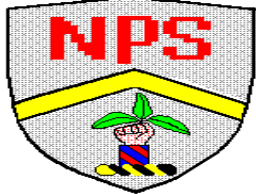


Spring Term Newsletter



World Book Day 2024

UNCRC ARTICLE 31 – leisure, play and artistic culture

What a fabulous day we all have had celebrating World Book Day in school. We all had the opportunity to dress up as one of our favourite characters from a favourite book and share our love for reading with our friends and teachers.

Thank you to all our wonderful families for your tremendous efforts in preparing our children: they all looked fabulous.

Rights Respecting Gold ethos demonstrated by all.



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.

Fantastic Rockets in Class

2

We are very proud of our junk model rockets we have made to celebrate the end of our cornerstones topic Moon Zoom. The children worked hard to plan, make and evaluate their very own designs. Well done class 2!



Diary Dates

Wednesday 27th March- Easter Egg Competition

Thursday 28th March- End of Term

Tuesday 16th April- Children return to school

Thursday 18th April- Y4 Times Table Check Meeting with parents/carers

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.

Invasion Games at Park View

We loved our PE event this afternoon. We joined in a range of games and worked up quite the sweat! Thank you to our SSP for organising it and the amazing

leaders from Park View School. We had a lovely Friday afternoon!





British Science Week

This week we have been celebrating British Science week, this year the theme was time as an indicator to 30 years of fantastic work! Our Science Ambassadors from across the school came into class 2 and explained all about the week and why we celebrate it. Together, we then set up an investigation all about time.

Thank you ambassadors! We had such a lovely afternoon!



Fire fighter visit

We had a special visit from Red Watch Crew. They talked to us about all of the very important jobs they do to help keep people in County Durham safe. Thank you for taking the time to speak to us and inspire us all to be future fire fighters!





Funnybones

We discovered a crime scene in class 2 the funnybones skeleton had had a party with Mr Garbutt! We looked at the evidence carefully and pieced the clues together. We interviewed witnesses to come to a conclusion of a skeleton party! We are going to write up our findings ready to submit to the skeleton police!



Comic Relief 2024

This week we have celebrated Comic Relief by taking part in Funny Football. Everyone looked amazing in their non uniform and loved working with the sports leaders to learn some new football skills.



Rock Art

We went outside to create some artwork using rocks. We had lots of fun building towers using different sized and shaped rocks. We had a little competition to see who could build the tallest tower without it falling. We discussed why some rocks were better for the bottom of our towers and why.



What did the Normans do for us?

Throughout our Literacy (and History) lessons this half term, we have been discussing all things Norman! In today's Speaking and Listening, we discussed what positives and negatives the Normans brought to England. We each spoke with confidence and clarity.

UNCRC Article 28 – every child has the right to an education.



Embroidery

In our Art lesson this week, we've been creating our own parts of the Bayeux Tapestry! We used threads, hessian and plastic

needles to create the parts of the tapestry we wanted. Some of us discovered we have a hidden talent for stitching! We loved creating our pieces.

UNCRC Article 29 – education must develop children’s personalities and talents to the full.



Norman helmets

Check out our freshly painted Norman helmets – we’re ready for battle!

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





PE – Outdoor and Adventurous Activities –

UNCRC Article 31 – leisure, play and artistic culture

Well done to all the children from Class 5 today on completing their next OAA session with Mr Beverage. They demonstrated trust, communicating and bravery skills whilst completing blindfolded courses.

Rights Respecting Gold ethos demonstrated by all.

13.3.24 Outdoor Adventurous Activities



Geography – 28.3.24

UNCRC ARTICLE 28 – right to education

Another fabulous experience today for Class 5 when we participated in the ECo2Smart follow up session regarding the recent COP28 convention on Climate Change.

We participated in a series of discussion on how we ensure we all act together to achieve our main goal and aid Climate Change.

Once again, rights respecting gold ethos demonstrated by all our children.



We hope you all have a lovely Easter Holiday-Thankyou again for all of your support and we will see you Tuesday 16th April

