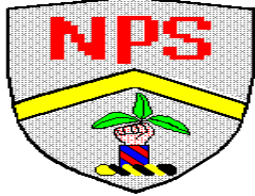


Spring Term Newsletter



Congratulations
Morton

Mrs



We are pleased to let you all know that baby Beau Morton arrived earlier than expected. He was born 4.23pm on 27.1.24, 7lb 4oz, the day before Mrs Morton's birthday!



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

Archery

UNCRC Article 29 – Develop our talents.

The children had so much fun taking part in an Archery session with the sports partnership. We learnt how to hold the bow correctly and then how to attach the arrows. After lots of practising and perfecting our position, we had a go at shooting the arrows at the targets. The children picked it up so quickly and their listening skills were amazing as always!



Diary Dates

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 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.

New Age Kurling

The children took part in New Age Kurling with the sports partnership. We had so much fun learning new skills and playing team games. The children loved keeping score and challenging themselves to score higher on the next turn.





Future Careers – 25.1.24

UNCRC Article 29 – goals of education

What a fabulous treat we have all had in Class 5 in our next Future Careers session; we welcomed Professor Chessington (Paul) who spoke to the children about his expertise in Physiotherapy and his career responsibilities as a sports physio, lecturer at Teeside University and now a Professor.

The children were mesmerised by his role as a football physio and his career path to achieve.

You all asked fantastic questions and demonstrated Rights Respecting Gold ethos throughout.



Super Swimmers

A massive well done to Chloe on her recent stage 3 swimming achievement! We are so proud of you.



Well done to Maisie who has blown us out of the water with her swimming ability!

Level 4 and she is only in our Reception class – we can definitely see a talented swimmer of the future. Keep this up

