

# 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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## End of Spring term 2023 newsletter

### What have we been up to?

- Thank you to the Friends of the School for the Easter Raffle and Egg decorating competition – well done to our super creative 'eggcellent' designers!
- The children loved their visit from the theatre company to take part in and watch the Wind in the Willows show.
- Well done to our fantastic girls' football team taking part in the tournament in York – you did us proud!
- Pupils in Year 1 and 2 have been enjoying music workshops, learning songs linked to the Magic Flute. They are looking forward to their performance after Easter in the Town Hall.
- We all enjoyed the lovely songs linked to World Maths Day – who knew there were so many songs with numbers in!
- Year 5 have enjoyed a visit to Whitworth Park school.
- The Nursery children enjoyed a lovely Easter craft morning – it was good to see so many parents there.
- We have had a great time this week undertaking all manner of science investigations and observations with Captain Chemistry!
- Reception children enjoyed themselves at Hardwick Park (despite the weather!) this week, learning all about nature.
- We had a lovely Easter service at St Andrew's Church on Thursday morning.
- Year 5 enjoyed their visit to the Methodist Church to take part in learning for RE, finding out about the Christian Easter journey.
- Year 3 treat us to an amazing family assembly all about the Egyptians this week – well done!

### Staff news

We are very sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Scotter today, as she takes up a new position in another school – we will all miss her and wish her well in her new role. After Easter, Mrs Hemmingway, who the children all know well, will be teaching Reception B.

Governors are pleased to announce that the recruitment process for a new headteacher has concluded; Mrs Emma Roffe will be joining North Park in September as your new headteacher. I know she will love this school as much as I do, and is looking forward to getting to know all the children!

### Start of day arrangements

To tighten up on school security arrangements at the start of day, we will not be opening the gates on the yard until **8.50am** – children should continue to go straight into the classroom and will be met by staff; adults will be on the yard to support younger children. If you wish to speak to a member of staff, please come to the main office, as teachers are in class supervising and starting their teaching activities; they will contact you as soon as they are free to do so.

Nursery hours are 9-12 – once the children have arrived and doors are closed at 9.05am, staff will not be able to answer the door for any later arrivals or queries. The door will remain closed until the end of the morning session. Anyone who is late or who has a query should go to the main office.

### Attendance

Attendance certificates are being sent home today – your child should aim to be in school and on time each day, and the DFE target is 96% or above.

**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 a ruler. Especially well done to all those on 100%!

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.

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



SCHOOL MEMBER



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**Red certificate** – your child's attendance currently falls below the levels of persistent absenteeism and is lower than 90%. Attendance needs to improve – we are keen to work with you to help this improvement; attendance levels will continue to be monitored by the school and the local authority.

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. A reminder that holidays are not authorised unless in exceptional circumstances.

## Changes to the school day from September 2023 – advance notice

As you know, Governors consulted earlier in the year on the proposed changes planned for the school day. They have taken the decision to add an extra 10 minutes to each day, to bring teaching time in line with DFE recommendations. From September 2023, therefore, the school day will be as follows:

- Nursery – remains 9am -12noon
- School – 8.55am start – **3.25pm finish (new time)**
- Breakfast club – arrive between 8am – 8.30am
- After School Club – 3.25pm – 5.45pm.
- School gates open for school at 8.50am.

## Car Park

A reminder that we politely request you do not drive into the school grounds unless you have a disabled badge and are therefore permitted to do so, to avoid congestion and ensure the safety of the school community; the car park is reserved for staff and access for disabled badge holders and deliveries. We are planning the installation of a barrier to ensure the safety of pupils arriving in school, especially in the morning. Thank you.

Have a lovely Easter break – I look forward to seeing you all again next term.

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 Professional Development Day: 17.4.23**

### March

31 **School closes for end of term**

### April

17 **PD day** – parent meetings – appointment times have been given out

18 **School re-opens**

18 Parent meetings - appointment times have been given out

18 Year 1 and 2 – Magic Flute performance – Town Hall

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 re-opens

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 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

9-12 **KS2 SATs week**

23 Y6 – Primary Athletics festival

24 Year 1 Family Assembly – 10.15am

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

26 New Reception class – parent meeting – 9.30am

### July

4 New Reception class visit 1 – 1.30pm

5 Year 2 – Mr Logan – Family Assembly – 10.15am

6 New Reception class visit 1 – 9.30am

6 Whole school move up morning

7 Year 4 and 5 Raby Estate – Moorlands Project

10-12 Weardale House Residential Visit – Year 5 and 6

12 Year 2 – Mr Lamb – Family Assembly – 10.15am

13 Year 6 cooking afternoon

14 Year 6 Fun afternoon

19 Year 6 Leaver's Show

20 School Afternoon Tea

21 **School closes for summer break**

### September 2023

5 **School reopens after summer holiday**

**School dates for the 2023-2024 year can be found on the DCC website. Our proposed days for staff development next year are: 7.9.23 6.11.23 18.12.23 19.12.23 15.3.24**

*(please note these may be subject to change but you will be informed as soon as possible if that is the case)*



SCHOOL MEMBER

