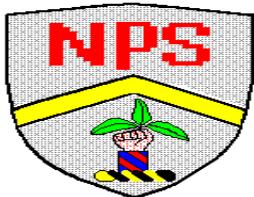


Autumn Term Newsletter



Remembrance Day

UNCRC Article 38

The children took part in a Remembrance Service on 11.11.25, to remember all of the amazing people that fought for our country during the War! We talked about why we celebrate on this day and raised lots of money for the Royal British Legion, a UK charity that supports serving personnel, veterans, and their families! We held a minute silence to show our respect and laid money on our poppy! Thank you so much for all of your kind donations, towards such an amazing cause! All of the children also created a piece of art work, to display on our school fence for our community to see.



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

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

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.

Children in Need 2025

Pudsey Bear Fundraiser Success!

We are thrilled to share that our school proudly took part in **RunPudsey** to support Children in Need. Every child participated in a sponsored 3K run, showing incredible determination and community spirit. Thanks to their amazing efforts and your generous support, we raised an incredible £3,673.80! Medals will be sent out in the post for our awards ceremony assembly.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed – together, we've made a real difference!



Odd Socks Day 2025

Our school kicked off **Anti-Bullying Week 2025** in style with **Odd Socks Day**! Pupils and staff wore their brightest, most mismatched socks to celebrate individuality and remind everyone that being different is something to be proud of.

This fun activity helped start important conversations about kindness, respect, and standing up against bullying. A big thank

you to everyone who joined in and showed their support!



Nursery Rhyme Week 2025

The children in EYFS had a fantastic time celebrating **World Nursery Rhyme Week 2025**! Throughout the week, our children explored classic rhymes through singing, storytelling, and creative activities. Nursery rhymes play a vital role in developing early language skills, rhythm, and memory – and the children loved every moment!

We shared our performance of the songs in assembly on Friday and were presented with our completion certificates.



Safeguarding Week 2025

Last week, our school took part in **Safeguarding Week 2025**, a special time dedicated to helping our pupils understand how to stay safe, look after themselves, and support others. Each day focused on a different theme, explored through fun and interactive workshops across all year groups.

Monday – Being Safe Online

We kicked off the week by learning about digital safety. Pupils discussed how to protect personal information, spot online dangers, and make smart choices when using technology. They even designed their own “Digital Safety Hats” to remind us of the importance of staying safe online.

Tuesday – Positive Relationships &

Emotional Wellbeing

Our second day focused on building healthy friendships and understanding feelings. Through role-play and creative activities, pupils explored how to show kindness, respect boundaries, and ask for help when needed.

Wednesday – Bullying & Peer Support

Midweek, we tackled the topic of bullying. Children learned how to recognise bullying, speak up, and support each other. Classes created “Support Circles” and made pledges to stand against bullying.

Thursday – Physical Safety & Personal Boundaries

Thursday’s workshops taught pupils about personal space and physical safety. Using the NSPCC’s “Talk PANTS” resources, children learned simple rules to keep themselves safe and identify trusted adults.

Friday – Child Voice & Participation

We ended the week by empowering pupils to share their ideas about safety. Each class contributed to our “Classroom Safety Promise” and created suggestion boxes to ensure every child’s voice is heard.

Christmas Pantomime 2025

Our whole school had an amazing time at this year's Christmas pantomime, **Secret Agent Frostbite!** The performance was packed with laughter, music, and plenty of festive cheer. The children loved singing along to the catchy tunes and joining in with the interactive parts of the show. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the season together and create magical memories for everyone.



WEE Session 2 in Class 4

We met a new character in our WEE session with Emily today – we met Adam, who had just started a new school and wanted to change his attitude to a positive mindset. We worked together to create some lovely posters that would make Adam feel more welcome in his new school and discussed how we can change our own mindsets.

UNCRC Article 29 – education should build respect.



Parliamentary Coffee Morning

26.11.25

Parliamentary Coffee Morning

Today we have had fun, taking part in our Parliamentary Coffee Morning, learning all about our Rights to Vote and why Parliament is important. We had our say by voting for which day we would like in school.



UNCRC Article 12

PIC·COLLAGE

Thankyou for taking part in our Parliamentary Coffee Morning and learning about our rights to vote, pupil voice and why parliament is so important.

Investors in Children re-accreditation Award 2025



Congratulations to Nettlesworth Primary School for achieving Investing in Children Membership Award™.

We would like to say a big thank you and well done to all your staff for listening and engaging children and young people in dialogue that has led to change.

