

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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September 2021 Newsletter

What a busy start to the term we have had! It has been lovely to welcome the children back and they are working hard and enjoying lessons. It has also been good to welcome families back on to the school yard and to see some of the everyday activities in school return to 'normal'.

Covid 19 precautions

We are continuing to follow DFE and LA guidance in relation to managing schools since the return in September. This means we are now having some joint assemblies, mixing for play at breaks and lunch, and arranging visits and visitors to enhance and enrich the curriculum provision in school. Of course, we remain vigilant in relation to Covid 19, and will ensure all these events take place safely and in line with risk assessments. We ask that you do the same and that:

- if your child develops symptoms, **however mild**, you should book a PCR test (please do not rely on a lateral flow test for children). Please let us know if you are booking a test, as well as keeping us informed of the results, as we are required to report all suspected and confirmed cases to the DFE every day.
- At present, class 'bubbles' do not need to isolate if there is a positive case, and we will follow PHE advice and let you know if other pupils are advised to take a precautionary PCR test.
- 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-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>
- School will only return to previous arrangements of bubbles, etc. if advised to do so by local health protection teams, for example if there are several cases indicating an outbreak.
- We ask you to continue to be vigilant, however, as cases are still circulating within the community; masks and social distancing are not compulsory but may offer you protection at busy drop off and pick up times.

Harvest Collection

We are collecting donations for Harvest for the Durham Foodbank and will join our harvest collection with that of St Andrew's Church. Please send any donations in between 4-7th October. Watch out on Facebook for our lovely Harvest singing.

What have we been up to?

- We enjoyed a fantastic first two weeks back learning all about PSHE in **Me and My World** topics – democracy, first aid, emergency services, healthy eating, rules and law, drugs and alcohol, people who help us – children had a great time and threw themselves into their work! Well done! They enjoyed visits from the Mayor, Fire Service, Humankind, Chef Sarah and the Police.
- Mrs Alderson, Mrs Kalus and Mrs Hemmingway took the children on our first big 'outing' – a fantastic trip to the theatre to see **Stick Man** – what a great time!
- Years 1 to 6 had a great day of fun and fitness in our **Skipping Day**.
- Year 2 survived walking the plank and being ticked by feathers when **Captain Raggy Beard** came to visit and tell them all about the life of a pirate!
- Year 6 put their skills to the test at a **Cross Country festival** – great work!
- Year 3 have enjoyed learning all about the **Stone Age** during a workshop, which included stone age cookery.
- Mrs Kalus' class enjoyed exploring **the woods!**



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- Mrs Kalus organised a whole school **pumpkin growing** competition - some wonderful growing in the garden and the biggest was Year 4 (grown from seed while they were in Year 3). Well done!
- It is great to have started our coaching sessions, swimming, gymnastics and dance again – always very busy!
- It was so lovely having Father John back in school and hearing the children singing their lovely songs for assembly.

Look out for the photographs on **Facebook** of all of this, as well as some of the lovely work children have been enjoying in class.

Parent Governor Vacancy

I am pleased to welcome Mrs C Vickery and Mrs A Davies to the Governing Body as parent Governors.

Reminders:

- A reminder that it is important that children make sure **homework** is completed, especially their **reading**.
- A further reminder that your child needs a **PE kit** for PE lessons; jewellery should not be worn in school, particularly bracelets, necklaces and dangling earrings. Studs need to be removed for swimming too.
- **New Menus** for lunches are included with this newsletter. The new menu will begin after half term so please **return this by Friday 22nd October** to ensure your child's choice is recorded. If menus are not returned a sandwich will automatically be prepared.
- 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 school access funds to support your child. 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). Holidays are not authorised unless in exceptional circumstances.
- We are underway with the process of organising for **online payments**; thank you for your patience with this aspect of office administration – it takes a little while as we need to change school systems.
- A reminder that Mrs Harris organises a **school bank**; collections will resume this term each Wednesday. An enrolment form is included with this letter if your child wishes to join the bank and start saving - a student account is a great way of saving, even a little each week, and teaches the children the importance of managing their money.
- 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 are operating as normal. Registration forms for After School Club are available at the main office.

Sincerely

Mrs P Monk



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Diary Dates*

**some activities may be subject to change as a result of Covid restrictions*

October

- 8 Year 3 Theatre Visit – Dragons and Mythical Beasts
- 11 Year 6 visit to Hamsterley Forest
- 15 Year 1 visit to St Andrew's Church
- 19 Year 3 Family Assembly – 10.30am*
- 20 Fire Station Bonfire workshop - Year 6
- 21 Year 5 Rugby Festival
- 22 **School closes for half term holiday**

November

- 1 School re-opens
- 5 Mrs Wood's class – visit to Bowes Museum
- 9 Netball competition
- 11 Year 6 visit to Beamish
- 15 Anti-Bullying week
- 30 Year 6 Family Assembly – 10.30am*

December

- 1 Year 4 and 5 theatre visit – The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe
- 13 Year 3, 4 and Mrs Wood's group Christmas Disco
- 14 Year 5 and 6 Christmas Disco
- 15 Christmas Dinner Day
- 15 Year 1 and 2 Christmas Party Day* provisional date
- 16 Carol Service* provisional date
- 17 Reception and Nursery Christmas Party Bus
- 17 **School closes for the end of term**

January 2022

- 5 **School re-opens for teaching purposes**

School holidays can be found on the school website and Durham County Council Website.

