

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

November 2022

We have had a very busy November! The children enjoyed lots of activities in school and are working hard in lessons (see the School Facebook sites for examples of their lovely work).

What have we been up to?

- Our congratulations to Mr and Mrs Logan on the birth of Edie – lovely news!
- We welcome Mrs Robinson as re-elected school Parent Governor.
- We enjoyed a fabulous skipping day this month!
- Year 1 loved learning about the outdoors in Hardwick Park.
- We saw some wonderful costumes at our (very busy) Halloween Disco – thank you to the Friends of the School and Staff for organising this event.
- Mrs Wood and Mrs Natrass' groups had a great morning learning all about Wellness
- Year 6 enjoyed their athletics competition
- Year 2 spent a fabulous day at Durham Cathedral – they were so great learning all about their RE unit.
- Year 5 enjoyed an Antarctic survival day – and then served us up a wonderful family assembly showcasing their fabulous work.
- Mr Lamb's class have enjoyed a Multiskills festival
- Year 2 and Year 5 have loved their outdoor OAA and survival classes – I was so proud when the tutor told me how impressed he was with the work of the staff and children – the best he has seen! Well done!
- We have enjoyed having the Chef visit to undertake cooking with parents and children.
- Our Choir were wonderful at the Church Fair – well done to each of them.
- Thank you for your generous donations for Children in Need – we donated £304 from school.
- Year 3 loved their Stone Age experience – cooking and learning all about this for their history topic.
- Some of our Year 6 pupils represented the school beautifully at the Remembrance Service, laying a wreath and reading a poem – and thanks to your kindness we also raised £226.59 for the Poppy Appeal.

Coming up in December!

- **Christmas Movie nights** – see dates below – tickets £2, which includes refreshments and raffle ticket.
- **Christmas Raffle** – the Friends of the School have organised a raffle with some super prizes! They will be selling tickets at the *Carol, Craft and Coffee mornings* and additional raffle tickets will be available from the main office from 5th December onwards. All funds will go towards activities for the children. £1 per strip
- **Christmas Jumper day** is 8th December 2022 – proceeds will go to Save the Children – we are asking for a 50p donation.
- **Christmas Cards** – we are hoping, rather than spending money on sending Christmas cards, that you will join us once again in donating to the **People's Kitchen** – this will help us raise money for a homeless person to have Christmas lunch. We raised £100 last year and aim to do this again – any amount will help towards the meals that cost £5 each.
- **Craft, Carol and Coffee mornings** – see dates below – start 10am until 11.15



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Lunch menu

A new menu is attached – there is very little change, only for the yellow choice – please return as soon as possible as these changes will take place in January.

Arbor APP

You should have received a letter informing you that we have launched our new messaging system – this includes email and an APP linked to Arbor; the APP allows you to see your child's details and attendance. To access this, you must provide us with an up to date email. You will get a welcome email on Friday 2nd December – if this does not reach you please contact Mrs Harris in the office.

We plan to move towards emailing you information in future and reducing paper waste, including these newsletters, and reducing the amount of paper we use in school; paper copies will still be available upon request and information will also be on the school website.

Attendance information

- The school **Attendance policy** has been updated and is on the school website for your information – please contact school if you have any concerns about attendance so we can help.
- Where attendance falls below 90%, due to lateness or absence, we will contact parents to see if we can offer any support to improve the attendance.
- Attendance to date is **92.5%** - this is below expected levels and national average as set by the DFE and is affected by illness and holidays.
- Please remember the DFE and Local Authority regularly review and monitor attendance with us and analyse school data; **Holidays are not authorised** unless in exceptional circumstances.
- 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)

Reminder - Wraparound care

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.



SCHOOL MEMBER



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Diary Dates *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

December

- 1 Mrs Wood's Group – Boccia competition
- 2 Year 2 visit to Methodist church – A Christmas Story
- 5 Year 5 Craft, Carol and Coffee Morning – 10am
- 5 Year 1 Movie Night – after school and 5pm pick up.
- 6 Year 3 Craft, Carol and Coffee Morning - 10am
- 7 Year 6 Craft, Carol and Coffee Morning - 10am
- 7 Year 1 – Active Ted festival
- 7 Year 2 and 3 and Mrs Wood's group Movie Night - after school and 5.30pm pick up.
- 8 Christmas Jumper Day – 50p for Save the Children
- 8 Nursery to Year 4 – Visit to Santa's Grotto
- 8 Christmas Lunch day
- 8 Mrs Wood's group – Pantomime visit
- 8 Year 4, 5 and 6 Movie night - - after school and 5.30pm pick up.
- 9 Year 4 Craft, Carol and Coffee Morning - 10am
- 9 Mrs Wood's group – Craft and Mince Pies – afternoon
- 9 Gala Family Pantomime trip – after school
- 12 Nursery Parent Christmas Crafts – 9.15am
- 12 Year 5 and 6 Christmas Party
- 13 Durham Music Service Christmas Concert
- 13 Year 1 Christmas Music Show – 10am
- 13 Year 3 and 4 Christmas Party
- 14 Reception Nativity Shows – 10.30 am and 1.30am
- 14 Nursery party morning
- 15 Year 2 Christingle Show – 10am (Mr Logan) and 11am (Mr Lamb)
- 15 Year 1 and 2 Christmas Party
- 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
- 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 **School closed for 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 School closed for PD day
- 18 School reopens

PLEASE NOTE - the school will be closed for the recently announced additional Bank Holiday on Monday 8th May 2023. The rest of this week will be KS2 SAT week. (9-12 May 2023)



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