

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

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July 2021 End of Term Newsletter

Thank you!

It is hard to believe another extraordinary school year is now drawing to a close again; the children have done us proud by coping brilliantly with the arrangements and changes that this last year has brought to education as a whole. The staff have also done an amazing job over the last year managing all of this amidst the challenges faced.

However, we could not have done this without your help and patience, and I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge **thank you** to you all for continuing to work in partnership with us and supporting us in keeping our school and local community as safe as possible over the course of this last year. This has not been an easy effort and I am well aware of disruption many have faced in light of the restrictions placed upon society and in particular schools, as we have worked through the advice we have been given by the DFE and PHE. We were really sad to have to close some of our bubbles in the last week after the rise in community infections hit school. We can only hope for a much-improved outlook in the Autumn Term.

Following the most recent announcements we hope things in the next academic year will begin to feel a bit more 'normal' again. We have now made provisional arrangements for September 2021 return, based on current advice we have been given:

Arrangements for September (may be subject to change depending upon DFE and PHE advice in the coming months)

- Restrictions on class bubbles are removed; handwashing, ventilation, additional cleaning, etc. will remain in place to maintain good hygiene but children will be able to mix freely for break, for assemblies and over lunch.
- Staggered start and end times are no longer required; children should all arrive by the 'normal' time of 8.55am (unless they are attending breakfast club from 8am); gates will be opened and parents/carers will be welcome to come on to the yard for drop off and pick up, if necessary; teachers will be at the gates to welcome the children and they will be supervised from 8.50am, therefore children can be left if preferred.
- Once the whistle is blown, Key Stage 1 (Reception, Year 1 and 2) will line up on the smaller yard (near the school field). Please can parents stand well back from the class lines and the entrances to help with managing the children into school. Key stage 2 children will line up on the larger yard. Parents should then leave the yard and gates will be locked.
- At the end of day gates will be opened at 3.10pm and children can be collected from the yard areas; teachers will escort them out after the final bell at 3.15pm. Please allow a little time for children to collect coats etc.
- Please remember if your child brings a bike/scooter that these should ideally be secured with your own lock. Children should be careful exiting from the bike shed area and should leave via the small gate.
- Breakfast club and after school club will operate as normal. Registration forms for After School Club can be collected from the main office.

What to do if you have symptoms or a confirmed PCR test

Information can be found on the following link - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak>

- Present guidance states that if any child develops symptoms, **however mild**, then parents should book a PCR test. The rest of the class 'bubble' does not need to isolate but are also advised to book a PCR test if they have been in close contact with a positive case or develop symptoms themselves. A negative PCR test means a child can return to school.
- If a child has a positive PCR test then they should isolate in line with government guidance - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate>



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[and-what-to-do/](#)

- Pupils will be supported with learning at home until the end of the isolation period.
- The household, including siblings, should follow the PHE stay at home guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>
- We will only close bubbles if asked to do so by Public Health or NHS Test and Trace. Bubbles will not routinely be sent home any longer and school will only return to these arrangements if temporarily advised to do so by local health protection teams, or if there are several cases indicating an outbreak.
- Asymptomatic testing is not required in primary schools, but arrangements for Year 6 entering secondary school as new Year 7s will be different.

Until September comes, it remains imperative that we all continue to take sensible precautions throughout the summer holidays and remain vigilant to the symptoms of coronavirus, particularly given the recent rise in community infection rates. I sincerely hope you all stay safe and well for the summer holiday and look forward to everyone returning safely again in September.

Other news

- **Year 6** have enjoyed some lovely end of term activities before their transfer to their secondary schools. They have had the chance to cook some delicious meals (especially flapjack!) with Chef Sarah and loved their trip to Weardale House. I am sure you will all enjoy their brilliant Leaver's Show – we may not be able to do this with a 'live' audience this year, but never fear, they have produced the most amazing video and this can be viewed on the school Facebook page – what amazing memories and photographs! Well done, Year 6; I am sure you will all continue to shine as you now move into your secondary schools! We wish you all the best of luck and look forward to hearing how you are getting on next year! I will miss you all!
- The children have been enjoying a range of sporting activities; working in separate bubbles they have been sporting superstars in the 'Dash' events and have loved some of the mini-sports days activities held in school.
- Reception and Reception/1 classes enjoyed their visits to **Hall Hill farm** – although they ended up visiting on a bit of a wet day, this did not dampen their spirits and they had great fun!
- The whole school enjoyed **Make Music Day** in June – the videos can be seen on Facebook; wonderful stuff!
- Year 4 had a great day at **Low Barns**, taking part in a range of science activities – and only got a little bit wet!
- **Staffing** - we say goodbye and thank you to Mr Murdoch from Nursery this week; we also wish Mr Maxwell a fond farewell and thank you as he moves to a new school, and we wish him well for the future.
- Children have enjoyed their 'Move up' visits, meeting new class teachers this week. It was also lovely to welcome in our new Reception starters for a visit and we look forward to seeing them all in September.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We have two vacancies for parent governors. We would like to hear from anyone who is interested in this important role. Anyone who has parental responsibility for a pupil at the school can become a Governor. Parent Governors are elected/appointed by the parent body and become part of the overall body responsible for making decisions for the benefit of the whole school.

In order to become a Governor, you need to:

1. Contact the school or email as above.
2. Complete a nomination form. You will be expected to undergo a DBS application.
3. You may need to undergo an election process if we have several interested parents.

We look forward to hearing from you, by the 10th September 2021.



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Relationships and Sex Education Policy

At North Park Primary School, we aim to promote personal wellbeing and development at every opportunity through a broad curriculum, which includes Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Education; this gives children the knowledge, skills and understanding to live healthy and safe lives now and in the future. Relationships education is part of this curriculum.

As you may be aware the Department for Education has updated their guidance and requirements for Relationships and Sex Education. Schools are required to comply with this guidance. The statutory guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

The guidance focuses on healthy relationships and keeping children safe; it covers topics ranging from healthy relationships, physical health, mental health, wellbeing and safety and first aid. The school policy and guidance has been updated in light of this and is available for parents to see on the school website. At North Park RSE is delivered predominantly through PSHCE lessons, science and some additional bespoke teaching; the policy details this. If you have any queries or would like to share views on the policy, please get in touch with us in school via the school email, or call school; the consultancy period will end on 30 September 2021.

Reminders:

- **Inhalers** will be sent home with your child on the last day of term; please remember to bring in a new inhaler at the start of September to be kept in school.
- **Uniform** orders placed at the end of term can be collected on Wednesday 1st September between 10am-2pm from the main office. Please ensure your child is wearing school uniform in September, in line with the school uniform policy (see brochure on website). Year 6 pupils are expected to wear plain black sweatshirts/jumper/cardigan (no logos).
- Could any parents of Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 children who may have not applied for **Free School Meals**, and think they are entitled please let Mrs. Harris know. This helps us access funds to support your child in school across all areas and is especially important as the children move to their new classes; from Year 3 onwards children who are not entitled to free meals must pay as universal free school meals are only given to KS1 and Reception pupils. If in doubt give Mrs Harris a ring – she can undertake a quick confidential check for you.
- It is vital children attend and are on time for school; attendance is mandatory. Local Authority continue to monitor **attendance** and will intervene if your child accrues seven days or more of unauthorised absence in a term (this includes ALL unauthorised absence – holidays and any other unauthorised sessions, including late after registration).
- We are in the process of organising for online payments to be introduced to help minimise the need for cash for uniform, lunches, After School Club, etc. and will keep you up to date in the Autumn Term
- A reminder that Mrs Harris organises a **school bank**; collections will resume in September – each Wednesday. If you wish to open an account for your child, please complete the attached form and return to school in September. A student account is a great way of saving, even a little each week, and teaches the children the importance of managing their money.
- School will re-open for teaching purposes on **Thursday 2nd September 2021**.

Enjoy your summer vacation; we look forward to seeing the children again in September.

Sincerely

Mrs P Monk
16.7.21





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North Park Primary School HOLIDAYS 2021/2022 (other schools may be different!)

Holiday	Closing Date Last day in school for children	Date Re-open for Teaching Purposes
Summer 2021	Friday 16 th July 2021	Thursday 2 nd September 2021*
Autumn half-term 2021	Friday 22 October 2021	Tuesday 2 nd November 2021*
Christmas 2021	Friday 17 December 2021	Wednesday 5 th January 2022*
Spring half-term 2022	Friday 18 February 2022	Tuesday 1 March 2022*
Easter 2022	Friday 8 April 2022	Monday 25 April 2022
May Day 2022	Friday 29 April 2022	Wednesday 4 May 2022*
Summer half-term 2022	Friday 27 May 2022	Monday 6 June 2022
Summer 2022	Thursday 21 July 2022	Monday 5 September 2022

** on current planning we will be closed for the following Professional Development Days in the 2021-2022 school year - 1.9.21 1.11.21 4.1.22 28.2.22 3.5.22*

