

North Park Primary School



Bessemer Green,
Spennymoor,
Co. Durham
DL16 6PP

Head Teacher: Mrs P Monk
Deputy: Mrs E Atkinson

Tel: 01388 815943
Fax: 01388 815260

E-mail: northpark@durhamlearning.net
Web-site: www.northpark.durham.sch.

November Newsletter 2018

What's been happening?

- Children enjoyed a 'Cycling' day in school – expert guidance and a great way to stay fit.
- Pupils in Year 1 and in Miss Richardson's group enjoyed a visit to the theatre and a trip to the Life Centre – a brilliant day.
- Thank you for your kind donations for our Harvest assembly – these have been shared with St Andrew's Church and donated to the Spennymoor Foodbank. We have had a lovely thank you letter from the food bank staff – your support makes all the difference.
- Year 1 families enjoyed a stay and read session with the children
- Year 3 pupils had a wonderful visit to the Mandir and a Life Centre workshop to follow
- Great fun was had at the Multi-Skills session by Year 4
- Year 6 performed a wonderful assembly about World War 2 and in follow up to their democracy work also enjoyed their visit to the debating chamber in the town – future prime ministers in the making!
- Thank you to Friends of the School for organising the Halloween Disco before half term.

Vandalism

There was significant damage done to school during the holidays to the school roof and the EYFS garden. We were lucky that a member of the public contacted the police. Please can you be vigilant and if you see someone on school premises when the school is closed can you contact the police. Unfortunately the cost of repairs will significantly eat into school budget. The police are investigating the matter.

Clarification

Recent posts on social media have been brought to my attention, referring to school closures, attendance and leave of absence. I feel it may be useful to clarify a number of things in response to these posts:

- As parents are aware, school is not able to grant leave of absence during term time unless for exceptional circumstances. The decision to take a child on holiday during term time lies with parents. The decision to issue penalty fines to parents is **NOT** taken by school but by the local authority, following their legal guidance. School **DOES NOT** issue fines. For your information I attach the LA Factsheet on this matter.
- Contrary to suggestions, PD (professional development) days are not 'days off' for staff. Staff undertake professional training and development during these days, working in school or elsewhere – the number of days and whether they fall in term time or holiday time is decided upon by the LA, not the school.
- The decision to close the school in inclement weather is not taken lightly, but after taking into account weather warnings, advice about travelling conditions, forecasts on local conditions and after undertaking risk assessments regarding the safety of pupils, parents and staff travel and transport. We liaise with the LA and other local schools and aim to keep the school open as much as possible, checking any changes to conditions on a daily basis and contacting parents as soon as we are able to. We aim to avoid any disruption but must consider health and safety of the whole school community when making our decisions.

I hope this is helpful – if you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact school.

Reminders:

- Please remember to return new menus for school dinners
- Any child wishing to join the **school bank** and start saving each week, please see Mrs Harris – we collect and bank monies every week.
- Please remember to avoid nut based products in packed lunches – for those pupils on packed lunch we also do not allow sweets of any kind, fizzy drinks or pop. A policy offering guidance on healthy choices is included for parents of children having a **packed lunch** soon – this has been agreed by Governors.
- Please remember **reading books and bags** should be returned to school every day so we can hear children read, change books and encourage progress reading.
- 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.
- Any change of personal details, phone numbers, etc – please make sure you let Mrs Harris know so we have a number to contact in emergencies.



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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.
- A sheet with diary dates is attached for your use.

Mrs P Monk

1.11.18

Diary Dates for the Autumn Term

November

- 1 Football Cup
- 2 Poetry Showcase assembly
Artyfact Theatre
- 5 and 6 Judo session
- 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 School Nurse drop in session – 3.15pm
- 6 Book Fair – after school Tues to Fri.
- 7 Netball Tournament
- 8 Year 6 visit to Eden Camp
- 10 Poppy Parade
- 13 Year 5 visit to Seven Stories
- 13 Owl Man visit to Year 1
- 16 Year 5 and 6 Cycling session
- 22 Chef in Year 5
- 23 Safety Carousel
- 23 Year 2 Multiskills session
- 26 Year 3 Stone Age cooking day
- 27 Year 5 Class Assembly
- 28 Father John assembly

December

- 4 Gymnastics festival
- 7 Reception to Year 5 Flu Immunisations
- 12 Nursery to Year 4 visits to Santa in Town Hall
- 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 and magic show – pm
- 20 Carol Service – St Andrew's Church – Year 1 to 6 – 2pm
- 21 Whole School Archery day
- 21 School closes; re-opens Tuesday 8th January**

