

North Park Primary School



Bessemer Green,
Spennymoor,
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DL16 6PP

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NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

What's been happening?

- Friends of the School – Adopt a Teddy – thank you for your support with this
- Multicultural week – children learnt lots about countries and cultures around the world, including fabulous cookery sessions
- Year 5 visit from LipLee – fantastic Chinese culture and art workshop
- Artyfact Theatre visit – children learnt all about the First World War and Remembrance
- EYFS visited Hardwick Park
- Year 6 – Safety Carousel
- Year 2 visited the Methodist Church and had a wonderful Christmas Journey
- Year 1 enjoyed their trip to see Room on the Broom
- We had fun dressing up and raising money for Children in Need and had a surprise visit from Pudsey!
- We had a great assembly reminding us of the importance of tackling Bullying
- Year 1 and 3 enjoyed a visit from the Owl Man and his lovely owls.
- Year 5 gave us a fantastic performance for their Family Assembly this week – they know so much about Space!
- Our singing group performed beautifully at St Andrew's Church Fair and at the Livin Christmas Event. Well done to them all.
- Year 5 continue with their Neighbourhood watch project each week
- Year 4 and 5 continue with FISCH project and club
- Some of our EYFS families have enjoyed a 'Song and Rhyme' session this week.
- Adopt a cow – our fundraising continues – thank you for your support. Your donations have helped raise an amazing **£399.49** to date (£272.89 from the money boxes!). Please keep sending the money boxes in – we will have our first winner of the Smyths £20 voucher at the end of this term.

Reminders

- **Jungle Gym** - Please ensure you keep your children off the jungle gym before school – it is often slippery at this time of day and we do not wish for anyone to have an accident.
- **Dogs** - Please also remember dogs are **not** permitted in school grounds.
- **Fruit** – on sale for KS2 pupils – 20p each day
- **Wet weather** – children to come to the entrance nearest the main gate – Nursery and Reception to their entrances as usual – please do not bring children through school.
- **Asthma** – if your child suffers from Asthma please make sure you inform school and sign the necessary emergency treatment forms.
- **Lost property** – in the front entrance at present – please check if you need to; this will be disposed of soon.
- **PE** – please ensure your child has a PE kit in school when needed. Please also note jewellery is NOT permitted for PE – please ensure your child can take earrings etc. out or better still, that they are NOT worn on PE days.
- **Jewellery** – this should not be worn for school – children will be asked to remove rings, bracelets, necklaces etc. as they are a health and safety risk, especially when children are playing out. If earrings must be worn then please make sure they are studs only. We do not wish children to have an injury because of jewellery.

Attendance

Durham Local Authority has received official notification from the Government that they have changed the definition of **persistent absence**. Previously the threshold was those children with absence below 85%. This is now changed to anyone with attendance below 90%. This means that anyone falling into the below 90% bracket will now be classed as a persistent absentee. The table below explains what this actually means in terms of number of sessions and days missed (please remember a session is **half** a day):

TERM		Number of sessions (half days) missed before becoming a persistent absentee
AUTUMN	HALF TERM 1	7 or more (3.5 days)
	HALF TERM 1 and 2	14 or more (7 days)
AUTUMN + SPRING	HALF TERM 1 to 3	20 or more (10 days)
	HALF TERM 1 to 4	25 or more (12.5 days)
AUTUMN + SPRING + SUMMER	HALF TERM 1 to 5	31 or more (15.5 days)
	HALF TERM 1 to 6	38 or more (19 days)



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Please remember if your child is late after registers close this is classed as an absence too, so being on time is vitally important. Attendance is reviewed regularly by the Education Welfare Officer, Jen Quigley, and if you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please contact her on 03000 261113.

Christmas events

- **Christmas Lunch - Friday 19th December** – for those people normally having a packed lunch who would like Christmas Lunch, please **order and pay by Friday 12th December - £1.95**
- **Christmas Wish Tree – 25p** per wish from 1st December
- **Christmas Jumper Day – 12th December** – come to school in a Christmas themed jumper or T-shirt and donate 50p to charity.
- **Christmas Raffle** - We will be holding a Christmas raffle again this year, tickets are on sale at the office and at the door of the Y1-4 AND Y5 and 6 shows. We will draw the prizes at the end of the performance on Friday 12th December. If anyone has any prizes to donate we would be very grateful.

Performances

- **EYFS** – this year Reception and Nursery Children will be holding their performance (with the help of some of our older children) at St Andrew's Church. We look forward to seeing you on 17th December at 11am.
- **Year 1-4 Christmas Show** – Thursday 11th December at 10.15am and Friday 12th December at 1.45pm. Two tickets are available for each family – please come to the school office and choose which performance you would like these for. If you would like additional tickets reserved, please let Mrs Thompson know and if they are available we will send out any spares on Wednesday 10th December.
- **Year 5 and 6 Christmas music concert** – Monday 8th December at 2pm. Parents of Year 5 and 6 pupils are welcome.
- **Christmas Carol Service** – on Friday 19th December at 1.45pm in St Andrew's Church.

Diary Dates

December

- 1 Children from Nursery to Year 4 to visit Santa in the Town Hall
- 2 Year 1,2 and 3 Gymnastic Festival
- 3 EYFS visit to Adventure Valley
- 3 Year 5 to visit Fire Station
- 5 EYFS Parent Craft Day
- 5 Year 1 visit to Crook Hall
- 8 Year 5 and 6 Music show – 2pm
- 9 Whole School visit to Gala Theatre – Pantomime – morning
- 10 Year 6 Ernest the Elf – Livin offices
- 11 Christmas Show – Year 1 to 4 – 10.15am
- 12 Christmas Show – Year 1 to 4 – 1.45pm
- 15 Year 1, 2 and 3 Christmas Disco
- 17 EYFS Show – 11am St Andrew's Church
- 17 Year 4, 5 and 6 Christmas Disco
- 18 EYFS Party – morning
- 18 Christmas Stories – in afternoon in school – Year 1-6
- 19 Christmas Stories – EYFS in class – morning
- 19 Christmas Lunch
- 19 Christmas Carol Service – 1.45pm St Andrew's Church
- 19 **School closes for end of term**

January

- 6 **School re-opens for pupils**

Mrs Monk
28.11.14

