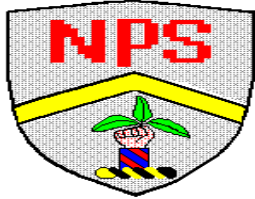


# Autumn Term Newsletter



## History Ambassadors

### History Ambassadors

We appointed our new History Ambassadors, who are going to be working with Mrs Edwards to promote various historic anniversaries and events throughout the year, alongside sharing their expert knowledge with the rest of the school. Well done, History Ambassadors!

UNCRC Article 29 – education should fulfil children's potential to the fullest.



## 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.

### Important information of Changes to the issue of penalty notices.

Changes to the issue of Penalty Notices to address School Attendance from 19<sup>th</sup> of August 2024: THE EDUCATION (PENALTY NOTICES) (ENGLAND) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2024 No. 210.

From 19.08.24 new legislation comes into force regarding the criteria for and the issue of penalty notices to address school attendance. A national framework for parental fines is being introduced for any pupil who misses 10 or more half-days within any 10-week period. Please note that if you have requested a Leave of Absence that commences from September 2024 onwards, any Penalty Notice/s issued will be at the new rates and trigger the start of the three year threshold period, as specified below. The following changes have been made:

- the number of unauthorised absences that may trigger a potential fine: 10 unauthorised absences (5 days) in a 10 school week period.
- the number of penalty notices that can be issued to a parent in respect of the same individual child: a maximum of 2 penalty notices will be issued (per parent, per child) within a 3 year period
- for the first penalty notice issued to each parent in respect of the same individual child in a 3-year period: the amount of the penalty notice has increased from £120 to £160 if paid within 28 days and £60 to £80 if paid within 21 days
- any second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same individual child within 3 years of the date the first penalty notice issue is now set at £160 to be paid within 28 days - NB: No discount for earlier payment is offered.
- any further absences will proceed for prosecution in the Magistrate Court for the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of the first penalty was issued - The maximum fine the court can impose for a first offence is £1,000 per parent, per child.

If, however, you have a history of offences of this nature you may be prosecuted under Section 444(1A) Education Act 1996 and the court can fine you up to £2,500 per child, order payment of the prosecution costs, impose a Parenting Order and/or sentence you to a period of imprisonment of up to 3 months. This reflects the seriousness of unauthorised absence from school. Please speak to us if you have concerns about your child's attendance - we want to support you to address any barriers which prevent your child attending on time every day.

### *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](http://www.nettlesworth.durham.sch.uk) for diary dates, latest news, celebrations, advice and information.

### *Diary Dates*

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October-** Y1/2 Gymnastics

**Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Oct-** Class 1 Stay and Play Day

**WB 21<sup>st</sup> Oct-** Parents Meetings- AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS WILL BE CANCELLED THIS WEEK

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October-** Flu Immunisation

**Thur 24<sup>th</sup> Oct-** Class 2 Halloween Games at Durham City Gymnastics

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October-** Halloween Disco

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October-** Harvest Festival at Church

**END OF HALF TERM-CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

**Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Nov-** Children return to school

**Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Nov-** Launch of Christmas Shoebox Appeal

**Tue 5<sup>th</sup> Nov-** Class 3 Visit to Park

**Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Nov-** Maths Day

**Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Nov-** Remembrance Service

**Tue 12<sup>th</sup> Nov-** Year 5/6 Athletics Maiden Castle

**Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Nov-** Parliamentary Coffee Morning

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Nov-** Children in Need Day

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup> Nov-** CRISIS- Class 5 School Sleepover

**Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec-** Christmas Card Post Box opens

**Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec-** Decoration of School Christmas Tree

**Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec-** School Reports will be sent home

**Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Dec-** Christmas Fayre

**Tue 10<sup>th</sup> Dec-** Class 3/4/5 KS2 Nativity Performance- 2pm

**Thur 12<sup>th</sup> Dec-** Class 1/2 KS1 Nativity Performance-2pm

**Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Dec-** Christmas Pantomime in School

**Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Dec-** Elf Run

**Tue 17<sup>th</sup> Dec-** Christingle-Kimblesworth Church-2pm

**Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Dec-** Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

**Thur 19<sup>th</sup> Dec-** Christmas Party- 1.30pm-3.30pm

**Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Dec-** End of Term

**Tue 7<sup>th</sup> Jan-** 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 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.

### Rights Respecting Workshop – New Beginnings

UNCRC Article 29 – Education must develop children's personality, talents and abilities to the full.

UNCRC Article 28 – Right to an education.

The children all took part in a Rights Respecting workshop, during assembly, with Mrs Lee. We discussed new beginnings and what we enjoy about coming to school. The children shared some lovely ideas, which were shared by our Rights Respecting chairs and vice chairs.



## Computing / Geography – 25.9.24

UNCRC Article 17 – access to media

Well done to all our children in Class 5 when we brilliantly researched the Galápagos Islands using trusted websites.

We created an information leaflet as part of our Geography to illustrate features of the Islands.

Rights Respecting Gold ethos demonstrated by all.

25.09.24

Computing

Today we used our computing skills to research the Galápagos Islands as part of our Geography task. We carried out safe internet searches using Google to find interesting facts and pictures to add to our work.

UNCRC Article 17- access to information from the media



French – Colours – 23.9.24

### UNCRC Article 28 – right to education

Another excellent MFL lesson when we recap on the basic colours in French and learned a variety of new in preparation to add details to describe our clothing. Our pronunciation is certainly improving. Rights respecting Gold ethos demonstrated by all our children.



French  
23.09.24

Class 5 enjoyed recapping the French names for colours and using this vocabulary in a variety of sentences. UNCRC Article 28- right to education

### Durham Gymnastics Centre

Class 4 were lucky enough to go to Durham Gymnastics Centre with Durham Sports Partnership! We had so much fun.

UNCRC Article 29 – education should fulfil children's potential to the fullest.



Wednesday 2nd October 2024

Today, Class 4 took part in a gymnastics trip at Sherburn Gymnastics Centre and had so much fun! We've been working on gymnastics in our PE sessions in school and showed off our skills on new apparatus.

UNCRC Article 29 - children have the right to take part in a wide range of activities.

## Our Clay Predators in Class 3

This week for our art lesson, we made our own predators out of clay. The children worked hard to create the body, before adding detail using the tools. A huge thank you to the art ambassadors who took their time to come into our lesson and help class 3 improve their sculptures.



### Beamish Museum

Class 2 had an amazing time at Beamish Museum. We loved playing with all of the 1950's toys and sharing our opinion on which ones we feel will be best to be displayed in the toy shop window!



### Church Visit

Class 4 had a lovely morning at our local church learning all about its features and why they are significant. We loved exploring the church and asking Reverend Michael all about it. Thank you for helping us learn Reverend Michael!

UNCRC 14 – right to a religion



### Week 5 Highlights in Class 1...

UNCRC Article 31 Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

This week we have been putting all of our skills learned from Leanne’s weekly Fundamental Movement sessions into practise when introducing a ball to our game; Dodgeball. She is very impressed at how good we are at listening and following instructions for Re pet ion

children! Well done class 1

We have been focusing on forming the letters in our name this week, so if you could continue this at home that would

be amazing

In music, we have been adding instruments and action scarves to the songs we have learned, as well as starting to learn the songs for our Harvest Festival at church

in a couple of weeks time





23 – Every child has the right to live a happy and decent life even if they have a disability.

28 – Every child has the right to an education.

31 – Every child has the right to rest and play.

Look below to see how we; as right holders and the adults; as duty bearers help us to ensure these rights are in place

*Week 4 Highlights in Class 1...*

UNCRC Article 1: Everyone under the age of 18 has all the rights in the Convention.

This week we have been talking about all of the careers around us that help us when we need it; doctors, nurses, dentists, police officers etc. We had lots of fun learning about these wonderful careers and all of us have big dreams and high aspirations for our future.

We have been creating our Class Charter, linking to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). As a Rights Respecting gold school we ensure that children’s rights are learned, practised, respected, and promoted – not only in our school but within the local as well as wider community. The children chose articles:



# Tri Golf

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

The children in Class 3 had an excellent time, playing tri golf. We learnt lots of new skills and had so much fun. As always, the children had a fantastic attitude to learning and were so respectful to the leaders.

