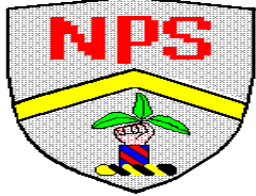


SummerTerm Newsletter



Welcome Back

We hope you all had a lovely Easter Holiday and ready for the Summer Term.

What a fantastic afternoon we have all had when we welcomed our wonderful families into school to celebrate our hard work and fabulous creations for the Easter Egg Competition. We all designed and created our eggs in school ready for judging today. We were all very impressed with the judges – 2 children from each class – who stood on stage and explained how they came to their decisions.

We are all very proud of our children for all their efforts and their Rights Respecting Gold ethos.

We hope you all enjoyed your chocolate eggs.





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.

Artist of the Half Term

Well done to Jake. We are all amazed at your art work, a well deserved artist of the half term. Keep up your fantastic talent!



Diary Dates

Thursday 18th April- Year 4 Time Table Check Meeting for Parents/Carers

Wednesday 1st May- Reception Vision Checks

Monday 6th May- Bank Holiday

Tuesday 7th May- Children return to school

WB Monday 13th May- Year 2 and Year 6 SATS Assessments Week/Mental Health Week

-Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar Paper

Tuesday 14th May-Reading Paper

Wednesday 15th May-Maths Arithmetic and Reasoning Paper 1

Thursday 16th May- Maths Reasoning Paper 2

Tuesday 21st May- World Day for Cultural Diversity

Friday 24th May- End of Half Term

Monday 3rd June- Children Return to School

W/B Monday 3rd June- Year 1 Phonics Screening Check and Year 4 Multiplication Times Tables Check

Tuesday 4th June- Class Photographs

Friday 7th June- New Reception Starters Parent/Carer Meeting

Monday 10th June- Y5/6 Robinwood Parents/Carers Meeting

Wednesday 12th June- Durham Dash

Monday 17th June- New Reception Starters Visit 1

Tuesday 18th June- Sports Day

Thursday 20th June- New Reception Starters Visit 2

Monday 24th June- New Reception Starters Visit 3

Wednesday 26th June- New Reception Starters Visit 4

- Class Swap Day

Friday 28th June- Framwellgate Moor Transition Day

Wednesday 3rd July- Year 5/6 Residential to Robinwood

Saturday 6th July- Summer Fayre

Tuesday 9th July- KS2 SATS Results

Wednesday 10th July- Class 1 Summer Performance

Friday 12th July- End of Year School Reports to Parents/Carers

Monday 15th July- Parents Open Evening

Wednesday 17th July- TT Rockstars Day

Thursday 18th July- Class 5 Summer Showcase

Friday 19th July- Talent Show for Heel and Toe Charity

Monday 22nd July- Year 6 Leavers Assembly

- Year 6 Prom

Tuesday 23rd July- Picnic with Parents/Carers

- End of Term

Wednesday 4th September- 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/carers, 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/carers, 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.

Scatterball with Caitlin in Class 2

We had lots of fun joining in a new game with Caitlin from the SSP. We worked hard as a team to collect as many points as possible for our team.

Thanks Caitlin it's safe to say it's our new favourite game!



Topic celebration in Class 3– Creating Volcanoes!

UNCRC Article 31 – Take part in a range of activities.

Class 3 celebrated our topic 'Tremors', by creating our very own experiment. We discussed what we could use to create a volcanic eruption and made it happen. For our first eruption, we used coke and mentors to create a huge lava flow. We then used bicarbonate of soda and vinegar, along with some red food colouring to create a less, explosive eruption. The children had so much fun and compared it to what we have been learning about volcanic eruptions in class!

