

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

E-mail: northpark@durhamlearning.net
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End of half term newsletter – Oct/Nov 2022

We have had a very busy half term! The children had a super September and October – I am sure you have seen some of the great things they have been doing on the school Facebook pages.

What have we been up to in October?

- Year 5 had a brilliant visit to Yorvik to discover about all things Viking!
- Nursery children enjoyed a lovely bedtime story session
- Some children and parents have enjoyed a chance to cook with the Chef – we are looking forward to organising more of these sessions soon.
- Year 6 pupils enjoyed visiting St Paul's Church and Durham Prayer Rooms as part of their RE studies into places of worship.
- Year 6 treated us all to an amazing assembly all about the history of the Suffragette movement – great stuff!
- Reception classes had a great visit to St Andrew's Church – Father John welcomed them and they loved finding out about the church for the first time.
- Mr Logan's class enjoyed a visit to Spennymoor Gym
- Year 2 classes and Year 5 have all loved doing outdoor and adventure activities this half term – the best camouflage ever, although we did leave it to you to wash faces!
- Year 1 have enjoyed visiting the church as part of their RE studies.
- Thank you once again for the kind donations to the foodbank.

Arbor APP

We use Arbor as our in-school information service and part of this service includes access to an APP that we can use to communicate with parents/carers. We will soon be moving over to this APP and will launch this after half term – to do this we need your up to date email address. If you have changed email recently please let us know, so that we have the correct information when we launch this APP.

We will use this APP in future to share messages with you, for when teachers need to contact you, to share emails (thus cutting down on the need for paper) etc. Look out for the letter after half term which will explain the link you need and how to download this to your phone!

Staff news

We wish Mrs Logan luck as she begins her maternity leave and we can't wait to meet the new addition to the Logan family – we will keep you posted!

Uniform – 'once loved' collection to share

Mrs Atkinson is arranging for another set of 'once loved' uniform to be available for parents after half term – this will be set up in the main entrance from 2pm on Monday 31st October, and will remain there until stocks last. This also includes donations of coats which may be helpful for winter. Everyone is welcome to come along and collect some uniform.

DFE Consultation – the length of the school day

A letter will come out after half term in relation to proposed changes to the school day – please look out for this.



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Parent meetings

These will be organised for Thursday 17th November and Thursday 24th November – look out for the letters after half term and make sure you book an appointment.

For all parents who were unable to register for their child to have a **Flu vaccination** this half term, the NHS Vaccination nurses will be available (staffroom) on both of these evenings in school – feel free to come along when you come to Parent Evening and your child can have their vaccination (nose spray) in school – no need to register, just drop in.

There will also be a **dentist** in school on these evenings (Library area) if you would like to drop in for a check-up.

Reminder

Breakfast club and After School Club continue to run; please ensure you are in school before 8.30 for Breakfast Club and if you wish your child to attend After School Club please register at the office – sessions cost £7 per day.

Parent Governor

We have two nominees for Parent Governor – Michelle Robinson and Katrina Smithson – a text message will be sent to you with a link so you can complete the online voting for your preferred choice.

Attendance information

- We know you all wish to work with us and ensure children get the very most out of school by attending regularly and on time. Our updated attendance policy can be found on the school website and this is in line with DFE guidance, which raises the expectation for children to be in school.
- It is very important to be in school on time – lessons begin as soon as children arrive and if they are late they will miss vital learning in phonics or reading. Lateness beyond 10 minutes is also classed as unauthorised absence.
- As you know we are unable to authorise holidays, other than for exceptional reasons. Holidays taken in school time are all referred to the LA.

Our target is for attendance to be 96% or above – well done to everyone who manages this over the year! For this half term whole school attendance was **92.7%** - this is below expectation and we hope to improve this, with your help.

We understand that illnesses affect attendance, but as the year progresses attendance percentages will improve even if your child has been ill. As general guidance, we advise the following for common illnesses:

- Upset stomach – 48 hours
- Covid infection – 3 days for children, assuming temperature has disappeared and pupils are well enough to return
- Diagnosed impetigo – children should return two days after treatment has started
- Chicken pox - 5 days from when the rash comes out for chicken pox
- Scarlett fever – pupils can return 24 hours after starting antibiotics
- Conjunctivitis – children can come to school but you should seek advice and treatment from a GP or pharmacy

Please support us by providing a reason as soon as you know your child will be absent – we will contact you by text or phone if we have not received a message. We have a duty of care to ensure we record reasons for absence.



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- If your child has had a period of extended ill health, beyond 3 days, we may ask for medical evidence, as we would assume in most cases you would seek medical advice. This can be an appointment card, the medication you have received, etc.
- The school nurse or your Health Visitor are also available to give advice if you are worried about anything in relation to your child's health needs.
- If your child is given medication that they need to take more than 3 times a day, we can support with administering this in school – please let the office staff know and we can arrange for this. Children cannot bring in their own medication to take.
- We will try to offer support whenever you feel you may need this, including if attendance is affected. We will contact you if attendance begins to cause concern – any attendance below 90% is classified as persistent absence, and we need to monitor this and work with you to improve this. Please also remember you can contact school if you have any worries or concerns about attendance.
- DFE attendance guidance can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>

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

October

31 School re-opens

November

1 Skipping day
4 Year 1 visit to Hardwick Park
11 Year 2 classes visit to Durham Cathedral
15 Y5 Antarctic Survival workshop
17&24 Parent Evening (details to follow)
19 St Andrew's Church Fair – choir to visit
22 Year 5 Family Assembly 10.20am
23/24 Year 3 Stone Age cooking sessions

December

2 Year 2 classes visit to Methodist Church – A Christmas Story
5 Year 1 Christmas Movie night
5 Year 5 Craft, Carol and Coffee Morning
6 Year 3 Craft, Carol and Coffee Morning
7 Year 4 Craft, Carol and Coffee Morning
7 Year 2 and 3 Christmas Movie night
8 Christmas lunch day
8 Santa's Grotto visit – Nursery to Year 4
8 Year 4, 5 and 6 Christmas Movie nights
9 Year 6 Craft, Carol and Coffee Morning
9 Mrs Wood's group – Craft and Mince Pies – afternoon
9 Gala Family Pantomime trip – after school
12 Nursery Parent Christmas Crafts
12 Year 5 and 6 Christmas Party afternoon
13 Year 1 Christmas Music Show – 10am
13 Year 3 and 4 Christmas Party afternoon
14 Reception Nativity Shows – 10.30 am and 1.30am
15 Year 2 Christingle Show – 10.30am
15 Year 1 and 2 Christmas Party afternoon
15 KS 2 Carol service – St Andrew's Church – 2pm
16 Nursery and Reception Theatre visit
16 Reception party - afternoon
16 School closes for end of term
19&20 School closed for PD days

January 2023

4 School re-opens



SCHOOL MEMBER

