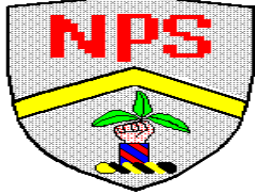


Autumn Term Newsletter



Children in Need 2023

On Friday 17th November, we celebrated Children in Need Day. Our Rights Respecting Council & Sports Leaders arranged some SPOT-acular activities for each classroom to be involved in to raise money for disadvantaged children and young people in the UK. Thank you to everyone in our school family for coming into school in non-uniform, spots or something yellow and donating money. We are overwhelmed with your generosity! Thank you again for supporting such an

important cause



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 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.

Remembrance Day Service

On Friday 11th November, Nettlesworth Primary School gathered together to pay our respects to all those brave soldiers with a service including two minutes of silence, readings and poems.

We decorated the fence outside of the school with our artwork and writing that we have been working on in classes.





Diary Dates

Fri 1st Dec-Christmas Card Post Box opens

Fri 1st Dec- Decoration of School Christmas Tree

Mon 4th Dec- School Reports will be sent home

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

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

Tue 12th Dec- Christingle-Kimblesworth Church-2pm

Wed 13th Dec- Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

Thur 14th Dec-Christmas Party- 1.30pm-3.30pm

Mon 18th Dec- Elf Run

Tue 19th Dec- Christmas Fayre and End of Term

Thur 4th 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 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.

Careers Experience – Elaine Oral Hygienist

Elaine, the Oral Hygienist, came to talk to us about the importance of keeping our teeth clean. She talked about different foods, which can be eaten on their own as snacks and those that need to be eaten as part of a meal. She showed us how to brush our teeth properly and explained what a dentist does when we visit their dental practice. We role-played as dentists and dental nurses. Elaine gave us new toothbrushes to take home.





Class 1's Stay 'n' Play

We had lots of fun celebrating the end of our topic; Marvellous Me with our family. We worked with Stacey from STAR's community group to make pizza portraits and read the story, 'This is me' before playing in our favourite classroom areas with our favourite people







Careers Experience – Intensive Care Nurse

UNCRC Article 29: Every child has the right to an education that develops their personality, talents and abilities to the full.

Today we had a visit from Nurse Louise who works in a big hospital near Newcastle. She came to work with Class 1 who are working on the topic ‘Marvellous Me/People who help us’ but also worked with children who are interested in a career in medicine and healthcare.





of activities including shelter building; fashion parade and soup kitchen to raise funds for the charity.

well done to all our wonderful children and to the staff who also endured the sleepover!



Class 5's Crisis Sleepover – 17.11.23

UNCRC Article 24 – Health and Health Services

A wonderful effort by the children from Class 5 who demonstrated fabulous Rights Respecting ethos in their charitable work for Crisis Support. Our children donated money to participate in a variety

UNCRC Article 29 – goals of education

What a wonderful morning we have all had when we welcomed our families into school to share and participate in a variety of activities to celebrate UK Parliamentary Day.

We explored photos of the Houses of Parliament; constructed the Elizabethan Tower; gave personal views on parliamentary issues and had live debates concerning children and school.

Thank you ever so much to our wonderful families who all enjoyed spending time with us during debate and having coffee, tea and treats.

Rights Respecting Gold ethos demonstrated by all our children and families today.



Nettlesworth Primary's UK Parliamentary Day 2023