

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
Web-site: www.northpark.durham.sch

Welcome back!

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been lovely to welcome the children back into school today and to see them all settle back into school after the events of the last few months. We welcome Mr Maxwell and Miss Leckenby to Years 3 and 4 and Mrs Hemmingway to Reception. Our priority will be to work together to help the children settle back into school routines, albeit that they are a little different to normal, whilst making sure they learn in a safe and secure environment. We will be working hard over the next few weeks to look at how we can help children build up their basic skills and get back into enjoying their learning.

A few polite reminders:

- A big thank you for your support in getting children to school promptly and making sure they arrive at the right entrance – this helps us avoid groups 'crossing over' unnecessarily. The Government has asked us to ensure we manage a staggered start to avoid groups mixing and also not to shorten the school day for children – I appreciate this may mean a short wait at the end of the day, but in order to keep the children and our community safe this is unavoidable.
- If you have children in more than one year group bring them at the earlier time and we will then organise children to be taken to their classes.
- Please can I ask that adults do not come on to the yard – if you need to speak to the teacher they will contact you as soon as they can. This helps us manage the school environment safely.
- Breakfast club is available for children who need this – children should arrive at 8am and will be sent to the hall where they will be seated with their classes. Please only use this facility if you really need to – our aim is to minimise groups mixing where we can.
- Some parents have asked about masks. I know how confusing this can be, given the recent reports in the media, but government advice has always been that under 12s should NOT wear masks. They are only used by staff in school dealing with first aid, illness or intimate care needs. Government advice to schools about masks relates to secondary pupils as they regularly move around corridors – that is not the case in our primary school.
- Please wash hands before coming to school and encourage your child to wash hands when they return home. We will undertake regular handwashing in school – on arrival, before leaving and between activities, where necessary.
- Please remember only to send in book bags, packed lunches and PE kits, and water bottles for KS2 children – children do not need any stationery etc in school and should not bring in personal belongings.
- School lunches cost **£2.10** per day. If you think your child is entitled to Free School Meals, please see Mrs Harris (even if you do not intend on taking up the meal, we need to know as this helps us access funding to support your child's education in school).
- A reminder that homework is set each Friday and should be returned each Wednesday. Books and book bags should be in school each day – teachers will collect books in class once finished and ensure they are stored safely before returning to the communal shelves after 48 hours or being wiped down.
- Class teachers will write to you about the curriculum this term, which includes details on days when PE takes place. Wherever possible (unless the weather is too unpleasant) PE will take place outside – please ensure a full PE kit is available when needed. This will be returned after the PE lesson and should be washed before being returned to school for use. Please remember jewellery is NOT permitted for safety reasons and adults cannot remove stud earrings etc. Ideally these should not be worn on PE days. Necklaces, hoop earrings, bracelets etc. are not permitted in school. School t-shirts are available for PE, or a plain T-shirt should be worn, with cycling shorts. Jogging bottoms may be useful as the weather becomes cooler, for outdoor PE.
- Although we cannot welcome parents into school at present, we will do all we can to continue sharing special occasions with you via social media – watch this space!
- Your support with punctuality and attendance is vital. We operate a first day absence procedure. If your child is absent for any reason, please contact school – this is really important in the current climate so we can be vigilant in case of virus symptoms. You can leave a message or send in a text.



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- **Inhalers** were sent home at the end of term or in March. If you have not already done so, please send in a new inhaler if your child needs one. We will ensure your child has access to this in class.
- Holiday requests - a reminder that 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, including late after registration).
- 2020-2021 School Holidays and PD days are attached at the end of this newsletter (my apologies for the errors in the letter sent out in July).
- 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

What if my child, or someone in my house feels unwell? What happens if they become unwell at school?

It is vitally important NOT to send your child to school if they, or members of their household have any coronavirus symptoms

- **a new continuous cough**
- **a high temperature**
- **a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)**

If there is any incident of a child (or adult), or member of the household displaying symptoms, we would urge parents not to send children in and go for a test. If a child develops symptoms in school we will:

- Contact parents immediately and ask that you take their child for a test; if the result is positive other children and adults in that class bubble will be advised to isolate for 14 days.
- Anyone with a positive test must isolate for at least 10 days.
- Seek advice from HPA if we have more than 2 incidences of infection in 14 days and advise parents accordingly.
- Work with families to provide work to complete at home.

Internet Access – please return this slip to school

To help us understand the best way to support you with any potential learning at home in the future (which we hope will not be needed) please can you let us know which of the following suits you best, and also give us the best email address for you (this will be kept confidential and only used to support home learning)?

Pupil name.....

We are able to access the internet using a computer or tablet at home if needed

We have some access to a computer or tablet, but this may need to be shared with siblings or used for adults to work at home. A mix of some computer and paper-based work will suit us best.

We currently do not have access to the internet and would need paper-based resources.

My current email address is

Signed (parent/carer)





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Diary dates – Autumn 2020

September

- 1 Return to school
- 8 and 9 Captain Chemistry – visit to school
- 17 SSP coaching starts for Year 1 and 2 – 5 weeks

October

- 1 Harvest Festival (to be held virtually) – Food collection for Durham Foodbank
- 2 SCHOOL CLOSED FOR PD DAY
- 5 SCHOOL CLOSED FOR PD DAY
- 26 SCHOOL CLOSED FOR HALF TERM WEEK

November

- 1 School re-opens
- 8 SSP coaching starts for Year 2 and 3 – 5 weeks
- 9 Hoopstarz day
- 16 Anti-Bullying week

December

- 14 Christmas week – more details to follow

North Park Primary School HOLIDAYS 2020-2021 (other schools may be different)

<i>Holiday</i>	Closing Date Last day in school for children	Date Re-open for Teaching Purposes
Summer 2020	Tuesday 14 th July 2020	Tuesday 1 September 2020
Autumn half-term 2020	Friday 23 October 2020	Monday 2 November 2020
Christmas 2020	Friday 18 December 2020	Monday 4 January 2021
Spring half-term 2021	Friday 12 February 2021	Monday 22 February 2021
Easter 2021	Friday 26 March 2021	Monday 12 April 2021
May Day 2021	Friday 30 April 2021	Tuesday 4 May 2021
Summer half-term 2021	Friday 28 May 2021	Monday 7 June 2021
Summer 2021	Tuesday 20 July 2021	Wednesday 1st September 2021

In addition, we will be closed for the following 5 days, for Professional Development:

2.10.20 5.10.20 12.2.21 29.4.21 30.4.21

