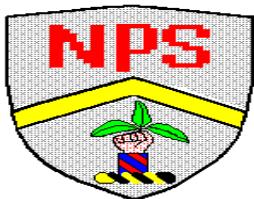


Spring Term Newsletter



Welcome Back

Hello and welcome back to the first half of the Spring Term! I hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year.



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/math/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 5th January- Children return to school

Thursday 15th January- Class 1 and Class 2 Senses workshop with Chartwells

Thursday 22nd January- KS2 Our Planet Workshop with Chartwells

Monday 26th January- Class 1 and Class 2 visit to synagogue

Tuesday 27th January- KS2 SATs meeting with parents/carers

- Class 3 Games at Maiden Castle

Tuesday 3rd February- Safer Internet Day Coffee Morning

Wednesday 4th February- Class 5 Rugby

W/B Monday 9th February- Mental Health Week

Wednesday 11th February- International Day of Women and Girls in Science

Thursday 19th February- Springtime Disco

Friday 20th February- End of Half Term

Monday 2nd March- 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/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.

Topic Engagement in Class 2

Class 2 have launched our new topic 'Beachcombers'. For our topic engagement, we have each painted our very own seashell. We talked about the different patterns we might find on a shell and had a look at some examples. We then used different

colours to create a design of our choice.



Ukulele Lessons in Class 3

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

Class 3 have started learning how to play the ukulele with Mr Stokoe. We enjoyed learning about the history of the instrument and how to strum the strings to make different sounds. We can't wait to learn more!



Tudor Dance in Class 4

In our first session with Gemma, we began to learn a Tudor ball dance which we absolutely loved! We cannot wait to practise the whole routine next week.



Mini Police in Class 4

We began our very first session with DAAC Mini Police today! We loved finding out about the different branches, roles and responsibilities of the police force and asked lots of questions to further our learning.

UNCRC Article 3 – the best interests of the child must be a primary consideration in all actions concerning children.



Gymnastics with Leanne in Class 4

We began our new PE topic for this half term of gymnastics! We loved showing off our skills and adapting new techniques to our methods.

UNCRC Article 24 – children have the right to the best possible health



Cricket with Mr Beveridge in Class 5

We are enjoying our work with Mr Beveridge completing our games topic of cricket. We have amazing skills!



Dance with Gemma in Class 5

We had our first dance lesson with Gemma this week in preparation for our dance festival in a few weeks time. We are looking forward to performing for our adults and a wider audience!

UNCRC 29 – develop talents



Welcome Back in Class 1!

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

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas break and is ready for an exciting new term at School!

The children in **EYFS**, have returned full of enthusiasm and have chosen a fantastic new topic for this half-term: “**Down in the Jungle**”. This theme will take us on an adventure exploring jungle animals, habitats, and the wonders of the rainforest through creative activities, stories, and hands-on learning experiences.

We are also thrilled to announce a new addition to our timetable: **PE every Monday morning with Chris from the Ready Set Go team!** This will give the children a brilliant opportunity to develop their physical skills, teamwork, and confidence in a fun and active way.

We can't wait to share all the exciting learning and activities with you over the coming weeks. Keep an eye on our website and class dojo for updates and photos!

