

North Park Primary School

'Achieving and growing, together in friendship.'



Bessemer Green,
Spennymoor,
Co. Durham
DL16 6PP

Head Teacher: Mrs P Monk
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November Newsletter

The end of the term is fast approaching and we are now busy organising activities in preparation for Christmas festivities in school! I know Christmas will be slightly different this year, as we have to continue to maintain social distancing. but we are doing our best to ensure we still have lots of fun, parties, etc. and we look forward to sharing some of this with you soon.

Keeping ourselves as safe as possible in the next few weeks will be especially important to help us all enjoy a safe Christmas break with our families. With that in mind, we ask that you continue to be vigilant and remember to continue to maintain distance as you drop off and collect children – if you feel safer doing so, please wear a mask during these times. Also, a reminder that:

- 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 this does happen **please isolate and do not go out.**
- Please inform us as soon as possible and organise for a test. Let us know the outcome of the result, and we will contact the DFE and PHE for advice. If someone in a group does test positive, then we will take the necessary steps, following that advice, and will inform parents immediately about the actions needed.
- If the test is negative, children can come back to school, if they are well enough to do so.
- Current guidance states If a member of your household has symptoms, then please follow the isolation guidance until that person has a test – a positive test will mean the household members need to isolate for 14 days (10 days for the person with symptoms/positive result).
- Please remember to maintain a suitable distance when dropping off and collecting children and to encourage older children to go straight home if they are not collected, to ensure we keep the environment around school as safe as we can.

As always, a huge thank you for your support with this.

Updates and news:

- Thank you for your donations to the **Poppy Appeal** – an amazing £196.54 was raised. Year 6 did us proud by taking our school wreath to the memorial in the town centre too.
- For **Children in Need** you donated £158 – thank you so much!
- We had an amazing two days when **Adam Bushnell**, local author and storyteller, visited school – lots of fun across all classes!
- We welcome Mr Murdoch to Reception, working with Mrs Hemmingway's class each morning.
- A reminder to be extra careful if you use the small gate and car park near the Youth Centre to drop off and pick up – the car park is very busy and we want to avoid any children running around that area.

Christmas Plans

- **Christmas Cards** – as we are asking children NOT to bring things in from home into school, to help minimise the spread of Covid, we are extending this to Christmas cards too, this year. Children will still make cards in school, but we are hoping that families will once again make a small donation towards the **People's Kitchen**, to help buy a **Christmas Meal for a homeless person** this year, instead of spending money on cards for children in classes. The meals cost £5 each, but any donation is welcome. Last year you helped raise enough money for 44 meals – amazing – and I am sure your support will be just as tremendous this year!
- We are also supporting Save the Children by donating £1 on **Christmas Jumper Day** – Friday 11th December 2020.
- **Christmas Parties** - the dates are listed below – please send children into school in their clothes this year on party day. School will provide refreshments.



SCHOOL MEMBER



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- We will be holding a **Christmas Movie Afternoon and Prize Draw** in each class on 17th December – all children will watch a movie and enjoy some refreshments in class and can come into school in snugly PJs or Onesies (or their own clothes if they prefer. (Remember coats and shoes too though for when they go outside!). Tickets for a Prize Draw will be sold in each class - £1 each – and the prize will be a Christmas Goodies Box with a Christmas DVD and treats for the family to enjoy.
- Children are also supporting local community groups in class – we have been designing Christmas Windows to be displayed in the town centre, in conjunction with St Andrew's Church – I am sure these will lift everyone's spirits. In addition, Year 6 have designed cards, linked with Asda, for people in local care homes – hopefully spreading some Christmas joy!
- **Christmas Lunch** – this will be on Thursday 17th December – if your child does not normally have school meals but you would like to order one, please let Mrs Harris know.
- **Friends of the School – Guess the Name of the Penguin** – this competition will run from 14-18 December – children can pay 50p to guess the name of the lovely cuddly toy – name will be drawn on 18th December!

Mrs Monk

DIARY DATES

December

2	Tilly Two Tales – Christmas Story telling workshops for Year 3 and Mrs Wood's group. Year 6 – WW1 Storytelling
7	Year 3 and 4 Christmas Craft workshops
7	Tilly Two Tales – Christmas Story telling for Years 1, 2, 4, and 5.
8	Year 5 and 6 Christmas Craft workshops
9	Whole school Flu vaccination day
11	Christmas Jumper Day
14	Miss Walton, Miss Leckenby, Mr Maxwell and Mrs Wood's classes - party afternoon
15	Mrs Kalus and Mr Logan's classes - party afternoon
16	Mrs Logan and Mr Summerill's classes - party afternoon
17	Christmas Lunch
17	Christmas Movie Afternoon and Prize Draw
18	Guess the Name of the Penguin Prize Draw
18	Key Stage 2 Christmas X-Factor
18	Mrs Natrass' Nursery Christmas Party – morning
18	Mrs Summerill and Mrs Hemmingway's classes – Christmas party afternoon
18	School closes for end of term

January 2021 (more dates to follow)

4	School reopens
7	Chef Visit
21	School photographs – individuals ONLY – no family groups

February

11	School closes for staff training (12 th) and half term week
22	School reopens

March

26	School closes for end of term
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