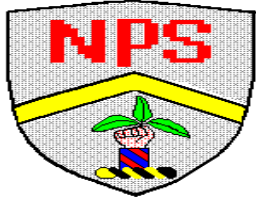


# Spring Term Newsletter



## Wear a Hat Day 2026

Our school was filled with colour, creativity, and countless brilliant hats as children and staff took part in a special awareness day for **Brain Tumour Research**. From sparkly caps and cosy bobble hats to wide-brimmed sunhats and imaginative handmade creations, every hat worn helped shine a light on an incredibly important cause.

### Why We Took Part

Brain tumours affect thousands of families each year, yet they remain one of the least understood and least funded areas of cancer research. By joining the national campaign and wearing our favourite hats, we hoped to raise awareness of the vital work carried out by Brain Tumour Research and the difference it makes to people across the UK.

We are incredibly proud of our children for taking part with such enthusiasm and understanding. Thank you to all families for supporting the event and helping us highlight such an important cause. Every small action helps raise awareness—and today, our

school made a big, bright contribution.



### 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.nettlesworth.durham.sch.uk) for diary dates, latest news, celebrations, advice and information.

### *Diary Dates*

**Wednesday 1st April**- Easter Egg Competition

**Thursday 2nd April**- End of Term

**Monday 20th April**- Children Return to School

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April**-Class 5 Trip-Centre for Life

**Thursday 30th May**- Y4 Times Tables Check Parent/Carer Meeting

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May**- Bank Holiday

**Tuesday 5th May**- Children return to school

**WB Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May**-  
**Year 2 and Year 6 SATS Assessments Week**

-Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar Paper

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May**-Reading Paper

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May**-Maths Arithmetic and Reasoning Paper 1

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May**- Maths Reasoning Paper 2

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May**- Y2/Y6 SATs Party

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May**-Robinwood Meeting for Parents/Carers

**Friday 22nd May**- End of Half Term

**Monday 1st June**- Children Return to School

-Y4 Tables Check two week window begins

**Tuesday 2nd June**- Class Photographs

**Wed 3th June-Fri 5<sup>th</sup> June**-Year 5/6 Robinwood Residential

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June**- New Reception Starters Parent/Carer Meeting

**W/B Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June**- Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June**- New Reception Starters Visit 1

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June**- Sports Day

**Wednesday 17th June**- New Reception Starters Visit 2

**Monday 22nd June**- New Reception Starters Visit 3

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June**- New Reception Starters Visit 4

- Class Swap Day

**Saturday 4th July**- School Summer Fayre

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July**- KS2 SATS Results

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July**- Class 1 Performance

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July-** Class 5 Summer Showcase

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July-** End of Year School Reports to Parents/Carers

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July-** Parents Open Evening

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July-** Heel and Toe Talent Show

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July-** TT Rockstars Day

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July-** Year 6 Leavers Assembly

- Year 6 Prom

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July-** Picnic with Parents/Carers

- End of Term

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September-** 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 and issues affecting attendance early as well as working in partnership with parents we can**

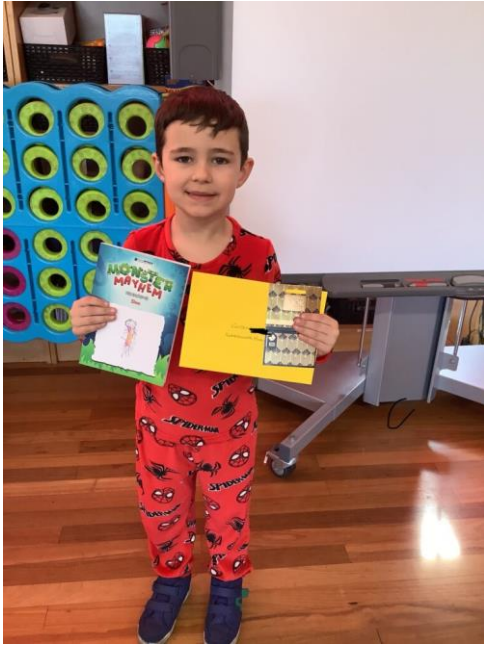
**significantly improve attendance and prevent a child becoming a persistent absentee and involvement with the Local authority.** Below outlines the procedure that we follow to support and improve attendance:

- 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.

## Young Writer's Competition Winner

A huge well done to Carson in class 2, who has won a competition they entered! Class 2 all drew and described their own monsters, as part of a Monster Mayhem competition. Their entries were sent off and Carson was chosen as their winner, for his amazing monster 'Slee'. Carson

was sent a special prize and his monster featured on the front cover of the Monster Mayhem book! What an amazing achievement.



***Inclusion Quality Mark Centre of Excellence Review/Flagship Status 2026***

We are very proud to have been awarded confirmation of Flagship Status which reinforces the work that we do to ensure that every child in our school is valued and has their education directly tailored to their learning needs. It represents the fact that we are a fully inclusive school who promote the social, emotional and academic well being of all of our pupils.

You can read the full report from the Quality Mark assessor by clicking on the link below.

[Nettlesworth Primary Review March 2026](#)



***Comic Relief 2026***

*UNCRC – Article 13 – Children have the right to freedom of expression.*

We celebrated red nose day and did something funny for money! We enjoyed wearing something funny and joining in a sports run which was set up by Class 5.



***Coding with Class 5***

Year 4/5 were joined by Year 6 who came down to Class 4 to show off their amazing knowledge of coding, using a new program on the iPads. They helped us write our own pieces of code, explained the components and we each acted out our codes!

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



### Career Encounter-Nursing

#### Career Encounter

We were delighted to welcome Mrs. Grimes into class 5 – she told us all about the importance of the blood and what it is like to be a nurse. Thank you so much!

27.03.26

Careers visit from a nurse

Class 5 were incredibly lucky today and had a visit from Mrs Grimes, a local nurse who works specifically with blood and blood transfusions. She shared lots of information about why blood is so important, the different blood disorders people can have and how doctors and nurses can treat them. We also learnt about blood pressure, blood tests and blood donation.



our adults into school to taste our cooking and allow them to rate our work. It was such a special afternoon and everyone had an amazing time. Thanks to all of the adults for joining us!



We hope you have a lovely Easter Holiday and will return to school Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

#### Year 6 Reading Buddies

We loved welcoming the year 2 children into class and reading them a story. Thanks for being such good listeners!



#### Come Dine with Me 2026

We hosted our very first Come Dine with Me event in class 5. We created healthy recipes to aid our learning of blood heart. We then created a 3 course menu and cooked up a storm! We invited