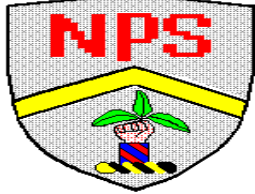


# Spring Term Newsletter



## *Icy Hands*

We enjoyed setting up our very own Science experiment ... all to do with the freezing temperatures we have recently experienced. We froze water and watched it turn to ice, once it had frozen we removed the icy hands and placed them in various locations around school. We made predictions of which one would melt first and why. We then compiled our results and talked about what we had found.



## *Chinese New Year*

We enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year with class 1. We listened to traditional music and stories explaining the reasons behind Chinese New Year. We then made arts and crafts as well

as tasting lots of different food.  
We had such a lovely day.



### *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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.nettlesworth.durham.sch.uk) for diary dates, latest news, celebrations, advice and information.

### *Diary Dates*

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

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

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February-** Spring Time Disco for children 4.30pm-6.00pm (letters to follow)

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February-** End of Half Term

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> 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/carer, 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/carer, 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.

### Bird Feeders

Today we learnt all about how wintery weather has an effect on animals. We discussed how different animals adapt to survive the colder months. We then decided that we could help out birds by making a bird feeder. We used honey and bird seeds to make a tasty treat for our feathered friends. We are looking forward to seeing the birds enjoy them in our school grounds.







### Numeracy Investigators

This week in numeracy we are working on our multiplication and division knowledge. Today we were investigators and found lots of different ways of dividing a given number.



### Zumba with Gemma

We had such an amazing time learning all about Zumba with Gemma. We joined in lots of different dance moves and kept our feet moving the whole time. We definitely got our Active 60 in today!!

Thanks Gemma





Judo Stars – 20.1.23

## UNCRC Article 29 – goals of education

A fabulous achievement from 3 of our talented children who competed in a Judo competition in Birmingham. Another example of Rights Respecting Gold and potential future careers for each of them.

Well done Millie, Lucas and Jacob; we are all very proud of you.



Future Football Star – 20.1.23

## UNCRC Article 29 – goals of education

Well done to Alana for her Player of the Match Performance at her Out of School Football Club on Saturday. Keep up the wonderful work and I'm sure we have a future careers on our

hands



## Our DT project.

UNCRC Article 31 – take part in a range of cultural activities.



In art and DT, we have been looking at art installation and discussing how we can create our very own models. For our first lesson, we thought carefully about what we might use and how we could build it. We carefully designed our 3D models and drew them. This week, we began creating our models by painting our polystyrene balls and creating different patterns and effects, ready to build and complete our models next week.



## Our science investigation...

UNCRC Article 28 – right to an education.

This week we began our investigation of observing how seeds grow into mature plants. We recapped the work we had done on the stages of plant growth and followed the steps carefully, to plant our own seeds. We discussed how we can make sure they grow and what they will need. We are going to observe our plants closely to see how well they grow.









Dance with Gemma

This half term, the Year 4s are working with dance coach Gemma to produce some

sequences inspired by clocks! We've had so much fun coming up with new moves and motifs.

*UNCRC Article 29 – education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full.*



Wednesday 18th  
February 2020

Sound work in Science

Our topic this half term in Science is 'Sound'. Last week, we discussed and discovered that sound is made from an object vibrating. Today we played different instruments and looked to see if we could see anything vibrating to create the sound – we noticed the guitar and ukulele strings wobbled when they were played! We then noted down our findings for each instrument, if they gave low or high pitch sounds and if they were loud or quiet in volume.

*UNCRC Article 28 – every child has the right to an education.*

