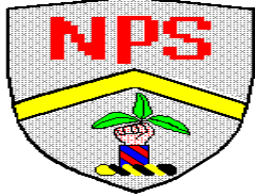


# Autumn Term Newsletter



## Staffing update

We are delighted to let you know that we have recruited a new School Office Administration Manager, Mrs Karen Peverley, who will be starting our school on December 1<sup>st</sup> and working alongside Mrs Miller until the end of this term. Mrs Miller will then be retiring from her role.

Miss Liddle will be returning from maternity leave on December 4<sup>th</sup> and looking forward to welcoming her back to school.

## 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.nettleworth.durham.sch.uk](http://www.nettleworth.durham.sch.uk) for diary dates, latest news, celebrations, advice and information.

## Maths Day

**UNCRC Article 28 – Right to an education.**

What a fabulous day our children have had participating in their Autumn Term Maths Day 2023. The teachers were very excited to teach conceptual problems based on Calculation to 2 different classes over the course of the afternoon. We have some fabulous mathematicians in our

school and it was lovely to see all the children excel in their work.

Well done everyone.

## Class 1

Class 1 had lots of fun, working with Mrs Aspinall and Miss Grimes. With Miss Grimes, the children worked hard to count sweets. Miss Grimes was amazed by their amazing counting skills and their number knowledge. With Mrs Aspinall, the children joined in with a Super-Movers and made towers of up to 3 blocks.





## Class 2

Class 2 had a great time working with Mrs Hill. The children worked hard to answer calculation questions – some adding and even some subtracting! Mrs Hill was blown away by their methods and loved how they used their number lines to help.

## Class 3



Class 3 have worked very hard with Mr. Graham solving conceptual problems using addition and subtraction. We even used the Part, Part, Whole model to enhance our reasoning skills.

Rights respecting gold ethos by all the children when they explained their mathematical thinking to solve missing numbers.

Class 3 had a fun time working with Mrs Hill. The children worked hard to answer calculation questions in as many different ways as possible – even using the inverse operation to check their answers!



## Class 4

Class 4 have worked very hard with Mr. Graham solving conceptual problems using the 4 functions – addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We used our application skills by explaining our workings to the rest of the class as teachers.

Rights respecting gold ethos by all the children when they explained their mathematical thinking to solve missing

Class 4 worked hard with Mrs Aspinal to become real life teachers! Children worked in groups to teach their peers how to solve a range of calculations. Well done Class 4!



## Class 5

Class 5 worked hard with Mrs Morton and Miss Grimes, solving

word problems involving all four operations. They worked hard as a group and gave each other challenges to complete.



### Diary Dates

Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Nov- World Kindness Day

Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Nov- Parliamentary Coffee Morning

Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Nov- Children in Need Day

Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Nov- CRISIS- Class 5 School Sleepover

Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Nov- **INSET DAY/Teacher Training Day**

Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Dec-Christmas Card Post Box opens

Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Dec- Decoration of School Christmas Tree

Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Dec- School Reports will be sent home

Tue 5<sup>th</sup> Dec- Class 3/4/5 KS2 Nativity Performance- 2pm

Thur 7<sup>th</sup> Dec- Class 1/2 KS1 Nativity Performance-2pm

Tue 12<sup>th</sup> Dec- Christingle-Kimblesworth Church-2pm

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Dec- Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

Thur 14<sup>th</sup> Dec-Christmas Party- 1.30pm-3.30pm

Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Dec- Elf Run

Tue 19<sup>th</sup> Dec- Christmas Fayre and End of Term

Thur 4<sup>th</sup> Jan- Children return to school

**Further letters/details will follow about each event**

### 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 and issues affecting 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.

## Thankyou

Thank you

The children in school were very grateful to the petrol station in Plawsworth, who donated sweets for all of the children. We were very grateful and enjoyed them! Our Rights Respecting Council have written a thank you letter to express our thanks.



## Class 3's letter to MP Kevan Jones

Class 3's letter to Mr Kevan Jones

UNCRC Article 12 – All children have the right to have a say in all matters affecting them.

Today class 3 visited our local park, as part of our new cornerstones topic 'Mighty Metals'. While we were there, we noticed some things we would like to change about the park. Straight away, the children noticed the amount of graffiti on the playground equipment. We

also noticed how old the equipment looked and how some of the apparatus wasn't safe. As a result, we decided we could try to make a change by writing a letter to our local MP, Kevan Jones, to raise our concerns. We thought carefully about what could be changed and we are hoping to hear back soon.





Harvest Festival – 24.10.23

## UNCRC Article 14 – freedom of thought, belief and religion

What a wonderful day our children have had celebrating their Harvest Festival with their family and friends at our local church. Rev. Michael welcomed us all and help us to conduct the service with readings, poems and songs performed by each class. Once again, our children demonstrated Rights Respecting Gold ethos throughout the whole service. Well done everyone.

