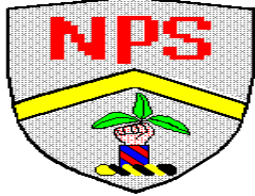


Spring Term Newsletter



Children's Mental Health Week

This week in school we have celebrated Children's Mental Health Week raising money and awareness to support the work of the amazing charity Place2be. The campaign this year aims to empower children and young people across the UK to embrace self-awareness and explore what it means to them.

This year's theme was 'Know yourself, Grow yourself' and all of the children were invited to come into school on Friday in clothes which make them feel most 'like them'. It was great to see the children and staff expressing themselves in their own unique way; from fancy dress to football kits, dresses to pyjamas.

Each class also had bespoke activities in their PSHCE & SEAL lessons linking to mental health and on Friday afternoon we celebrated with treats and the movie Inside Out.



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.

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

Tue 18th Feb- Class 3 Multiskills

Thur 20th Feb- Springtime Disco

Fri 21st Feb- End of Half Term

Mon 3rd Mar-Children Return to School

Tue 11th Mar- Class 1 Bear Hunt

Fri 14th Mar-Comic Relief Day

Wed 19th Mar-Phonics Screening Meeting for Parents/Carers

Fri 21st Mar-End of Half Term Reports

Wed 9th April- Easter Egg Competition

Thur 10th April- End of Term

Mon 28th 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.

Texts/Emails

We regularly send texts to parents with details of events happening in school or

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.

E-Safety Coffee Morning

A massive thank you to everyone for attending our annual e safety coffee morning. We loved sharing all of our work with our adults and also promoting how we can stay safe online. This years theme was 'too good to be true'. Each class discussed this at their own level and created work to show our understanding. Well done everyone!

UNCRC Article 13 – seek and receive information.



Career Encounter – Civil Engineers

UNCRC Article 29 – Goals for education.

In class 3 had a lovely visit from Lewis and Abi, who are both civil engineers. They talked about what an engineer was and how there are lots of different roles. They answered all of the children's questions by telling them what they like about the job and showing examples of their work. The children then had the chance to take on the role by measuring different parts of the classroom, using the equipment and work out area and perimeter, which they absolutely loved!



Chinese New Year

We celebrated Chinese New Year in class this afternoon! Firstly, we made Chinese lanterns outside during our Forest School session, then went inside to enjoy some Chinese cuisine (using our Science knowledge to detect which parts of our tongue could detect each taste) and watched a video on the celebrations all around the Year of the Snake.

UNCRC Article 31 – children have the right to take part in a wide range of cultural activities.



Forest Schools in Class 1

This week we have been creating a new area for our camp cafe at forest schools. We have been collecting natural resources for this in preparation for next week's launch.



Clay Sculptures

This week in forest school we had lots of fun making Ancient Greek Vases out of clay. We looked closely at some pictures of Greek Artefacts and tried to replicate the detail on the vases we had looked at.

