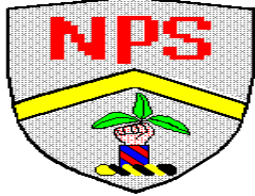


# Spring Term Newsletter



## *Mental Health Week*

Last week we have taken part in Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is Let's Connect and throughout our curriculum, assemblies and Dress to Express Day we have helped to make a difference to the lives of children and young

people across the UK.

On Friday, as part of Children's Mental Health Week 2023 we Dressed to Express ourselves. The children and adults wore what they feel expresses their true self to school! We drew names out of a hat across the whole school and each child wrote a kindness postcard to someone else in the school. In assembly, we hand delivered all of the postcards and the room

was filled with happiness

#childrensmentalhealthweek2023

## *Safer Internet Day Coffee Morning*

A massive thank you to all of the adults who attended our annual safer internet day coffee morning. We hope you all had a lovely time

and learnt something new about keeping your child safe online.

Well done to all of our children, who have worked very hard in assemblies this past week. Each team has worked with an adult to learn about an aspect of e safety. We then collated all of our wonderful work, which was displayed at our coffee morning.







### **UNCRC Article 17 – right to reliable information**

#### *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*

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February**- Class 1 Stay and Play Day

**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

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**- World Book Day

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**-Science Day

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March**- Maths Day

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March**-Class 3 Trip to Beamish Museum

**WB 13<sup>th</sup> March**-Parents Meetings (No after school clubs this week)

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March**- Y1 Phonics Screening Meeting for Parents/Carers

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March**- End of Term Reports Home to Parents and Comic Relief Day

### *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/cares 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.

## Parent Guides to Online Safety

As part of Safer Internet Day we have worked with our children in school to ensure that they understand how to keep themselves safe whilst online. This is ongoing throughout the year and as part of our curriculum in school.

As a helping hand for adults please see below for age related guidance that may be useful to help you support your child at home.

Thank you for your continued support.

[Parent guide EYFS](#)

[Parent guide KS1](#)

[Parent Guide KS2](#)

## Amazing Artist – 3.2.23

# UNCRC Article 28 – right to education

A fantastic effort by Farren who has been inspired by his Cornerstones Curriculum (Gallery Rebels) and completed extra sessions at home to create a

wonderful sketch of the “Woman in a Green Jacket” painted by August Macke, 1913.

Rights Respecting Gold ethos demonstrated by Farren.



## Forest School with Mr Graham

In our latest Forest School session with Mr Graham, we were looked at finding some natural resources to create some photoframes! We worked in our groups to collect similar sized sticks, being careful not to disturb any wildlife or their habitats, and had loads of fun doing so! We cannot wait to craft our frames next session.

*UNCRC Article 31 – every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of activities.*

