

# North Park Primary School



Bessemer Green,  
Spennymoor,  
Co. Durham  
DL16 6PP

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## March 2018 Newsletter

### Snow days!

We are back to 'normal' after the extreme weather last week – thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding. Closing the school is always a difficult decision to take, and only done on the grounds of health and safety for pupils, their families and staff. All closures are reported via text (please update any new numbers as soon as possible) and on the Local Authority website.

The weather has managed to cause us a few ongoing problems – leaks and floods to sort out - but we have managed to overcome these.

### What's been happening in school?

Another busy time across the classrooms!

- Well done to the Year 5 and 6 Basketball team – they won their heat and were invited to the finals.
- The children have enjoyed a range of activities as part of Multi-Cultural week, learning about the customs and culture in different countries – our visit from the chef, Sarah, was great fun and we tried a range of delicious food.
- Everyone enjoyed the Wind in the Willows theatre in February.
- Year 3 had a visit from staff of Auckland Castle, who came to school to tell us all about Pollard's Bear.
- Thank you to the Friends of the School for organising the Valentine Disco.
- Our budding actors have been attending Enter CiC rehearsals in preparation for the show on March 10<sup>th</sup> – very exciting and a great opportunity! We have some real stars amongst the children.
- Some of our Year 4s enjoyed the Sports Skills Festival this month.
- Year 5 were also invited to attend an 'Easter Journey' at the Methodist Chapel – a fantastic experience.
- We started March off with World Book Day - the theme is Share a Book – children have shared favourite stories, taken part in a book swap and enjoyed a range of reading activities in school.
- Two pupils in Year 4 have won a trip for the whole class to Thorp Perrow Arboretum, courtesy of Partner construction – brilliant artwork and everyone is very excited! The report was in the Northern Echo.

### Sunderland Football Match Tickets

These are available to buy from school for Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Sunderland V Sheffield Wednesday. Tickets are £20 per pair for one adult and one child. Please send the money to school and we will order the tickets. Money must be in school by Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Contact school if you are interested.

### Reminders

- The Year 6 family assembly has had to be rearranged (blame the weather!) and will take place on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March.
- Book day activities have also been rearranged for Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March – come dressed up or in pyjamas, for the share a story and book swap activities.
- Please return the Parent Meeting appointment slips. Teachers will send an appointment home. A dentist will be available for consultation during the parent meeting session on Monday.
- **Parent Governor** - we still have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. We would like to hear from anyone who is interested in this important role.
- **Sport Relief** – pay a pound to come in wearing a sporty outfit – all donations to Sport Relief – and to join the whole school dance routine!

### Staffing news

- We wish Miss Summerson farewell as she moves on to a new role at Ox Close primary school.
- We welcome Mrs Biddle, our new Lunchtime supervisor and Mrs Richardson, our new cleaner.
- We also welcome Mrs Harris to school as our new Administration Manager.
- We are pleased to welcome back Mrs Willcock and bid a fond farewell to Mr Stevens.

**Attendance - Our current attendance is at 95.3% - this is below the expected 96% target for schools and we ask for your support in helping us maintain a good standard of attendance.**

- 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.

### Reminders:



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- We politely ask that parents **do not drive into school to drop off or pick up – especially into the staff car parking area**, 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.
- **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.**
- 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.

**Mrs P Monk**  
**9.3.18**

## Diary Dates

### **March**

- 10 Enter CiC – Wind Road Boys show – Town Hall
- 14 Year 2 Infant Games
- 15 Year 6 Family Assembly
- 19 Dentist in school – afternoon and evening – for check-ups and consultation – please come along **Parents Meeting**

### **week**

19 **Whole School Parents Night** – 3.30-6pm

### **Afternoon session 1-3pm**

Mon 19<sup>th</sup> March – Year 1, Year 4 and Year 5

Tues 20<sup>th</sup> March – Year 2, Year 3, Year 6

Weds 21<sup>st</sup> March - Reception

- 19 Whitworth students transition visit
- 19 FOS – Name the Easter Bunny
- 21 Year 3 and 4 Gymnastics Festival
- 22 Year 5 Family Assembly – 10.15am
- 22 Year 1 Durham Castle Trip
- 23 Sport Relief - £1 for Sporty outfit – all donations to Sport Relief.
- 26 FOS Easter Egg Competition – eggs to be brought into school
- 26 KS2 show – Mad Alice Theatre Company – ‘Nonsense and Stuff’
- 27&28 KS2 Theatre workshops
- 27 Easter Service – St Andrew’s Church – Families welcome – 2pm
- 28 Easter Egg Raffle
- 28&29 Art Exhibition – more information to follow – pupil artwork for sale
- 29 Book Day fun activities – dress up, share a story, book swap
- 29 **School closes for Easter Break. Re-opens 16<sup>th</sup> April**

### **May**

7 **School closed – May Day**

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

22 Dr Tom Robson visit to school

25 **School closes for half term – reopens 4<sup>th</sup> June**

### **June**

- 4 Year 6 Police workshops – 5 weeks
- 11 **Phonics screening week – KS1**
- 12 Year 6 Leaver’s Service – Durham Cathedral
- 13 Year 6 Leaver’s photos
- 14&15 Adam Bushnell working in school
- 20 Primary Maths Challenge

### **July**

- 13 Year 6 Fun Afternoon
- 18 Year 6 Leaver’s Show
- 19 Year 6 – Chef visit
- 20 **School closes for Summer. Re-opens Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

