

# North Park Primary School

'Achieving and growing, together in friendship.'



Bessemer Green,  
Spennymoor,  
Co. Durham  
DL16 6PP

Head Teacher: Mrs P Monk  
Deputy: Mrs E Atkinson  
Tel: 01388 815943

E-mail: [northpark@durhamlearning.net](mailto:northpark@durhamlearning.net)  
Web-site: [www.northpark.durham.sch](http://www.northpark.durham.sch)

28.2.20

## February 2020 Newsletter

### **Another busy month!**

- Thank you to all families for their patience during the unforeseen closure on Monday – this was due to the road conditions and many staff being unable to arrive safely for the working day. In addition school was vandalised during the half term break, with Nursery windows near the roof being smashed in – this obviously made the environment unsafe for children until repairs were done, as there was a risk of falling glass. If you do see anyone near the school when it is closed we would urge you to ring the police or crime stoppers to report the incident. The cost of repairs is significant and impacts on what we can then provide for the children in school.
- We hope you have been enjoying the Facebook posts showing some of the many things the children have been busy doing! They all loved their work in Multicultural week – especially working with Chef Sarah! There have also been some great updates from the swimming lessons and the Commando Joe missions! The children have been full of enthusiasm taking part in the activities in school – as usual!
- Year 5 enjoyed a fabulous visit to Bowes Museum to learn about the artwork of Norman Cornish, and to undertake an art workshop.
- Year 4 delivered a wonderful family assembly, showcasing their brilliant work on the 'Romans'
- All of the children enjoyed the visit from Image Theatre and the 'Robin Hood' show.
- Nursery children have enjoyed lots of visits from people telling stories – sharing stories with the younger children is such a pleasure!
- Children in school enjoyed out maths-themed Family Group Sessions and the 'Who wants to be a Mathionaire' assembly – Mr Logan and Mr Fothergill answered all the questions correctly (with a bit of help from the audience!) earning extra break time for the whole school!
- Anyone interested in joining the choir at St. Andrew's Church – this runs each Wednesday after school. We will transport children over and they will need to be picked up there – this is a super opportunity to get singing each week! Please let us know and we will contact Father John.



### **World Book Day**

We are looking forward to the children bringing in their wooden spoon book characters again next week for World Book Day on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Get your creative thinking caps on – prizes for each class!

### **Access to the car park – gates closure**

There has been an increase in cars driving children into the school car park each morning, despite requests that families refrain from this on the grounds of safety and delivery access. Therefore the decision has been made to close the car park from 8.30am. This ensures the safety of our youngest children who access the Nursery entrance at 8.45am.

### **After School Club – business as usual!**

As I mentioned earlier this term, 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 delighted to say that the Governors are committed to supporting the ongoing after-school provision, and we will continue to provide this after school club ourselves. I will write to parents whose children currently access the club, but at present the plan is to continue with the current timings and costs, and to review the provision as the next year progresses.

### **Homework**

A reminder that the updated policy is available on the school website and that homework should be completed as follows:

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



# North Park Primary School

'Achieving and growing, together in friendship.'



Bessemer Green,  
Spennymoor,  
Co. Durham  
DL16 6PP

Head Teacher: Mrs P Monk  
Deputy: Mrs E Atkinson  
Tel: 01388 815943

E-mail: [northpark@durhamlearning.net](mailto:northpark@durhamlearning.net)  
Web-site: [www.northpark.durham.sch](http://www.northpark.durham.sch).

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)

## 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:
  - **1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020** – these three days follow the May half term week (thus giving a slightly longer block)
  - **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> 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.
- **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.



SCHOOL MEMBER



# North Park Primary School

'Achieving and growing, together in friendship.'



Bessemer Green,  
Spennymoor,  
Co. Durham  
DL16 6PP

Head Teacher: Mrs P Monk  
Deputy: Mrs E Atkinson  
Tel: 01388 815943

E-mail: [northpark@durhamlearning.net](mailto:northpark@durhamlearning.net)  
Web-site: [www.northpark.durham.sch](http://www.northpark.durham.sch)

## Diary dates – 2020\*

### **March**

- 4 Year 1 trip to Raby Castle
- 5 World Book Day – spoon decorating competition
- 10 Year 6 SATS – Parent Meeting – 3.30pm
- 12 Young Carer's assembly and workshops
- 17 Year 5 visit to Whitworth Park
- 19 Zoo Lab – Mrs Wood's Group
- 17 Movie Night – Years 4, 5 and 6
- 19 Movie Night – Years 1, 2 and 3
- 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
- 11 Year 6 Photos
- 12 Year 5 Multiskills
- 22 Year 5 Curriculum Week – Bishop Barrington

### **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.

