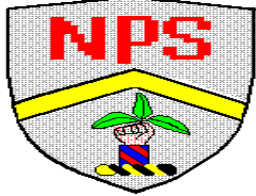


Autumn Term Newsletter



Jeans for Genes Day

Our school was drowning with denim and kindness as we celebrated **Jeans for Genes Day!** Pupils and staff proudly wore their jeans to raise awareness and funds for children affected by genetic disorders.

From classroom discussions to creative activities, our children learned about the importance of inclusion and compassion — all while helping to make a difference. Together, we raised **£52** for this fantastic cause!

A huge thank you to our amazing families for your support and generosity.



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

Monday 6th October- KS2 Cross Country

Friday 10th October- Mental Health Day

Thursday 16th October- Chartwells Flavours of Food Day

WB 20th Oct- Parents Meetings- AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS WILL BE CANCELLED THIS WEEK

Thursday 23rd October- Halloween Disco

Friday 24th October- Harvest Festival

END OF HALF TERM

Monday 3rd November- Children return to school

Monday 10th November- Odd Socks Day

Tuesday 11th November- Remembrance Service for Children at school

Friday 14th November- Children in Need Day

Class 5

Sleepover for CRISIS

Monday 17th November- World Prematurity Day

Wednesday 26th November- Parliamentary Week Coffee Morning

Friday 28th November- TEACHER INSET DAY

Monday 1st December- Children return to school/Christmas Card Post Box Opens

-Decorate

the Christmas Tree

Friday 5th November- Christmas Fayre

Tuesday 9th December- KS2
Nativity Performance

Thursday 11th December- KS1
Nativity Performance

Monday 15th December- Elf Run

Tuesday 16th December- Christingle

Wednesday 17th December- Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

Thursday 18th December- Christmas Party

Friday 19th December- End of Term

Monday 5th January- Children return to school

Further letters/details will follow about each event

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/carers 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.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

A great big thank you to everyone who attended our first ever Macmillan Coffee Morning. We could not believe the success of it!

Staff and governors made kind donations of cakes and biscuits to sell at the event. The generous donations amounted to over £200 to be donated to the charity.



Week 4 Highlights in Class 1

UNCRC Article 28: Every Child has the right to an education.

This week marked the exciting start of Autumn! We made our own Autumn Trees to display around our classroom to celebrate our Understanding of the Natural World.

After carefully assessing all the children, we've begun our Read Write Inc. phonics journey and the children are already showing great enthusiasm and curiosity as they begin to explore sounds and letters.

We've also continued with the statutory Reception Baseline Assessment, which is a lovely opportunity for us to get to know each child's starting points in a relaxed and supportive way. This will help us tailor our teaching to meet their individual needs.

As part of Fairtrade Fortnight, we've been learning all about where some of our food comes from and how choosing Fairtrade products can help farmers and communities around the world. The children have really enjoyed exploring different products and asking thoughtful questions. We baked some delicious Fairtrade banana biscuits too!

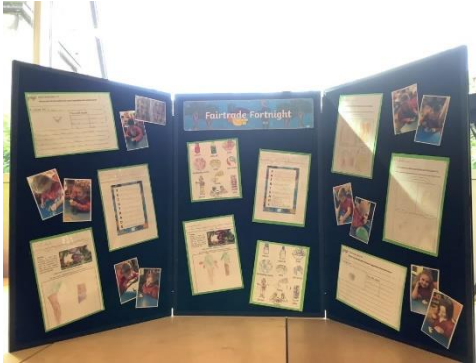
To end the week, we were thrilled to welcome many of you to our very first Macmillan Coffee Morning. It was a lovely opportunity to come together as a school community and raise money for a very important cause. Thank you so much for your support and generosity.



Fairtrade Fortnight

UNCRC 6 – Everyone has the right to life.

Class 2 have had a fun week, learning all about Fair Trade and why it is so important. We have learnt about what Fair Trade is and where we might have seen the logo. We completed some activities linking to Fair Trade foods and decorated our own biscuits. We then took part in a Macmillan Coffee Morning, raising lots of money and selling some of our Fair Trade products!



Tri Golf Festival in Class 3

The children took part in a golf festival. They enjoyed engaging in a range of activities and learning valuable skills!

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



Live Performance from Mr Stokoe

To introduce our Year 4s to the wonderful world of violin lessons, Mr Stokoe popped into our class today to give us both a presentation and a performance! It was fantastic to hear this live music from various famous film soundtracks.

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



Class 5 Baking with Mrs Burton for Macmillan

We had an amazing time baking with Mrs. Burton ready for our coffee morning. We loved looking at the recipe and measuring out the ingredients. We must say ... the results were amazing!



Day of the Dead Skulls in Class 5

In art we have created a day of the dead paper mache skull. We looked at designs and then created our own personalised one. We then used paint and other materials to transfer our design onto the 3D structure.



2025/2026 ACADEMIC YEAR APPLYING FOR A RECEPTION SCHOOL PLACE

As in previous years, we are strongly encouraging parents/carers to apply on-line for a school place for their child. All the information you need to be able to do this is available from the Council's website from 1st September 2025:
www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

APPLYING FOR A SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE

The application process for the Secondary Admissions 2026 Intake is due to begin on Monday 1st September 2025. Parents can make their application for Secondary School online by visiting www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions and the School Admissions online application

facility will be available to parents from Monday 1st September 2025. The Closing Date for Secondary School Applications is the 31st October 2025.

If parents do not wish to apply online they can complete a paper application form, and these are available on request from the School Admissions Team from 01 September 2025. These application forms can be requested by e-mail to schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk or by telephone from the School Admissions and Transport Team on 03000 265896.

Rights Respecting School

We are immensely proud to be a [UNICEF Rights Respecting School](#) Gold School.



UNCRC Article 12 – Children have the right to say what they think should happen when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken in to account.

As a Rights Respecting school we are an organisation which promotes equality and the UNCRC articles giving children in our care a high level of pupil voice and participation as well as striving to educate them to become all round Global citizens.

We are also a Rights Respecting Ambassador School, where we work with other schools to help promote and achieve Rights Respecting Schools Award

A large part of this work is the creation of **Charters** – agreements between the children and adults in school about what actions both groups will take to help promote the UNCRC articles.

Groups of children in a class will choose an article that they feel is important to them and think about what actions they as children can take to help themselves and others globally to make that article work.

Adults in school will think about what actions they can take to do the same. Together, class, whole school and playground charters are created which helps to make our school a thoughtful, reflective place to learn, work and play.

Nettlesworth-School Community Group NSCG

This Group is the charity run by some of our teachers, parents and carers to support and fund fun learning and social activities in school. When we waved goodbye to our Year 6 children back in July, we also lost a number of our most active parents, so we're looking for new members to join the fun! It isn't a big commitment involving regular meetings or months spent planning, we're all juggling children and work too. Most of our planning is done via Whatsapp or at the schoolgate!

We welcome everyone from our school community to join in. If you want to know more or can spare some time to help, please email Kelly the NSCG Chair. k.lofthouse500@nettlesworth.durham.sch.uk

Alternatively, contact the school office for further information

Food Tasting

Class 2 loved our D.T lesson this week, tasting lots of foods from around the world. We tasted a

range of foods and talked about the taste and textures, as well as what we liked and disliked about them.

