

North Park Primary School



Bessemer Green,
Spennymoor,
Co. Durham
DL16 6PP

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June 2016 Newsletter

Sun Awareness

As the weather improves please ensure your child has sun cream applied each day before coming to school, and a cap to wear when playing outside. Even those days that seem a bit dull to start off often warm up soon afterwards and we want to ensure all children are safe when playing outside.

Beach Trip

You should have received your letter about our planned trip to the beach on 6th July. This will be in place of a sports afternoon, as this will be hard to manage given the amount of building work still underway. Please read this letter carefully.

Building work update:

Our extension is continuing and work is well underway with the build. The work will continue throughout this term and the summer vacation. Our Travel Plan has been approved by the LA and we also have some new car park space. The turf has been laid around the new yard and this is much improved. Children now have access to the school field. Thank you to those parents who drop off each morning for Breakfast Club in helping us reduce congestion during the works - this has been much appreciated and the car park is almost finished too.

School lunches

From September 2016 School meal prices will increase to £2 per day. Those children in Key Stage 1 continue to have access to a free meal each day. Anyone else who thinks they may be eligible for Free School Meals, please feel free to check with Mrs Thompson. Even if you do not take up the meal, but know you are eligible, we ask that you complete the paperwork for our school records, and this in turn helps us access additional funding to support your child's schooling. Paperwork is available in the school office, if needed.

Staffing

We welcome Miss Horan to the school team – she joins us as the Year 5 teacher for 2016 and the children had a chance to meet her this week on their changeover morning.

Next week we say thank you and goodbye to Miss Walker, who has been covering for Mrs Henderson's maternity absence, and teaching around school and in Year 5 – it has been lovely having her as part of our team. Mrs Henderson will be back in school at the start of July.

Use of inappropriate language

It has been brought to my attention that there has been some inappropriate use of unpleasant language at the school gate. This will not be tolerated. We ask that all family members who come to school to collect and drop off children are mindful of how they speak to one another and that they consider the children around them, and the families in our community. In this instance the language was also racially abusive; because of this I have contacted the police as this is particularly unpleasant and inappropriate, as well as against the law. They will be monitoring closely for us. We are very proud of our lovely, welcoming school environment – inside and out – and we want North Park's good reputation for inclusiveness to continue. Your support in this is vital.

What's been happening in school?

- Year 3 children had a lovely visit to Durham Cathedral in May.
- The chef has been in school, visiting different classes to cook food from around the world. Y4 – marvellous Mexican delights; Year 5 – gorgeous Greek dishes.
- Year 1 performed a fabulous class assembly – they told us all about Dinosaurs! Well done!
- Father John visited school for an assembly.
- Children in Year 6 have completed their statutory tests – we are very proud of how hard they have worked and how well they conducted themselves. Whatever their results turn out to be, especially given how much tougher the tests were this year, they should be proud of all they have achieved. They got to celebrate with a visit to Lightwater Valley – a great day was had by all and as always our children were superbly behaved and



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a pleasure to take out of school. They are now busily preparing for their end of term show and Fun Afternoon, as well as undertaking induction visits. Well done to everyone in Year 6 this term!

- Testing has also taken place in Year 2 – again children have worked terrifically hard and done very well. Super progress! Year 1 and 2 pupils have also been undertaking Phonics screening checks – it is lovely to see how much progress the classes have made.
- Year 5 visited Whitworth Park School and enjoyed their visit – lots to do during the day.
- A number of children competed in the Sedgefield Dash – well done to everyone who took part! As always, we are delighted at how well our children conduct themselves – we have children to be very proud of. Well done to the medal winners, Cameron, Millie, Jessica, Charlie and Chloe!
- The Kinetic Theatre came to school last week and we learnt all about Electricity, as well as having a great time.
- Children from Year 6 competed in the Primary Maths Challenge – a VERY hard challenge and we did very well!
- Children went along to the Spennymoor School's Conference this week to show off the many wonderful things we have been involved in this year, and to find out what everyone else has been up to. We have lots to be proud of; our awards for Anti-Bullying, Educate and Celebrate (LGBT friendly school work), Fair Trade and the work we have done as Sports Leaders, through Go-Givers awards and Young Carers, to name but a few!
- All of our children have had their 'Move-up' morning this week, meeting their new teachers for next year. We welcome our children new to Reception – their first visit this week and another visit next week.
- Year 5 have undertaken Outdoor and Adventurous activities at Hardwick Park.

There is still lots more happening this term – please check the diary dates for information! Your child's school report will also be coming out towards the end of term.

Reminders:

After School Care - Jack in the Box Daycare – available for after school care from 3.15 – 5.45pm each night. Contact school for registration forms and cost information. The Club is OFSTED registered, and you are able to use childcare vouchers to pay for this. You may also be eligible to claim for working tax credits to help with childcare costs.

Attendance: A reminder that the Government has now changed the level at which children are deemed as a persistent absentee from 85% to 90%. The Local Authority has also changed the threshold at which they intervene via statutory enforcement - as you already know, 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 more than **seven days** of unauthorised absence (holiday) in a term. If you have any concerns about attendance please contact school or the EWO Jen Quigley on 03000 261113 (Ferryhill One Point)

Mrs P Monk
24.6.16



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Diary Dates

June

25 St Andrew's Church Fair – Singing Group and School Fair Trade Stall
27 Durham Cathedral Lego project - all children
27 Robinwood – Parent Meeting 5pm.
29 Year 2 Family Assembly
29 Reception trip to Alnwick
30 Primary Olympics

July

1 Reception Class – New Starters' visit morning
1 Year 6 Chocolate Challenge
4 Go Giver's Celebration Event – Year 5
5 Year 6 Chocolate Challenge
6 Whole school trip to South Shields
8 Year 6 Fun Day
12 Year 5 theatre visit – the Groovy Greeks
13 Nursery 'Graduation'
14 Year 6 Show
14 Reception Celebration Assembly
15-17 Robinwood residential visit – Year 5 and 6
18 Visit to Durham Cathedral – various children
19 **School closes for end of term.**

September – School re-opens for teaching on Tuesday 6th September

