

North Park Primary School

'Achieving and growing, together in friendship.'



Bessemer Green,
Spennymoor,
Co. Durham
DL16 6PP

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31.1.20

January 2020 Newsletter

Happy New Year! It has been lovely start to 2020 in school, with lots going on!

- We launched our 'Commando Joe' initiative in school – each class has been undertaking 'missions' and thoroughly enjoying themselves in the process! These activities are designed to promote a range of skills:

Resilience
Empathy
Self-Awareness
Passion
Excellence
Communication
Teamwork

Most important of all is that the children love it! It has been great seeing them work together and throw themselves into their tasks with enthusiasm! Well done! Look out on Facebook for some of the photos.

- Children enjoyed a skipping day in school – a fabulous way to keep fit and lots of super stars showing off their talents! Year 1 also enjoyed a Multi-skills fitness session.
- Our Year 5 and 6 Basketball stars won their tournament – fabulous skills. We are looking forward to taking our success to the next stage and entering the finals in Durham!
- Reception class enjoyed a fabulous day visiting Pizza Express and making delicious pizza. A super visit and lots of lovely food to taste!
- We will be holding our Spoon decorating competition on **World Book Day** again this year so get your creative thinking caps on and design a book character ready for 5th March! A prize for each class!
- Staff information** – we welcome back Mrs Swindells into school, and also welcome Mr Summerill to the school team. We also congratulate Mrs Willcock on the news that she is expecting a baby this year. We look forward to Mrs Wayman returning after half term to resume her duties as our crossing patrol officer.
- Please ensure your child has a suitable **PE kit** – this includes shorts, T-shirt and change of footwear. Earrings are not permitted in PE. Hats are required for swimming. Children should not have any other kind of jewellery on in school. Nail extensions are also not permitted – these are high risk in terms of injury, particularly in PE and are not suitable for school.
- Internet concerns** – it has come to our attention that quite a few children are talking about Tik Tok and their experiences on it, some of them quite young. The terms and conditions of an account say users should be over 13, therefore the content is not suitable, particularly for young children. Concerns have been raised about videos posted and inappropriate language; videos are also, by default, public. Please ensure you are aware of the content your child is accessing on phones and other devices and monitor this for suitability.
- After School Club** - Jack in the Box have announced that, unfortunately, the after school provision is no longer sustainable for them and the after school club will close at the end of the summer term. I am looking into the feasibility of school continuing to run this provision and will contact parents shortly regarding this. I am hopeful we will be able to continue with the current model.

Homework

The **homework policy** has been reviewed and updated (please see school website for full details). In order to align policy across the school the day when homework will be coming out, from Feb 1st, will be the same across school.

Homework:

- Will come out to children **every FRIDAY**
- Should be returned **every WEDNESDAY**
- Reading** should be done at a minimum three times each week and reading books and diaries should be brought into school **every day**. This allows us to hear children read in school, change books, support children to quiz and manage regular changing of books. This includes any phonics practice. Please help children look after their books.
- Bedtime story packs should also be returned every Wednesday.
- Year 6** – more regular short tasks will be set, particularly closer to SATs, and pupil and parents will be informed when homework should be returned (wherever possible a reminder text will be sent)



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Mobile phones

As a general rule **we do not permit mobile phones** in school for a number of reasons;

- Phones are expensive items and we cannot guarantee their safety or security.
 - This rule is also in place for safeguarding reasons – we cannot filter content to ensure it is appropriate for children if accessed on mobile phones.
 - In addition the taking of photographs etc. needs to be strictly controlled according to parental wishes.
- Therefore we ask for your support in NOT sending mobiles into school.

However, we also recognise there may be occasional **exceptional** circumstances where parents may wish for a pupil to bring a mobile phone into school, for instance, if they are being collected by a different carer one day a week. If this is the case, please contact school to discuss this and we will send you a mobile phone agreement form to complete. This agreement can be found on the school website in the policy section. If permission is granted phones must be handed in to the school office. Please note phones will be confiscated without this agreement and there must be a genuine reason and need for a child to have a phone in school – not simply because your child wants to have their phone.

Reminders

- **Attendance and Punctuality** - It is vitally important that children are at school on time each morning; school begins at **8.55am** and phonics and reading lessons begin as soon as children are in class – if children are late they are missing important teaching time. Please ensure a prompt morning start. A reminder about **Holiday requests** - 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 (this includes ALL unauthorised absence – holidays and any unauthorised sessions not accounted for, including late after registration).
- **2019-2020 School Holidays** - remember some of our professional development days are blocked together so families can benefit from a slightly extended closure and use this as an opportunity to book holidays at a cheaper rate. The planned dates when school will be closed for PD days in 2019-2020 are:
 - **1st, 2nd, 3rd June 2020** – these three days follow the May half term week (thus giving a slightly longer block)
 - **Monday 20th July 2020**
- Please remember we have a pupil in school with a nut **allergy**; bear this in mind when organising packed lunches for children (particularly those pupils in Year 3). **Please avoid putting nut based products and nuts into packed lunches.** School will take precautions to avoid possible cross-contamination and contact, and your support with this is very much appreciated. Please note we do not allow fizzy drinks, pop or sweets in packed lunches. These will be confiscated and returned to children to take home (please see the Packed Lunch Policy). Water and milk is freely available at lunchtimes.
- Any child wishing to join the **school bank** and start saving each week, please see Mrs Harris in September – we collect and bank monies every week and it is a wonderful way for children to save up.
- A reminder that we ask that parents **do not drive into school to drop off or pick up, including for breakfast club – especially into the staff car parking area** - unless by prior agreement with the headteacher. The speed limit for those with permission is **5mph**.
- **Breakfast club** begins at 8am. Parents can access **After School Care** via **Jack in the Box Day-care** – this runs from 3.15 – 5.45pm each night. Contact school for registration forms and cost information.



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Diary dates – 2020

February

- 4 Year 5 visit to Bowes Museum – Norman Cornish exhibition
- 6 Year 4 Family Assembly
- 10 Multi-cultural week
- 10 and 13 Chef visit to school – cooking workshops
- 11 Year 3 and 4 Dance and Gym Festival
- 11 Image Theatre – Robin Hood
- 12 Year 1 Stay and Read
- 14 School closes for half term**
- 24 School re-opens**
- 28 Fit for Fun

March

- 4 Year 1 trip to Raby Castle
- 5 World Book Day – spoon decorating competition
- 12 Young Carer's assembly and workshops
- 17 Year 5 visit to Whitworth Park
- 17,24,31 Year 5 and 6 Cycling
- 24 and 25 Parent meetings – evening sessions – appointment slots to follow
- 26 Year 2 Family Assembly
- 27 Year 6 visit to Eden Camp
- 31 Basketball Final

April

- 2 Easter Service – St. Andrew's Church 2pm
- 3 School closes**
- 20 School re-opens**
- 24 Year 5 Outdoor Activity and Adventure – Hardwick Park
- 27-30 Year 5 Bikeability training

May

- 4 A reminder – school will be open on this day as the Government have changed the Bank holiday**
- 8 School closed – bank holiday**
- 11-14 KS2 Year 6 SAT week
- 19 Primary Athletics
- 22 School closes – half term**

June

- 4 School re-opens after half term and staff training days**
- 8** Year 1 Phonics Screening week and Year 4 Multiplication check
- 8-11 Year 6 Bikeability
- 9 Sedgefield Dash
- 12 Year 5 Multiskills

July

- 3-5 Year 5 and 6 residential visit to Weardale House
- 17 School closes for the summer break.**

*Dates correct at time of writing – please continue to check in case of any additional dates or changes to dates or times in the future.

