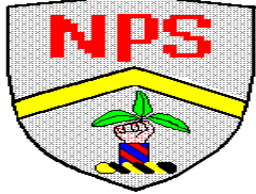


Spring Term Newsletter



E-Safety Coffee Morning

A massive thank you to everyone for attending our annual e safety coffee morning. The children really enjoyed helping parents learn about the different ways we can keep ourselves safe online.

Thank you for the completed parent surveys. We are looking forward to supporting parents with the concerns that they have.

UNCRC Article 17 – Right to reliable media.



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.

New Topic Engagements with Adam Bushnell

Today Class 2 had a lovely afternoon launching our Moon Zoom topic with Author Adam. We had lots of fun imagining space and a far away planet we might land on! We created lots of creatures too.





Class 3 absolutely loved their visit from Adam Bushnell. We introduced our new topic 'Tremors', by creating our very own Earthquake and Volcano monsters! We discussed lots of descriptive writing and thought about how we would describe our monsters to each other. We also watched an interesting video of a volcanic eruption to help us with our ideas! Thanks to Adam for another amazing session!



To launch Class 4's new topic of 1066, we had the amazing author Adam Bushnell come in to deliver a history workshop with us! We learnt all about the origin of the name 'Durham', how the cathedral was built by the Normans and the heraldry alongside the weapons the Normans used! We had so much fun and can't thank Adam enough for helping us bring this aspect of history to life.

UNCRC Article 29 – education must develop every child's talents and abilities to the full.



Diary Dates

Mon 26th Feb- Children return to school
 -Whole School Adam Bushnell Workshops
 -Beginning of Fairtrade Fortnight

Tuesday March 5th- Class 1 Bear Hunt at Maiden Castle

Thursday 7th March- World Book Day

Wednesday 13th March- Phonics Screening Meeting with Parents/Carers

Friday 15th March- Comic Relief Day
 Reports sent home to parents/carers

W/B Monday 18th March- Parents/Carers Evenings- no after school clubs this week

Wednesday 27th March- Easter Egg Competition

Thursday 28th March- End of Term

Tuesday 16th April- 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.

Science Ambassadors

We would like to introduce our brand new Science Ambassadors. We are excited to see how they help promote their love of Science around school. Watch this space for all of their interesting ideas!



Class 2's Ice Cream Van – Cornerstones Celebration

To celebrate the end of our beachcombers topic we had a fantastic treat ... in the shape of a visit from the ice cream van. Delicious!



Greek Day! Topic celebration...

Class 3 celebrated our topic 'Gods and Mortals', by coming to school dressed as Gods and Goddesses. We tasted some lovely Greek foods, did some Greek Dancing and played some Greek themed games. We have loved learning all about Ancient Greece during this topic.



Visit from Kevan Jones.

School had a special visit from Mr Kevan Jones and Biff the dog, in response to our letters we wrote about the issues in the local park. Kevan had written us all a response which we opened and read. We discussed the changes that had already been made to the park and how it has impacted on the local community.





Topic Celebration

To celebrate Class 4's latest topic of 'Potions', we have spent the afternoon creating our very own love potions in the form of chocolate love hearts! We created some delicious treats using a range of ingredients and can't wait to share them with our families.

UNCRC Article 31 – every child has the right to take part in artistic activities.



Springtime Disco

We had so much fun at the Springtime Disco! We danced with our friends, had lovely snacks and made super memories of Year 4.

UNCRC Article 31 – every child has the right to relax and play.



Bath Bombs in Class 4

This half term, we have been creating our own bath bombs as part of Potions! Check out our perfectly packaged products – they smell divine!

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

