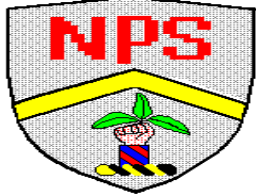


Autumn Term Newsletter



An Inspiring Day with Adam Bushnell

We were thrilled to welcome author **Adam Bushnell** to Nettleworth Primary School for a truly inspiring day of storytelling and creativity!

Adam began the day with a **whole school assembly**, where he shared his journey as a writer and showed the children how storytelling can become a lifelong passion and even a career! His energy and enthusiasm sparked imaginations across every year group.



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 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 December- 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

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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/carers, 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.

Maths Day

Today saw the first of our whole school Maths Day. The children from class 5 taught each of the other classes, demonstrating our excellent mathematical knowledge and understanding. They really were the best teachers!



Welcome back to Autumn 2 in Class 1

UNCRC Article 31: Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

This week, we have excitedly chosen our new topic: Space! Our learning and role play area will be transforming into an out-of-this-world experience, filled with stars, planets, and plenty of imagination.

We've also been learning about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot, exploring the story behind Bonfire Night. In PE, we've started gymnastics every Tuesday with Mr Beveridge and the children have been brilliant at trying new movements and building their confidence.

A highlight of our week was a visit from real-life author Adam Bushnell, who inspired us to

create our own space-themed stories, characters, and settings. The children were so engaged and creative—it was a joy to see! We had a special visit from his four legged friend – Jet the tortoise who climbed aboard our rocket ship to the moon too!



Harvest Festival

The children worked really hard to prepare for the Harvest Festival. The children enjoyed practicing their lines and singing the songs to celebrate. Thankyou to all for coming to our celebration and our wonderful food donations. Our food donations provided 164 meals.



Poppy Art

This week we have created some poppy art for Remembrance Day! We used different colour paint to create a Poppy. We will display our artwork on the fence for the community to see.



Halloween Disco

The children had a fantastic time at the Halloween disco and were amazing as always! They looked excellent in the costumes





Gymnastics trip in Class 2

The children have had a fantastic time taking part in a gymnastics workshop. They showed off all of their amazing skills and learnt some new ones!



Celebration of topic in Class 2— Making crispy cakes

Today we celebrated our topic 'Muck, mess and mixtures' by making crispy cakes. We melted the chocolate, mixed it all together and added our favourite toppings.



Sports Hall Athletics in Class 5

We are so proud of our class 5 children who took part in a range of athletics events at the sports hall athletics competition at maiden castle. We worked so hard as a team but also individually, where some children even came first, second and third in individual heats.

Well done everyone!



WEE Session in Class 4

Today, we worked with Emily from the Piece of Mind team to take part in our first session of WEE! WE enjoyed discussing what makes a helpful and unhelpful thought and how we can tackle worries using various tactics.

UNCRC Article 24 – children have the right to good health.