of Livin.
- Father John visited school to deliver and assembly for pupils



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- The chef has visited school working with Year 6 to design a chocolate extravaganza and to help children cook a meal to take home.
- Reception class delivered a super story assembly – what a great chance to show off the books you have read!
- We were visited by a Sports for Champion judo star, Louise Renwicks– an amazing £504 was raised by pupils and families and this goes to support athletes of the future. Thank you for your support with this – children had a great time in the workshops with Louise.
- Year 2 have enjoyed a super visit to the Lighthouse – as always our pupils behaved beautifully.
- Year 5 pupils enjoyed an amazing trip to the Life Centre in Newcastle – a superb day.
- Year 6 pupils organised a brilliant Fun Day – the children organised a range of events for the whole school to enjoy. They raised an amazing £653 and have decided to fund a fencing workshop for the whole school to enjoy.
- Sports day activities were enjoyed – well done to all the children taking part and to all our winners, our congratulations.
- Children enjoyed a wonderful Brass concert in school this week.
- Year 6 pupils celebrated their end of year with a wonderful show. Well done!
- Our 100% attendance awards, homework awards, handwriting awards and reading awards have all been given out this week.
- This month OFSTED visited school as part of their inspection schedule. The report is available on the website and on the OFSTED portal. School continues to work hard on its cycle of development and to drive forward our improvement priorities; those mentioned have been identified as areas for development and the Governors and staff are committed to continual review and improvement in school. We thank you for your support during the inspection proves and over the course of the year.

Parent Governor

We have two vacancies for a Parent Governor and would very much like to hear from anyone who is interested in this important role. Please contact the school office for further details.

Attendance - Our current attendance is still at 95.3% - this is slightly below the expected 96% target for schools, largely due to holidays; your support in helping us improve and maintain a good standard of attendance is vital.

- Remember pupils whose attendance falls below 90% are classed as persistent absentees. Any absence will need to be supported by medical evidence. We will monitor this absence with the Local Authority. If you would like to discuss any concerns about attendance, please contact school.
- Please also remember, 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.

Reminders:

- Cost of a school lunch from September will be £2.05 per day - £10.25 per week. If you think your child is entitled to Free School Meals please ask at the main office and complete a form – we can then check for you.
- Uniform orders can be collected from school on Monday 3rd September.
- 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.

Finally, a big thank you from all of the staff and Governors for your ongoing support for the school – this makes all the difference to the children; the support for Friends of the School initiatives, the support with homework, and especially reading, and the drive to maintain good attendance in school all contribute towards the school's success.

Mrs P Monk
20.7.18



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Diary Dates for the Autumn Term

September

- 4 **School re-opens Tuesday 4th September 2018**
- 6 Buddies and Mini-Bud training
- 7 Chef in Year 2
- 10 Smoothie Bike in school
- 10 Fire Brigade to visit Year 3
- 12 Year 1 Magic Teeth Show
- 13 Dentist visit to Nursery, Years 1, 2, 4 and 5
- 14 PSHCE week showcase assembly
- 20 Father John assembly

October

- 4 Year 1 Trip – Theatre (Snail on the Whale) and Life centre
- 5 Harvest Assembly – food bank collection
- 16 Year 6 Class Assembly
- 18 FOS Halloween Disco – 4pm
- 19 **School closes for half term; re-opens 30th October**

November

- 1 Poetry Showcase Assembly
- 2 Artyfact Theatre
- 5-7th – **Parent Meeting Week** (appointments to be arranged)
- 6 **Whole School Parent Evening** (3.30-6pm)
Afternoon sessions (1-3pm)
- 5 Year 2 and Year 4
- 6 Reception and Year 1
- 7 Year 3, Year 5 and Year 6

- 6 Dentist in school for check-ups - afternoon and evening
- 6 Book Fair – after school Tues to Fri.
- 7 Reception to Year 5 Flu Immunisations
- 10 Poppy Parade
- 13 Owl Man visit to Year 1
- 19 Chef in Year 5
- 22 Father John assembly
- 27 Year 5 Class Assembly

December

- 14 Year 1 and 2 Show -pm
- 17 Year 5 and 6 Carol, Craft and Coffee Morning
- 17 Year 1, 2 and 3 Disco - pm
- 18 Year 3 and 4 Carol, Craft and Coffee Morning
- 19 EYFS Show – am
- 19 Year 4, 5 and 6 Disco – pm
- 20 Reception and Nursery party – pm
- 20 Carol Service – St Andrew's Church – Year 1 to 6 – 2pm
- 21 Whole School Archery experience
- 21 **School closes; re-opens Tuesday 8th January**

