

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
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February 2022 Newsletter

Covid 19 update

This has been an incredibly challenging start to a new term for everyone; throughout the pandemic infection levels have been ongoing but up to now manageable in school. However, in the last month we have seen increasing numbers, in line with local, county and national levels. This has, inevitably, had a significant impact on pupil and staff attendance and I know this has also affected many families. The staff team have been amazing in their resilience and hard work in keeping things going as normally as possible for the children in school. Thank you!

Thanks too to all of you for your ongoing support in being vigilant, testing regularly and keeping us informed at all times. This has helped us manage arrangements in school and we hope we are now seeing a decline in cases, although these are not yet gone entirely. I genuinely hope you all remain safe and well in the coming months.

Your support in ensuring school remains as safe as possible for your children is vital. With that in mind we ask:

- Please wear a mask (unless exempt) if you need to come to the main office, at drop off and pick up times and if you collect children from After School Club. Staff do not routinely wear masks in primary school during lessons but may use them for first aid, or if they feel this would be safer in some circumstances where they work closely with children.
- If your child develops any of the usual symptoms (temperature, persistent cough, headache) please organise for a test; other symptoms seem to include a sore throat and upset stomach in children, as well as aches and pains. Thankfully they seem to be short-lived. A Lateral flow test or PCR is advised.
- The isolation period is ten days, unless you have two negative lateral flow tests on days 5 and 6 onwards during your isolation period, taken 24 hours apart; in that instance children can return to school from day 6 onwards – but **only** if these tests are negative on both days. Otherwise please wait until 10 days have passed.
- If your child tests negative on a Lateral Flow Test but continues to have symptoms we strongly advise a PCR – we have had some instances where Lateral Flow Tests are negative but PCR tests are positive.
- If members of the household are positive, children do not need to isolate – only those with the infection. However household members are advised to test using Lateral Flow Tests for 7 days; a precautionary PCR is also advised, as long as these are available.
- We appreciate parents sharing test results with us so that we can complete our daily returns to the DFE in relation to cases.

Additional measures we have taken include managing some children in class groups (bubbles) when cases rise above 10%; children have lunch separately in this instance and assemblies have been cancelled at present, other than online. This has helped us keep children safe and we have done our best to ensure all other activities continue as normally as possible, allowing children to mix again for breaks once numbers reduce.



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What have we been up to?

- We are pleased to announce we have been awarded **Active 30** – part of a DCC initiative to ensure children are active for at least 30 minutes each day – this includes breaks, PE lessons and activity at home. This was helped in part by the amazing initiative organised by Mr Logan and Go Well, which saw all of our children in KS2 classes receive a back pack full of sports equipment to encourage daily activity at home. Well done everyone!
- Mrs Wood's group enjoyed an amazing day swimming at a local gala – fantastic stuff!
- Years 5 and 6 were visited by Patrick from **Show Racism the Red Card** – they learnt all about the challenges faced and this important initiative.
- Year 6 enjoyed a **basketball festival** – great fun!

You can enjoy seeing all these things on the school Facebook pages, along with lots of other things the children enjoy doing.

Staffing news

After working at North Park for more than 21 years, Mrs Alderson will leave us at the end of April. We are all very sad to see her go, and we thank her for her dedication and hard work, wishing her well in her new ventures – she will still undertake some supply work for us in future so we will all still see her in school. For the summer term, Mrs Berry will teach the children alongside Mrs Hemmingway, whilst we recruit staff for next year. Mrs Berry knows the children well and teaches in the school regularly.

Sincerely,

Mrs P Monk



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Diary Dates*

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

February

- 2-3 Captain Chemistry science workshops in school
- 8 E-safety Day
- 8 Y5 Multiskills festival
- 10 Year 4 visit to Arbeia Roman Fort
- 14-18 Multicultural week
- 15 Year 4 Family Assembly – 10.30am
- 16 Reception Class – Move with Max Festival
- 16 Chef visit to school – cooking workshops
- 16-17 Adam Bushnell – Author – workshops in school
- 21-25 Closed for Half Term**
- 28 Closed for PD day

March

- 1 School re-opens for Teaching Purposes**
- 1 Year 3 Gym and Dance Festival
- 1 Year 1 Vision Screening
- 10 Football Shield and Cup
- 15 In school theatre show – The Sword and the Stone
- 16 Year 4 Games Festival
- 18 Intra School sport competition
- 25 Mrs Wood's group – Mother's Day Tea
- 24 and 31 Parent Evenings – after school – *appointments to be arranged at a later date*
- 29 High 5 Netball tournament

April

- 5 Year 5 Family Assembly – 10.30am
- 6 Sport festival – Year 5
- 8 School closes for Easter holiday**
- 25 School reopens for Summer term**

May

- 2 May bank holiday – school closed**
- 3 School closed for PD day**
- 4 School reopens for teaching purposes**
- 9-12 KS2 SAT week
- 12 Year 3 – OAA at Hardwick Park – TBC
- 17 Year 1 (Mrs Hemmingway and Mrs Berry) Family Assembly
- 20 KS2 Quidditch Day
- 24 Year 1 (Mrs Kalus) Family Assembly
- 27 School Photograph Day
- 27 School closes for half term**

June

- 6 School closed for additional bank holiday – reopens 7th June**

July

- 5 Year 2 Family Assembly – 10.30am
- 21 School closes for summer**

