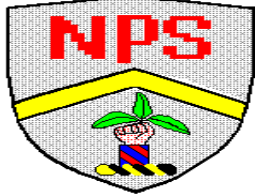


Spring Term Newsletter



New Baby News

We are delighted to share with you Miss Little's exciting news. She is expecting her baby in April. Miss Little will begin her maternity leave after the Easter holidays, when her baby is due.

Until then, she will continue to be there to support her class up until her maternity leave. I am sure parents and carers will join me in wishing her the best over the coming months.

Professor Brainstorm Visit

To help launch our topics this half term we had a visit from Professor Brainstorm. He taught us lots of new and interesting things about Science. We are well and truly convinced that Science is FUN!

Class 1

Class 1 explored the magic of Science and they were AMAZED by all of the things Professor Brainstorm showed and explained to us. We learned how to make a laughing chicken from noise vibrations, how to create a circuit and light up Zog's nose,

how Liquid can turn to a gas that is really cold (liquid nitrogen) and pop the lid off a pringles tube before evaporating and how to make a squid float and sink inside of a plastic bottle!





Class 2 & 3

Today we had lots of fun learning all about fantastic forces with Professor Brainstorm. We enjoyed spinning water upside down as well as shooting potato out of a tube! Unfortunately, we couldn't defy gravity ... but we did try!



Class 4

Professor Brainstorm wowed us with some fantastic science experiments, made from equipment we could use at home or school! We investigated lots of ways to make sound and light and even discussed what instruments make higher or lower pitched sounds – linking to our Cornerstones topic of 'I Am Warrior', we even thought of instruments the Romans would've used! Everyone had so much fun.





Class 5

UNCRC Article 28 – right to education

A fabulous afternoon we have all had when we welcomed Professor Brainstorm into school and participated in a science workshop. We had fun watching

electrical explosions, freezing flowers with liquid nitrogen and the famous 'spud gun'!

Rights Respecting Gold ethos demonstrated by all our children; well done everyone.





Punctuality

It is great to see so many children arriving to school on time and being involved in their learning right from the beginning of the day. Class 1, 2 and Class 3 begin their phonics sessions at 8.45 am and Class 4 and Class 5 begin their challenge time activities at 8.45 am. We also have co-ordination programmes, reading/maths/speech and language interventions and lego therapy running at that time.

Being frequently late for school means lost learning:

- Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year.
- Arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year.
- Arriving 30 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 19 days a year.

Lateness to School

School starts at **8:45 am**. Your child will receive a late mark if they arrive after this time. If your child arrives after the register closes at **9.15 am** they will be given an unauthorised late mark. Persistent Unauthorised late marks will result in a referral to the Local Authority School Improvement Officer for further

intervention and enforcement action may be taken.

Please can you ensure children arrive at school for 8.45am. Thank you so much to parents/carers for your continued support.

Holidays in Term Time

We have seen a large increase in requests for holidays in term time. Due to this, our school attendance has fallen from 96.7% to 95.5%. Our school attendance target is 96%. This target is National Average. Ofsted evaluate school attendance and a low attendance can affect school's Ofsted judgements. Just to remind parents and carers that as of 1st September 2013, Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Absence during term time should be avoided because children can fall behind with their work and may find it difficult to integrate. An application using the leave of absence form (available from the school office) for leave must be made in writing to the Head Teacher, detailing the exceptional circumstances. The Head Teacher must be satisfied the circumstances warrant the granting of leave. If you do not apply for leave in advance, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. You can be fined for taking your child on holiday during term time without consent from the school.

Texts/Emails

We regularly send texts to parents with details of events happening in school or just reminders. We are now also sending emails. Thank you for your patience while we are updating this. Letters have been sent out explaining our new systems. Please notify school if you haven't received any texts/emails in the last week. Your contact details may need updating.

School Website

Please continue to look at our school website on www.nettlesworth.durham.sch.uk for diary dates, latest news, celebrations, advice and information.

Diary Dates

W/B Monday January 16th- After School Clubs re-start

Monday 16th January- Presentation for parents/carers on children's anxiety at home- 3.45pm

Monday 16th January- WE Elephants weekly lessons begins for Class 2 and 3 form NHS Mental Health team around anxiety and resilience

Friday 20th January- Rugby training for Y5/6 Team, who will take part in rugby festival

Tuesday 24th January- KS2 Swimming Gala (letters to follow)

Tuesday 31st January- KS2 SATS meeting for parents/carers (letters to follow)

Tuesday 7th February- Safer Internet Day Coffee Morning for parents/carers- 10am (letters to follow)

Thursday 16th February- Spring Time Disco for children 4.30pm-6.00pm (letters to follow)

Friday 17th February- End of Half Term

Monday 27th February- Children return to school/beginning of Fairtrade Fortnight

Absences

By law, all children of compulsory school age must get a suitable, full-time education. As a parent/carers, you are responsible for making sure this happens. **Once your child is**

registered at Nettlesworth Primary School, you are responsible for making sure your child has regular and punctual attendance at school.

The Local Authority (LA) is responsible for making sure that parents/carers fulfil their responsibilities, and the school must tell the LA if your child is regularly absent from school. As a parent/carers, you are committing an offence if you fail to make sure that your child attends school regularly. You run the risk of being prosecuted by the LA if your child's attendance is poor.

Reporting School Absence

We appreciate there may be times your child is unwell or unable to attend school. As a parent you have a responsibility to:-

- Contact school on the first morning of absence, providing a reason for their absence.
- Keep school informed on a regular basis if your child is absent for a long period.
- Provide medical evidence if this has been requested by the school

If school are not informed and unable to contact you via telephone regarding your child's absence a letter will be sent requesting details of the absence or our Parent Support Advisor will come out and visit to see if you need any support. If this is not returned and still no reason for the absence is provided the absence will be marked as unauthorised.

Only head teachers can authorise absence and it is at their discretion as to whether the reason provided is acceptable or not.

If your child is unwell, please contact school office as soon as possible by 9am. It is important that children attend school as often as possible because if they are not in school they cannot learn.

The minimum acceptable level of school attendance is 96%. **We believe as a school that identifying poor attendance early as well as working in partnership with parents we can significantly improve attendance and prevent a child becoming a persistent absentee and involvement with the Local authority.** Below outlines the procedure that we follow to support and improve attendance:

- Notice to Improve Letter - sent home to indicate to parents/carers that attendance is starting to decline. This will be sent to students below 96% attendance.
- Medical Evidence Request Letter - sent home to request medical evidence to be provided to support absence, without this future absence will be marked as unauthorised. **This could be in the form of an appointment card or proof of medication given by the doctor**
- Parents/carers to be invited to attend a school attendance meeting to discuss concerns and set targets to improve attendance.
- If your child's attendance falls to 90% or below, this is considered, by the Government, to be persistent absence. Where attendance falls below 90% and there are unauthorised absences a referral will be made to the Local Authority School Improvement Officer for further intervention and

enforcement action may be taken.

Keeping Safe Workshop – Dangers Around the home

Our safeguarding assembly was focusing on Dangers around the home. We looked closely at the kitchen and discussed the dangers that we could be aware of. In class groups, the children then talked about what to do if they stop something unsafe in the home.

For more information on what was covered check out the powerpoint below:

DANGERS AT HOME



Spring 1 Class 1

Welcome back

UNCRC Article 12: Children should have the right to an opinion as long as it doesn't affect others.

Welcome back, I hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year! As we start the new term the children have chosen to learn about the topic 'Space'. The children are so excited to take their learning all the way around the solar system!



Memorable Experience – Splendid Skies-Class 2

We had such a lovely time launching our new topic of Splendid Skies. We began by going on a nature walk to spot the signs of winter. We spotted lots of signs in our school grounds. We talked about what we noticed and why certain things were not present. We then finished off by creating our very own snowflakes using different materials. We

selected colours accordingly and made sure they were super sparkly!





Ball Art in Class 3

UNCRC Article 29 – education must develop a child’s personality and talents.

Today we introduced our new topic ‘bounce’ and had lots of fun in our art lesson, creating ball art. We used bouncy balls and paint to create different patterns on our page. We tried out different techniques, such as rolling and bouncing and got lots of different pictures.





