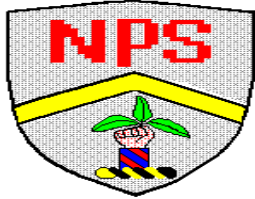


Spring Term Newsletter



Welcome Back

Happy New Year, we all hope you have had a lovely Christmas holiday. Thankyou for all the beautiful gifts and cards. It is really appreciated.

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.nettleworth.durham.sch.uk for diary dates, latest news, celebrations, advice and information.

Multi Skills Event-Maiden Castle

Class 3 have had a fantastic morning at Maiden Castle, taking part in a multi-skills event. We took part in a street dance lesson and learnt how to do new age curling. We had lots of fun and learnt lots of new skills.





Diary Dates

Wed 17th Jan- Art Coffee Morning

Fri 19th Jan- Weight and Height Checks for Reception and Year 6

Tue 23rd Jan- KS2 Swimming Gala

Wed 24th Jan- Newage Curling

Tue 30th Jan- KS2 SATs (Year 5/6) Meeting with Parents/Carers

Wed 31st Jan- Archery

Thur 1st Feb- Year 5/6 Mini Police Sessions Start

Tue 6th Feb- Safer Internet Day Coffee Morning

Tue 6th Feb- Year 5/6 Tag Rugby- Maiden Castle

Fri 9th Feb- Class 3 Dance Festival -Durham Gala

Thur 15th Feb- Springtime Disco

Fri 16th Feb- End of Half Term

Mon 26th Feb- Children return to school

-Whole School Adam Bushnell Workshops

-Beginning of Fairtrade Fortnight

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.

Cornerstones Engagement in Class 4

To kick off our new topic of 'Potions', we created our very own potions in class! We mixed a range of ingredients together to create real life, colourful, bubbling potions! Everyone has so much fun creating this experiment and we even discussed what each of our potions would do if you drank them – yuck!

UNCRC Article 31 – every child has the right to take part in a wide range of activities.





Topic engagement in Class 3 – Gods and Mortals

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

To launch our new topic, we have had a fun filled afternoon in the life of Ancient Greece. We have taken on the role of some well known Gods and Goddesses and made our very own Ancient Greek coins out of clay. We have also made our own crowns! We have already learnt some interesting facts about life in Antient Greece and can name some Gods and Goddesses. We are looking forward to learning more about this topic and finishing off our coins!

