

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
Web-site: www.northpark.durham.sch

December 2022 – End of Term newsletter

What a lovely end to the term; superb performances and the magic of Christmas throughout school! It has been lovely to share this with you at the Craft, Carol and Coffee mornings, at the Year 1 Show, the Year 2 Christingle and the Reception Nativity shows; and of course, not forgetting our Christmas X-Factor to end the term, where the children in KS2 always end the year with a musical extravaganza! The children also worked on a Christmas Tree decorating competition – look out for the fabulous pictures on Facebook.

The children (and staff!) are full of Christmas lunches, partied out, Christmas 'movied' and 'carolled' up and ready and excited to enjoy their break now! Santa made an early visit to provide some early Christmas treats too!

Thank you so much for your kind donations that go to help others – thanks to your generosity we have been able to:

- support People's Kitchen to provide Christmas meals for those who are homeless by donating £110
- support Save the Children through the Christmas Jumper Day with a donation of £72.60

Thank you, also, to the Friends of the School for their help with parties, movie night and the raffle – well done to the lucky winners of the amazing prizes they organised. All monies raised have been used to pay for presents, parties, activities, food and crafts.

Thanks to 'Mission Christmas' for providing Christmas presents for a raffle for the children in school, and to Greggs for their continued support for school – their kind donation allowed us to have a meat voucher raffle of some of our parents.

St Andrew's Church Carol Service - 6pm Sunday 18th, festive favourites old and new, candlelit, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Everyone is welcome.

Attendance

We are all aware of the drive to improve attendance in school and how important it is to ensure your child attends and is on time to start their lessons straight away each day.

The Arbor App that we have sent information to you about gives you access to your child's attendance levels. We are also sending home today your child's termly attendance certificate. We understand some absences may be inevitable with the recent bout of infectious illnesses going around, but despite this we have some really good attendees!

Well done if you received a **Green certificate** – this means your child's attendance is 96% or above – that is great and your child should be really proud. They have been rewarded with a certificate and book mark.

Absence below 96% tends to be as a result of unexpected illness, unauthorised holidays or late marks. Added together these can quickly impact on attendance levels. We expect to see attendance improve in the coming terms (and hope we have less bugs about too!)

Yellow certificate – this means your child's attendance is between 90-95.9%; this can easily be improved in future with good attendance.

Red certificate – your child's attendance currently falls below the levels of persistent absenteeism and is lower than 90%. Ideally, we need to work together with you to try to improve this attendance and continue



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to monitor attendance levels; we will contact you if attendance continues to be a concern or continues to decline.

Well done, also, to everyone who is working to improve attendance. If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please contact school and arrange to meet with myself or Mrs Atkinson – we will work with you to try to overcome any barriers to good attendance and see what support can be offered.

Polite reminders:

- Lunch menu – remember to return the new menu so we have your choices for Day 1.
- From January 2023 we will be emailing you the school newsletter rather than sending out paper copies – this helps reduce our use of paper; copies will be available on the school website and at the main office.

Other news

Finally, I wanted to share with you the news that at the end of August 2023 I will be retiring from my role as Headteacher at North Park.

This has not been an easy decision to make; I have loved every single minute of being Headteacher here since joining in 2010 and working with your wonderful children, past and present, throughout all of those years. I know whoever replaces me will be very lucky indeed to get to know them and the community we serve, and to work with the amazing staff team at this school. North Park will always have a special place in my heart and I will certainly miss it when I hand over the reins in the summer!

The Governors will begin the recruitment process in the new year and will keep you up to date in relation to this.

May I end this letter by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year; we look forward to an ever-busy 2023!

Sincerely,

Mrs P Monk



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Diary Dates 2023

**Some dates may be subject to change*

North Park Primary will be closed for the following four Professional Development Days: 17.2.23; 17.4.23

January 2023

- 4 School re-opens**
- 20 Mrs Natrass group – swimming gala
- 31 KS2 Escape Room activity

February

- 2 Mrs Wood and Mrs Natrass groups – Sport Carousel event
- 7 Year 5 Multiskills festival
- 8 Year 4 family Assembly
- 13 Multicultural week activities
- 16 School closes for half term**
- 17 PD day**
- 27 School re-opens**

March

- 8 Girls Football Festival
- 14 The Wind in the Willows Theatre show
- 16 Football Cup and Shield
- 27&28 Captain Chemistry visit
- 29 Year 3 Family Assembly
- 31 School closes for end of term**

April

- 17 PD day – parent meetings (times to be confirmed at a later date)**
- 18 School re-opens**
- 18 Parent meetings - times to be confirmed at a later date
- 20 Year 4 – Alternative Sports Festival
- 25 Year 5 – OAA – Hardwick Park
- 27 Girls' Football (4 weeks)

May

- 1 School closed – Bank Holiday**
- 2 School reopens
- 2 Year 1 Height and Weight checks
- 3 Year 1 OAA – Hardwick Park
- 5 School photographs – individual photos
- 8 The school will be closed for the recently announced additional Bank Holiday on Monday 8th May 2023.**
- 9-12 KS2 SATs week**
- 23 Y6 – Primary Athletics festival
- 24 Year 1 Family Assembly
- 25 Girls Football Shield
- 26 School closes for half term**

June

- 5 School re-opens**
- 5-9 Year 4 Multiplication Tests
- 8 Year 2B – Alternative Sport Festival
- 12-16 Year 1 Phonic Test week
- 23 Skipping World Record Day

July

- 5 Year 2 – Mr Logan – Family Assembly
- 12 Year 2 – Mr Lamb – Family Assembly
- 14 Year 6 Fun afternoon
- 19 Year 6 Leaver's Show
- 21 School closes for summer break**



SCHOOL MEMBER

