

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 2022 – Start of Term Newsletter

Welcome back!

It has been a lovely first week in school – the children look so smart in their uniforms and have enjoyed a lovely week of activities in their new classes, linked to their PSHCE work. The Reception classes and new pupils in Nursery have also settled into routines really well. It is great to have everyone back! A great week, full of different activities:

- Year 3 have enjoyed a visit from the Fire Service and learning all about First Aid
- Year 4 enjoyed a visit from PCSO Sam
- Year 5 had a visit from Humankind learning about drugs, alcohol and energy drinks and their effects
- Year 6 have been learning about Democracy and had a visit to the Town Hall
- Mrs Wood's group learned all about healthy diets – they have shopped and created lots of yummy foods
- Year 2 classes enjoyed a visit from Chef Sarah to help them learn about healthy eating and lifestyles
- Year 1 have learnt all about the importance of cleanliness and brushing our teeth!

We also welcome new staff to the school; Mrs Taylor, Mrs Ord, Mr Skaife, Mrs Skaife, Miss Buchan and Mrs Scotter join the staff team and they are getting to know our lovely children.

Breakfast club and After School Club continue to run; if you wish your child to attend After School Club please register at the office – sessions cost £7 per day.
For those children

Text messaging trouble!

We have been having some trouble with our text messaging service, Teacher 2 Parents, therefore have been unable to use this over the last week; we are hoping this will be resolved soon. Thank you for your patience about this. We will soon be launching a new APP linked to Arbor, which will be a new, effective way of communicating with you – look out for this information; please ensure we have an up to date email for this so when we launch we can do this as smoothly as possible (although I am sure, as ever, there will be some 'hitches' to iron out!).

Bank Holiday – school closure Monday 19th September 2022

The government have confirmed that the state funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II will be held on Monday 19th September, and that this day will be a Bank Holiday. School will therefore be closed for the day and will re-open on Tuesday 20th September. We have ensured we talk to the children about this very sad news and held special in-class and whole school assemblies about this.

Menus

As you know our school meals are now provided by *North Eats (Chartwells)*, and therefore children have new menus. It is really important these are all returned to school if you wish to ensure your child has their choice of meal – for children who have not returned a menu we order a sandwich. For those families who think they may be entitled to free school meals, Mrs Harris can check this for you (please have this checked even if your child is in KS1, where meals are funded for all pupils). Meal prices have increased to £2.25 per day – monies should be sent to school in advance of the week each Monday.



SCHOOL MEMBER



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Attendance information

- A reminder that attendance is mandatory. You will have read that the DFE have updated guidance for families and schools that stresses the importance of good attendance and actions needed to improve this. This guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>
- School and the LA aim to work with you to ensure your child attends school in-line with DFE expectations. Attendance should ideally be at **96% or above**. Absence below 90% is viewed as persistent absence. If absence begins to fall there is an expectation that parents will work together with school to improve this.
- Please remember the DFE and Local Authority regularly review and monitor attendance with us and analyse school data; the LA may intervene if your child accrues 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.

TERM		Number of sessions (half days) missed before becoming a persistent absentee
AUTUMN	HALF TERM 1	7 or more (3.5 days)
	HALF TERM 1 and 2	14 or more (7 days)
AUTUMN + SPRING	HALF TERM 1 to 3	20 or more (10 days)
	HALF TERM 1 to 4	25 or more (12.5 days)
AUTUMN + SPRING + SUMMER	HALF TERM 1 to 5	31 or more (15.5 days)
	HALF TERM 1 to 6	38 or more (19 days)



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Diary Dates – Autumn Term

*Some dates may be subject to change

North Park Primary will be closed for the following four Professional Development Days:

19.12.22 20.12.22 17.2.23 17.4.23

September 2022

- 12 Foundation of Light Parent Coffee Morning – information on workshops to follow
- 14 Mrs Wood's class – Chef Sarah cooking workshop
- 15 Archery Day
- 19 **School closed for Bank Holiday**
- 21 Year 6 transition visit to Whitworth Park Academy
- 30 Harvest Service – St Andrew's Church 2pm – collections for Durham Foodbank this week

October

- 4 Year 5 Yorvik Trip
- 5 Flu vaccination day – whole school
- 19 Year 6 Family Assembly
- 21 School closes for half term
- 31 School re-opens

November

- 1 Skipping day
- 17 Parent Evening (details to follow)
- 19 St Andrew's Church Fair
- 22 Year 5 Family Assembly
- 23/24 Year 3 Stone Age cooking sessions
- 24 Parent Evening (details to follow)

December

- 5 Year 5 Craft, Carol and Coffee Morning
- 6 Year 3 Craft, Carol and Coffee Morning
- 7 Year 4 Craft, Carol and Coffee Morning
- 8 Fencing Day
- 9 Year 6 Craft, Carol and Coffee Morning
- 9 Mrs Wood's group – Craft and Mince Pies – afternoon
- 12 Nursery Parent Christmas Crafts
- 12 Year 5 and 6 Christmas Party
- 13 Year 1 Christmas Music Show – 10am
- 13 Year 3 and 4 Christmas Party
- 14 Reception Nativity Shows – 10.30 am and 1.30am
- 15 Year 2 Christingle Show – 10.30am
- 15 Year 1 and 2 Christmas Party
- 15 KS 2 Carol service – St Andrew's Church – 2pm
- 16 Nursery and Reception Party – am
- 16 School closes for end of term

January 2023

- 4 School re-opens



SCHOOL MEMBER

