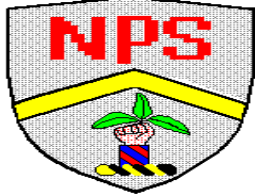


Spring Term Newsletter



Class 2 End of Term Celebration

Class 2 had such a fun day celebrating the end of our Splendid Skies topic. We loved dressing in our favorite destination clothes and jetting off, on board the Nettleworth Airways! We think that Mrs Aspinall, Miss Eade and Miss Liddle made the best air hostesses!



Celebration event
20.2.25

Fly away on our
splendid skies end of
topic celebration

PIC-COLLAGE

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 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.

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 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.



Dance Festival

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

Year 3 children took part in the Dance Festival at the Gala Theatre. They have been working so hard over the past few weeks to learn a Bollywood dance with Gemma. The children were absolutely amazing and had such a fun morning performing and watching the other dances. Well done class 3!



Digestive System Investigation

Class 4 took part in a Science investigation to watch the process of the digestive system happen right before our very eyes! We created stomach acid (using lemon juice and bread) using a chemical reaction to break down food in the bag before ending our food journey by trying to force waste through a pair of tights!

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



PIC•COLLAGE

Fitness with Leanne Kemp

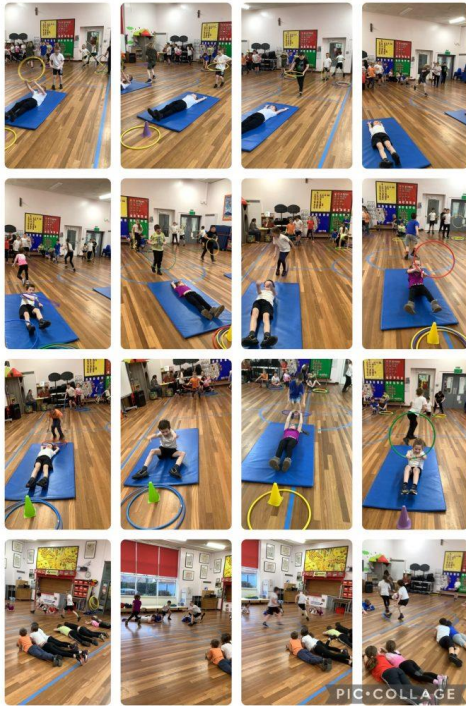
We're working hard on our cores with Leanne Kemp this half term. On Monday, we worked on various circuits to improve our

Class 3 End of Term Celebration

We celebrated our current topic 'Gods and Mortals, by having our very own Greek day. The children all made an excellent effort to come to school dressed as Greek Gods, Goddesses and Heroes. We had lots of fun learning how to Greek dance, having a Greek taster session and taking part in some activities linking to Ancient Greece!

stamina and enjoyed every second.

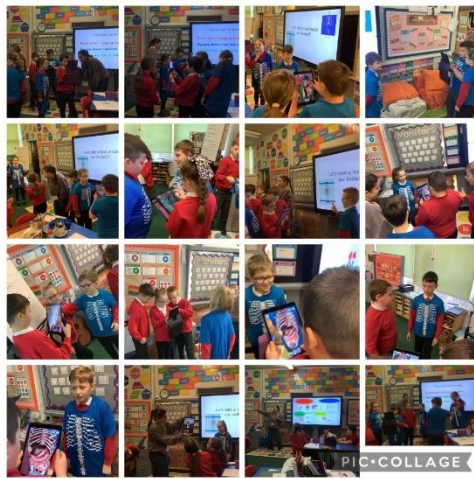
UNCRC Article 31 – children have the right to take part in a wide range of activities.



Seeing our Insides

We loved our Science lesson this week, working with Miss Baker and combining with Computing! We used the iPads to scan our t-shirts to see virtual reality versions of our insides. Check out what we found!

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

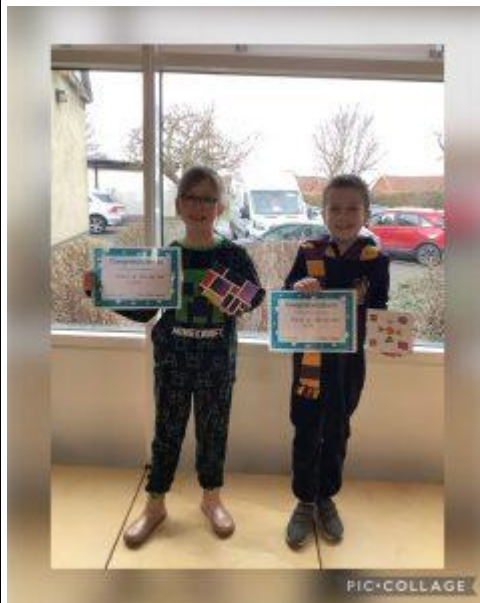


Artist of the half term

UNCRC Article 29 – Develop our talents.

We announced our new artists of the half term, who both worked so hard at home to create some artwork, linking to our current artist 'Piet Mondrian'. We could see the effort that Karen and Luke had put in to create this amazing artwork.

Well done Karen and Luke!



Children with Cancer Pyjamarama Day

We had an exciting day where all of the staff and children came to school wearing **their pyjamas**, to

help fund research into **less toxic and kinder treatments** for childhood cancer patients.

We looked at all of the hard work and different career pathways that contribute to medicine in this country and how they all play a part in helping find cures to many different types of cancer. Together we raised **£68**, thank you for all of your donations!

Trincomalee Trip

Class 1 went on their first ever school trip. We spent the day at Hartlepool Marina where we explored the historic quayside and museum as well as a real pirate ship! We had so much fun – especially when we stumbled across some fearsome pirates and had a dual with them! Shiver me timbers!

Pirate Wrap Maps

In DT, we have been planning and reading instructions to make our very own pirate wrap map. The children carefully planned what they were going to add to their wrap map before creating a delicious masterpiece!