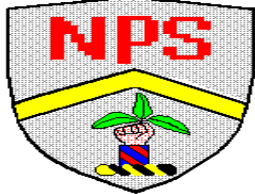


Autumn Term Newsletter



Christmas Nativities

A massive well done to all of our EYFS and KS1 on their amazing Christmas performance – Prickly Hay. We were all super proud of all of the children, a massive achievement for all of our super

talented children!



KS2 Nativity – The Magical Christmas Jigsaw

A huge well done to all of KS2 for their amazing performance of their Nativity. Every child learnt their lines and spoke so clearly to the audience. We are so proud of everyone for their excellent effort!



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 19th 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 for diary dates, latest news, celebrations, advice and information.

Diary Dates

Mon 16th Dec- Elf Run

Tue 17th Dec- Christingle-Kimblesworth Church-2pm

Wed 18th Dec- Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

Thur 19th Dec-Christmas Party- 1.30pm-3.30pm

Fri 20th Dec- End of Term

Tue 7th 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.

School Games Live – Christmas Special!

We had so much fun joining in with County Durham Sports School Games Live Christmas Special. We loved seeing Leanne Kemp encouraging schools from all over County Durham to join in and keep fit! We all loved working up a sweat – including the teachers!



Traffic Survey with PCSO Sam

Today we carried out a traffic survey with our PCSO, Sam. We watched the vehicles travelling past school and counted how many went past. We discussed how important it is for drivers to

drive slow past our school. PCSO also told us how to cross the road carefully. She also told us all about her job and how we can become a PCSO when are older! Thanks for inspiring a future career PCSO Sam!



Christmas Pantomime

We welcomed Dip and Dab to school today to perform a hilarious Christmas pantomime for us! We had so much fun and loved watching our teachers getting involved.

UNCRC Article 31 – children have the right to relax and play.



Forest School Critters

This week in Forest School, we used a mixture of natural resources and clay to create our very own critters! Check out our critters!

UNCRC Article 29 – children should develop a respect for the natural environment.



Christingles – 16.12.24

UNCRC Article 14 – freedom of thought, belief and religion

Well done the the children in Class 5 today when we explored our critical thinking around the Christian Beliefs of Christmas and what this religious festival means to each other. We spoke about the artifacts used in church and in the home and we made our own Christingle ready for tomorrow's Christingle Service at Church.



Reindeer Run – 16.12.24

UNCRC Article 31 – leisure, play and artistic culture

Well done to all the children today who participated in the Reindeer Run and to the Sports Leaders and SOCs Crew who helped to organise the children across the school.

Rights Respecting Gold ethos demonstrated by all.



The Naughty Elves are back!

We were so shocked to see the mess that the elf had made in class 2! He also wrapped up Mrs Aspinall's board so we couldn't do any work! How naughty!



