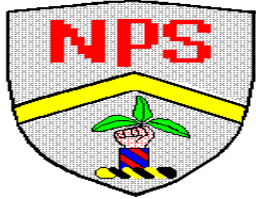


Summer Term Newsletter



Welcome Back

Welcome back to the summer term! We hope you all enjoyed a restful and happy Easter break. The summer term is always a busy and exciting one, filled with learning, celebration and opportunities for pupils to shine both in and out of the classroom. As always, we're looking forward to working closely with you to support the children as they continue to grow in confidence, independence and enthusiasm for learning. Thank you, as ever, for your ongoing support.

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.nettleworth.durham.sch.uk for diary dates, latest news, celebrations, advice and information.

Diary Dates

Monday 20th April- Children Return to School

Tuesday 21st April-Class 5 Trip-Centre for Life

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

Monday 4th May- Bank Holiday

Tuesday 5th May- Children return to school

WB Monday 11th May-
Year 2 and Year 6 SATS Assessments Week

-Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar Paper

Tuesday 12th May-Reading Paper

Wednesday 13th May-Maths Arithmetic and Reasoning Paper 1

Thursday 14th May- Maths Reasoning Paper 2

Friday 15th May- Y2/Y6 SATs Party

Monday 18th 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 5th June-Year 5/6 Robinwood Residential

Friday 5th June- New Reception Starters Parent/Carer Meeting

W/B Monday 8th June- Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

Monday 15th June- New Reception Starters Visit 1

Tuesday 16th June- Sports Day

Wednesday 17th June- New Reception Starters Visit 2

Monday 22nd June- New Reception Starters Visit 3

Wednesday 24th June- New Reception Starters Visit 4
- Class Swap Day

Saturday 4th July- School Summer Fayre

Tuesday 7th July- KS2 SATS Results

Wednesday 8th July- Class 1 Performance

Thursday 9th July- Class 5 Summer Showcase

Friday 10th July- End of Year School Reports to Parents/Carers

Monday 13th July- Parents Open Evening

Tuesday 14th July- Heel and Toe Talent Show

Wednesday 15th July- TT Rockstars Day

Thursday 16th July- Year 6 Leavers Assembly

- Year 6 Prom

Friday 17th July- Picnic with Parents/Carers

- End of Term

Thursday 3rd 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/carers, 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/cares 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.

Easter Egg Competition 2026

Our whole-school Easter egg competition was a fantastic celebration of creativity and teamwork. Every child designed and decorated an egg in school and proudly entered it into the

competition. The effort and imagination on display were wonderful and every entry was truly egg-cellent!

Thanks to the generosity of our PTA, **every child was a winner** and received a delicious Easter egg for taking part.

To make the competition even more special, the children took on the important role of judges by looking at **another class's entries**. They carefully selected a **1st, 2nd and 3rd place** for each class, showing kindness, fairness and respect for one another's designs.

Well done to all of our creative pupils for their fantastic entries, and a huge thank you to the PTA for supporting this lovely Easter tradition.





Forest School in Class 2

Forest School – S’mores on the fire



Topic engagement Class 3– Scrumdiddlyumptious!

Article 24 – Children have the right to healthy food and nutrition.

This half term our cornerstones topic is ‘Scrumdiddlyumptious!’ To start our topic we tasted lots of different fruits such as pineapple, stawberries and mango. We enjoyed tasting a range of fruits and talked about how they tasted, their texture and if we liked them.



French Easter cards in Class 4

We enjoyed making our Easter cards in DT this afternoon, including some French vocabulary! Joyeuses Pâques!

UNCRC Article 31 – every child has the right to take part in a wide range of artistic activities.



OAA Leadership in Class 5

Class 5 loved hosting our Class 1 children today. We set up an obstacle course for the younger children to follow. The class 1 children were amazing and listened to all of the tricky instructions carefully, so that they could successfully complete the course!



