

North Park Primary School



Bessemer Green,
Spennymoor,
Co. Durham
DL16 6PP

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May Newsletter

What's been happening in school?

Another busy month in school leading up to half term!

- We held our launch of the **school bank** – unfortunately we had very few parents come into school. There is a lot of financial advice that can be offered to families regarding saving with the credit union and avoiding high cost loans, as well as savings on fuel costs etc. We hope to be able to offer another advice session later in the term. In the meantime well done to all those children who signed up to become savers – we will have your savings books soon. The bank will open for business on **Wednesday 13th June** – please send in the money you would like the children to save then and we will organise the deposits. Please also remember that families can save with the credit union and that a savings centre is available at the Youth Centre near to school each week.
- Year 6 pupils have completed their SATs and worked very hard! Well done to them all. They should be proud to have done their best and now look forward to their visits to comprehensive and lots of other fun activities in the next half term, including visits from the Chef, trips to the farm and Weardale House, their leaver's assembly and the fun day! And of course a bit of work still to do in between!
- Year 2 pupils have also completed their Y2 SAT tests in school this month. We are always proud of the efforts children put into their work.
- Dr Tom visited school to train up our learning detectives – they visited classes to look out for gem powers in classrooms, spotting children problem solving, concentrating, bouncing back and trying hard and being kind. Our detectives will continue their work this next half term.
- Year 1 had a fabulous visit to Shildon Loco museum.
- Year 2 and 3 enjoyed a fabulous Warburton workshop – delicious food all round!
- Year 4 enjoyed the trip to the Arboretum – birds of prey and lots of amazing trees – well done to them.
- Year 3 have been putting their outdoor orienteering skills to the test in Hardwick Park.
- The Badgers family group enjoyed their well-earned treat.
- Reception class celebrated the Royal wedding in style with their wedding feast last week.
- Well done to Year 3, who finished the term with an amazing assembly about the Egyptians! Brilliant work.
- On Friday of this week Year 6 will pay a visit to the farm and the Chef, Sarah, visits school to work with children on Friday as part of Golden Day activities.

School visit

- On 14th June we will be taking children (Reception to Year 6) on a visit to **Seaham Beach** for an outdoor learning day. We will be joined by author Adam Bushnell and the chef, Sarah. Children will be cooking outdoors, having a picnic, storytelling, building sandcastles and having a fun day. We will send more details after half term, but currently plan to leave at 9.30am and return from Seaham at 4.30pm, arriving at school by approx. 5.15pm. School is subsidising the majority of the costs, but we ask for a donation of £5 from each child to help towards travelling costs. More details will follow after half term.

Nurse Drop in session

- The School Nurse, Michelle Fair, will be available for parents for an advice drop in session on Friday 8th June, 9am. Please come along if you have any concerns you would like to discuss, or if you would like advice or guidance about any health matters.

Book Fair

- We are holding a book fair in school – this will be open after school from 5th – 11th June.

Staffing news

- Mrs Willcock is expecting her baby in September – we have appointed a replacement teacher whilst she is on maternity leave. Mrs A Kalus (a very experienced Reception class teacher) will join us from September and pupils coming into class will have the opportunity to meet her on our new starter days. Parents will also be able to meet with Mrs Kalus at the parent meeting arranged later in the term.



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- We also congratulate Mr Donkin on his successful appointment to a senior post in another County Durham school. We will miss him when he leaves North Park after many years of dedicated service and hard work, but wish him luck for the future and hope he keeps in touch!
- A new member of staff has been appointed to Key Stage 2 – Miss Walton will join us in September and for move up days later in the term.

Class organisation from September 2018

Teachers for classes will be as follows:

- Reception – Mrs A Kalus
- Year 1 – Mrs E Spooner
- Year 2 – Mr A Logan
- Year 3 – Mrs N Wood
- Year 4 – Miss N Walton
- Year 5 – Mrs K Cope
- Year 6 – Miss S Dobson

Children will meet their new teachers on move up morning.

Reminders

- Please ensure children are provided with a **PE kit** for sports activities. Children should not be undertaking sport in their ordinary clothes. Kits should be sent in on Monday and taken home for cleaning on Friday. Plain shorts and a T-shirt, and preferably a change of footwear – plimsolls or trainers. Shoes are not permitted in lessons and jewellery **MUST** be removed, for health and safety reasons.
- In line with new GDPR regulations the privacy notice for parents and carers is available on the school website.
- School meals will be increasing from September 2018 to £2.05 per day - £10.25 per week.
- **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.

Attendance - Our current attendance is still at 95.6% - this is slightly below the expected 96% target for schools; 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:

- Please **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
25.5.18



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Diary Dates

May

25

School closes for half term – reopens 4th June

June

4

Year 6 Police workshops – 5 weeks

5

Year 6 Treat day – visit to Weardale House

5th – 11th

Book Fair – after school

6

Year 3 Stay and Read – 9am

7

Whole school skipping workshop

7

Reception theatre visit

7

Year 1 visit to Botanic Garden

8

Nurse drop in session – 9am

8

Year 2 stay and play

11

Phonics screening week – KS1

12

Year 6 Leaver's Service – Durham Cathedral

12

Reception class vision screening

12

Sedgefield Dash

13

Year 6 Leaver's photos

13

School bank open for savings

14

Whole school visit to Seaham Beach

15

Adam Bushnell in school

18

Year 6 stay and read

19

Kinetic Theatre – Down to Earth - show

20

Primary Maths Challenge

20

Year 5 stay and play

21

Year 1 Family Assembly – 10.15am -

22

World Cup Day

25

New Reception class Parent meeting – 9.15am

26

Year 1 Farm visit

27

Year 4 Farm visit

July

2

Year 2 Farm visit

2

Chinese exchange student s visit to school

4

New starters – Reception class – visit morning

5

Move up morning and Reception class visit morning

5

Father John Assembly

6

Jet and Ben visit to EYFS

9

Year 6 chocolate challenge workshop

10

Ferryhill visit for Y6 pupils

11

Reception class Family assembly – 10.15am

12

Sports for Champions day – athlete visit

13

Year 6 Fun Afternoon

16

Proposed Sport afternoon

18

Year 6 Leaver's Show

18

Brass Band visit

19

Year 6 – Chef visit

20

School closes for Summer. Re-opens Tuesday 4th September 2018

