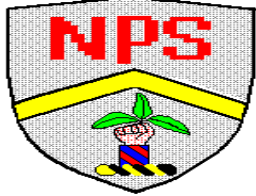


# Spring Term Newsletter



## Comic Relief 2025

Children across the whole school enjoyed all of the activities set up by the Sports Leaders and SSOCs crew. They had lots of fun joining in sporting party games to celebrate the 40th birthday of red nose day! Thanks leaders and crew! We managed to raise £45

We played pin the nose on the teacher, pass the hoop, musical statues and make the teacher look like a clown!

We finished with a treat of watching the staff play musical chairs. Miss Grimes took the crown! Well done everyone!



## 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](http://www.nettlesworth.durham.sch.uk) for

diary dates, latest news, celebrations, advice and information.

### *Diary Dates*

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April**- History Day

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April**- Easter Egg Competition

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April**- Easter Crafts Afternoon

-End of Term

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April**- Teacher Inset Day

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April**- Children Return to School

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May**- Y4 Times Tables Check Parent/Carer Meeting

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May**- Bank Holiday

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May**- Children return to school

**WB Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May**-  
**Year 2 and Year 6 SATS Assessments Week**

-Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar Paper

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May**-Reading Paper

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May**-Maths Arithmetic and Reasoning Paper 1

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May**- Maths Reasoning Paper 2

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May**- Y2/Y6 SATs Party

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May**- Class 3 Trip to Beamish Museum

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**- End of Half Term

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**- Children Return to School

-Y4 Tables Check two week window begins

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**- Class Photographs

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June**- New Reception Starters Parent/Carer Meeting

**W/B Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June**- Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June**- Y5/6 Robinwood Parents/Carers Meeting

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June**- New Reception Starters Visit 1

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June**- Sports Day

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June**- New Reception Starters Visit 2

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**- New Reception Starters Visit 3

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June**- New Reception Starters Visit 4

- Class Swap Day

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July**- Year 5/6 Residential to Robinwood

- Reception Class Vision Checks

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July**- Framwellgate Moor Transition Day

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July**- School Summer Fayre

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July**- KS2 SATS Results

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July**- Class 1 Performance

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July-** Class 5 Summer Showcase

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July-** End of Year School Reports to Parents/Carers

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July-** Parents Open Evening

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July-** Heel and Toe Talent Show

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July-** TT Rockstars Day

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July-** Year 6 Leavers Assembly

- Year 6 Prom

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July-** Picnic with Parents/Carers

- End of Term

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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/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.

## World Book Day 2025

We celebrated World Book Day. This annual celebration of authors, illustrators, books and the joy of reading is one of the highlights of our year! Class 1

had so much fun taking part in a day of storytelling & reading for pleasure – celebrating texts of all genres. Our assembly focused upon the importance of reading and we had a special visit from 2 sneaky burglars, a cat in a hat and a 'Thing' who caused a whole lot of mischief!

Thank you to all our parents and carers for supporting the day and sending children into school dressed as a favourite book character. All staff joined in for the occasion too – it was a wonderful day for everyone.



## British Science Week 2025

British Science Week is taking place between 7-16 March 2025.

This year's theme explores change and adaptation, which is all around us and affects every area of STEM.

For example, animals and plants change and adapt to their surroundings to survive.

We've also seen technology constantly evolving which can help people in many different aspects of their lives – from finding new medical treatments to learning in the classroom.

And it doesn't just happen here on Earth, even the stars and social system changes too. Perhaps there is life on other planets that also adapts as their environment changes?

This year in school we celebrated by having a morning of teacher swap! Each class had a visit from a different class teacher. Teachers had planned an exciting morning of practical activities all based on this year's theme of Change and Adapt.



## Forest School

### Forest School Sounds

In today's Forest School session, we were looking at how sound travels over distance and what could interrupt sounds travelling throughout the air! We tested out using our voices at different volumes and distances as well as checking the acoustics of the gazebo.



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



# Making Earthquake Shelters

During this week’s Forest School session, we had the challenge of making our own Earthquake Shelters. We used the commando Joes equipment, to built strong shelters. The children demonstrated excellent teamwork and managed to build sustainable shelters. We also had lots of fun!



## Invasion Games at Framwellgate School Durham

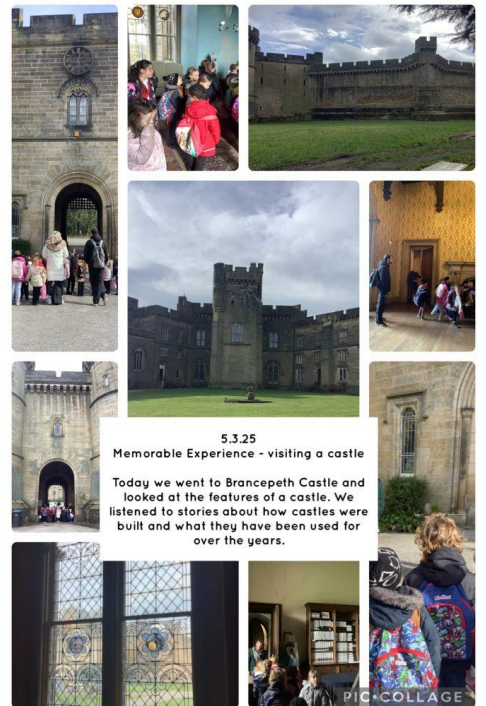
Class 2 had lots of fun at the SSP Invasion Games event. We joined in a range of activities to help develop our understanding of games and tactics that can we used.

Thank you to the sports leaders for showing us what to do, Bella and Harry, you were amazing!



## Memorable Experience at Brancepeth Castle

Class 2 had so much fun exploring a real life castle as part of our engagement activity for our new cornerstones topic of Towers, Tunnels and Turrets. We were impressed with how big it is and what it has been used for over the years!



5.3.25  
Memorable Experience - visiting a castle  
Today we went to Brancepeth Castle and looked at the features of a castle. We listened to stories about how castles were built and what they have been used for over the years.