

North Park Primary School



Bessemer Green,
Spennymoor,
Co. Durham
DL16 6PP

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June Newsletter

What's been happening in school? – as ever we have lots going on!

- We had a brilliant day at the **Spennymoor Schools'** conference, showing off some of the lovely work we have done this year and sharing ideas with the other schools there. As always our children were proud to discuss their hard work.
- Thank you for bringing along your recycling for the **Great North Air Ambulance** collection – we managed to raise £28.40 for school (the same amount was raised for GNAA). After talking to the children they decided that this money should be donated back to the charity, in acknowledgement of their important work, and so as a school we raised £58.60 for GNAA, thanks to your support.
- Year 6 and Year 4 have undertaken **Farm visits** – really enjoyable visits.
- Year 6 were visited by Kay Barber, the NHS **Emotional Wellbeing Nurse**, to talk to them about transition into Year 7.
- We had a brilliant night at the **Sedgefield Dash** – some of our children did very well and they really enjoyed competing. Well Done Jessica Maughan for your win!
- Year 6 had their group **photographs** taken – we will share these with you at the end of year.
- **Year 6** have been visiting their new schools – both Whitworth Park and Ferryhill Business College.
- We had a **water and recycling assembly** last week, telling us all about the importance of recycling
- We had another visiting from the **Magical Maths Team**
- Our **Go-Givers** have been working hard with Mr Fothergill on their chosen charity – they wanted to raise awareness and funds to support **Dementia Awareness**. They have held a fantastic coffee morning and shared information about their work. We are really proud of their ideas and commitment to this cause.
- **Year 6 Fun Day** – the class have been working hard to organise their fun day, to raise funds for school. Look out for their letters home – I am sure they will be asking for cake donations, etc. soon!
- The **NSPCC** have visited school to give two assemblies this week and have organised workshops for Year 5 and 6 next week. They are especially concerned about online internet safety.
- **Friends of the School** are supporting us by organising children to attend the **Spennymoor Gala**. I am sure you will see them there.
- Unfortunately due to the weather the Primary Olympics event had to be cancelled this week.
- Well done to our wonderful singers who attended St Andrew's **Church Fair** at the weekend, and thank you to those children who helped out selling Fair Trade Goods.
- The **School Nurse** has been in this week giving puberty and Growing Up talks to Year 5 and 6 pupils.

Move up morning

We have our new starters visiting school and going into Reception on 6th and 11th July.

In addition all children will spend a morning in their 'new' teacher, in readiness for next year:

Nursery – Mrs Alderson and Mrs Eason

Reception – Mrs Wilcock

Year 1 – Mrs Spooner

Year 2 – Miss Bowron

Year 3 – Mrs Wood and Mrs Atkinson

Year 4 – Mr Logan

Year 5 – Mr Donkin

Year 6 – Miss Dobson

Attendance: *Attendance is currently 95.4% – slightly down from last month. The Government target for schools is 96%.* Your support in helping us make sure we meet national targets is vital. It is especially important to make sure your child is punctual – lates beyond register are classified as an unauthorised absence. Please make sure your child is in school at 8.55am. School cannot authorise leave of absence unless in exceptional circumstances and the local authority will intervene if your child accrues **seven days or more** of unauthorised absence.

You will soon be receiving your child's attendance certificate, along with their end of year report.



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Uniform and PE Kits

Any new uniform that needs to be ordered can be done via the school office – school holds some stock but for anything else that needs ordering, Mrs Dowson will do this and it can then be collected on Tuesday 5th September – the day before school opens. Please remember your child needs a PE kit for lessons.

Internet Safety

I have been advised by the LA IT team to share this information with families:

Snapchat has developed a new feature called Snapmaps which allows users to see the location of other users of snapchat. There are three possible settings, sharing with no-one (Ghost Mode), sharing with select friends (Chose which friends you share your location with) and my friends (Share your location with all your friends). Many children have a large number of “friends” on their accounts who they probably do not know well, and could be accidentally sharing their location. Full details are provided in the UK Safer Internet centre blog at <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/introducing-%E2%80%99snap-maps%E2%80%99-new-location-sharing-feature-snapchat>

Please check your child’s settings carefully and review their privacy in order to help protect them. We continue to hear about incidents related to Snapchat and Instagram that happen outside of school. Many children are not emotionally mature enough to deal with a lot of the information that is shared online – please ensure you monitor and talk to your child about using these sites, how to stay safe, when to switch off, and about time spent away from the internet. It has also come to our attention that some children are accessing a site called Music.ly. There was a recent television item warning parents that there have been incidents of adults grooming children on this site. The appropriateness of comments, videos and images uploaded on to this site were also of concern, given the explicit nature of some of this material. Pupils need to be carefully monitored and parents need to decide if they feel this is an appropriate site for primary aged children.

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
- 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.



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Reminders:

- Please can we ask parents **do not drive into the school yard** to drop off before Breakfast Club – most are very supportive of this safety rule; however some people are still driving in, which causes issues for staff arriving, deliveries, but most importantly for pupil safety. Thank you for your support with this.
- A reminder that After School Care via **Jack in the Box Daycare** is available each day in school– this runs from 3.15 – 5.45pm each night. Contact school for registration forms and cost information.
- SEND information – for any families wishing to find any advice or guidance, please go to the school website or the Families Information Service Website: <http://www.countydurhamfamilies.info/kb5/durham/fsd/home.page> Alternatively please speak to the SENCo Mrs Wood.

Mrs P Monk

Diary Dates – 2017

(further dates for the new term will follow)

July

3	Go Givers Presentation and Performance
4	NSPCC workshops for Year 5 and 6
4	Miss Bowron's Class – Farm visit
6	Move up morning and New Starters visit
6	Year 6 Chocolate Challenge
7	EYFS Family Assembly
11	New Starters visit
11	Brass Band visit to school
12	Year 2 Family Assembly
13	Year 6 Fun Day
14	Robinwood residential visit
17	Year 5 visit to FBEC
19	Year 6 Leaver's Show – 2pm
21	School closes for summer. Re-opens 6th September 2017.

September

5	School open for uniform collection
6	School re-opens for teaching purposes
7	Father John Assembly
11	Chef visit to Year 5
13	Buddy and Mini-Bud training
19	Happy Puzzle Company – challenge and investigation day. Parent session after school at 3.30pm.
29	Harvest collection for the Food Bank

October

17	Halloween Disco
23	Half term week
30	School re-opens

