

North Park Primary School



Bessemer Green,
Spennymoor,
Co. Durham
DL16 6PP

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October newsletter

What's been happening in school?

We have had a really busy start to the year – as usual. Children have been working really hard and have lots to be proud of.

- PSHCE week – to start our year off we had lots of interesting visits and visitors in school, as we learnt about People who help us, Keeping clean, Healthy Eating, Emergency services and First Aid, Rules and Laws, Good choices and Risk, and Democracy. At the end of the week the children presented their work in a fantastic assembly. Well done! Activities included -
 - Smoothie bike in school for the week
 - Chef visit to Year 5
 - Year 1 cleanliness talk
 - Year 4 visit from police and visit to Police Station
 - Fire Brigade visit
 - Handwashing machine in KS1
 - Year 1 Dental talk
 - Year 1 – 'Teeth' magic show
 - Visit from councillor
 - Visit from magistrate
- SSOC training has taken place – our Sport's leaders are already organising games for the KS1 pupils and we have new equipment for play too thanks to the Year 6 pupils fundraising from last year.
- Year 5 and 6 pupils have had information from the health team about smoking cessation and have created posters for a competition.
- Our buddies and Mini-Buds have been trained and are ready to go!
- Pupils across school have been designing Mini-Libraries ready to be installed on the school yard – we are looking forward to using our new quiet seating and reading area.
- We enjoyed a challenging day when the Happy Puzzle Company came to school – we have purchased lots of challenges and puzzles for the children to use – the parent session also gave families the chance to try out the puzzles and purchase some for home.
- Thank you for the donations to the Foodbank – these were taken over to the church and donated to this good cause.
- Our Gardening workshops are underway – new planters are being filled and we are looking forward to seeing this all grow!

Reminders and forms:

- **PE kits** – it is important that your child has the correct kit on PE days – best to leave these in school and take them home at the end of the week to wash. A reminder that jewellery cannot be worn for PE – please remove this before coming to school.
- **Valuables, including jewellery** – I regret to inform you that some items have recently gone missing in school – children should not bring in anything valuable, but if there is a reason for doing so (e.g. to show) they must be given to the teacher. Pupils are allowed in and out of school, for example to go to toilets at break and lunch – we cannot guarantee the security of items in trays. The best option is not to bring valuables or personal items into school. I have reminded several children recently that jewellery, other than studs in pierced ears, should not be worn – necklaces, bracelets and any form of drop earring etc. will need to be removed – this is for safety reasons as these often become caught during play and we wish to avoid any injury or damage. Your support with this is appreciated.
- **School lunches** – we still need a few menus returned with choices for school lunch - **please return as soon as possible**. Please also check to see if you still have EV forms or Data sheets to return. Without the EV form your child will not be permitted on school visits or outings.
- **Attendance: our current attendance is at 93% - this is below the expected target for schools and we ask for your support in helping us maintain a good standard of attendance.** Please try to make appointments outside of school hours. If there is a genuine medical reason for absence, we ask for medical evidence to support this where it goes beyond a few days. Holidays in term time also impact significantly on attendance, and as you know, we are not authorised to grant leave of absence in term time except for exceptional circumstances; the Local Authority will intervene if your child accrues **seven days or more** of unauthorised absence in a term. If you have any concerns about attendance please contact school. Pupils whose attendance



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falls below 90% are classed as persistent absentees. We operate first day absence procedures – please inform us by phone, message or text if your child is absent and the reason for absence.

- 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.
- **Breakfast club** continues to run from 8am each day.
- We politely remind parents not to drive into school to drop off or pick up, unless by prior agreement with the headteacher.

Mrs P Monk

Diary Dates – 2017

October

- 12 Year 3 visit to Centre for Life
- 12 Year 2 trip to the Word and Durham Cathedral
- 13 Year 4 Multi-Skills
- 16 Year 3 – Stone Age Cooking
- 17 Halloween Disco
- 19 Year 1 proposed visit to Beamish
- 19 Year 2 Family Assembly
- 20 Golden Day
- 23 **Half term week**
- 30 School re-opens
- 30 Poetry week

November

- 2 Year 3 Stay and Read session
- 2 Artyfact theatre show – Eureka!
- 3 Father John Assembly
- 7 Year 6 Box-Fit course
- 7 Year 5 Stay and Read
- 9 Year 6 Stay and Read
- 13 Anti-Bullying Week
- 16 Year 4 and 5 Diversity workshops
- 13-15 Parent meeting week (**appointment slips will be sent out**)
Nursery parent session – 3.15-6pm - 14th November
Whole School Evening - 3.15-6pm - 14th November
Afternoon sessions (12.50-3.15pm)
Years 1 and 3 - **13th November**
Years 2,4,6 and Reception – **14th November**
Year 5 – **15th November**
- 17 Children in Need
- 21 Owl Man to visit Year 1
- 22 Year 6 trip to Eden Camp

December

- 15 EYFS Christmas Craft morning
- 15 Year 1 and 2 Christmas Show – 1.50pm
- 18 Year 5 and 6 Christmas Carols, Crafts and Coffee Morning
- 18 Year 1, 2 and 3 Party
- 19 Year 3 and 4 Christmas Carols, Crafts and Coffee Morning
- 19 EYFS Christmas Show
- 20 Year 4, 5, 6 Party
- 21 EYFS Christmas party – am
- 21 Carol Service – St Andrew's Church – 2pm.
- 22 **School closes. Re-opens Tuesday 9th January 2018.**

