

North Park Primary School

'Achieving and growing, together in friendship.'



Bessemer Green,
Spennymoor,
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DL16 6PP

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October Newsletter

It is hard to believe that a half term has flown over already!

I would like to begin by thanking all of our families for working with us this term in support of the necessary changes we have made. I am delighted to report that the children have adapted really well to the arrangements in place in school, working hard and settling into their classroom routines with enthusiasm – as busy as we are, it has been lovely to see them enjoying lessons and we love to share our successes in our favourite part of the week – the end of week online assembly! The children are now ready for their well-earned half term break!

We have been incredibly lucky to get to this stage without having to isolate any groups in school as a result of Covid 19, but we are mindful that this could happen at any point and ask that families continue to remain vigilant to the symptoms of coronavirus and inform us as soon as there are any potential symptoms in households. Thank you to those families who have done this so far. We all share your concerns over the changes in the situation at a local and national level and will continue to remain vigilant in school, and where necessary, do our best to support any learning at home, in line with Government guidance, should pupils need to isolate for any reason.

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.
- 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.

Updates and news:

- To support **remote learning**, Class Dojo letters have been sent out and children have been introduced to this in class. Where remote learning becomes necessary for individuals or groups this will be the main programme we use to communicate work to children, alongside paper-based resources. Thank you for providing the information we need to help organise this.
- The **Harvest collection** was very much appreciated and the local Foodbank asked that we pass on their heartfelt thanks to all the school community for your kind donations. The videos of the children enjoying their activities were just lovely to see, and we look forward to sharing more of videos with you as the year progresses.



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- **Parent meetings** will take place over a two-week period, and teachers will arrange to chat with you on the telephone. Please see the letter that was sent home with your child and return the slip attached.
- A reminder that children should not be bringing in their own resources – stationery etc – and that these items will be provided by school. This helps us maintain hygiene standards in classrooms.
- We have been keeping track of **attendance** carefully, as usual – Mrs Harris' award for October's best class attendance goes to Year 2! Keep it up and let's see who wins the treat in November!
- **Poppies** will continue to be sold in the week beginning 2.11.20.
- Some lovely **October half term holiday** activities can be found by searching for Durham Families Information Service – Half term activities – this brings up the link to the VCS activities available in South Durham.
- Lots of work has continued to be done to re-establish and continue good **reading** habits – your support in ensuring children read little and often (including over half term) is vital to this.

We have had a lovely last day dressing up in spooky costumes! I hope you all enjoy the half term break and that you and your families stay safe and well.

Mrs Monk

DIARY DATES – AUTUMN 2020

October

23 School closed for half term week

November

2 School re-opens
3 Year 6 Kensuke's Kingdom Experience Day
6 Bikeability taster day – Year 4
8 SSP coaching starts for Year 2 and 3 – 5 weeks
9 Hoopstarz day
9-11 Bikeability – Year 6
13 Children in Need
16 Anti-Bullying week
16 World War Memorial Day – assembly and Year 6 workshop
16-27 Parent Meeting Weeks - telephone consultations

December

2 Tilly Two Tales – workshops for Year 3 and Year 6, and Mrs Wood's group.
7 Year 3 and 4 Craft workshops
7 Tilly Two Tales – workshops for Years 1, 2, 4, and 5.
8 Year 5 and 6 Craft workshops
9 Whole school, Flu vaccination day
14-18 Christmas activities – information to follow
18 School closes for end of term

