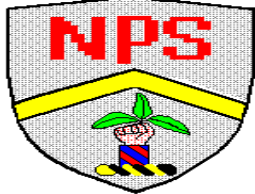


# Summer Term Newsletter



## Robinwood 2026

Our first day at Robinwood is complete. We have had loads of fun taking part in a range of activities and our now ready for bed. We are looking forward to all of our challenges tomorrow.



Our second day at Robinwood has flown over. We have had lots of fun taking on the nightline challenge, the trapeze, crate challenge and raft building to name a few. The children have shown such determination and resilience throughout. We are so proud of them all.



Our final day has passed us by so quickly. We've had such an amazing time, learnt so much and tried so many new things. Memories made!!



## 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*

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

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June-** New Reception Starters Visit 2

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June-** New Reception Starters Visit 3

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

- Class Swap Day

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 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/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.

## Summer 2 in Class 1

This half term, the children have chosen an exciting new topic: "Life on the Shore." Throughout this topic, we will be exploring all things related to the seaside, including sea life, coastal environments and the joys of sunshine and summer. The children were very enthusiastic in choosing this theme and we look forward to lots

of engaging, creative and hands-on learning experiences.

We are also delighted to share that our chicks have now hatched! The children have really enjoyed observing this special moment and we will continue to keep the chicks in our classroom for the next four weeks. This will give the children a wonderful opportunity to watch them grow and learn how to care for them responsibly.

In PE this half term, we will be working with Coach Leanne, who will be helping us prepare for our upcoming Sports Day activities. The children will be developing their skills, teamwork, and confidence as they get ready for this exciting event.



Royal Tea Party in Class 2

## Topic engagement – Royal Tea Party

Today class 2 had a fantastic time, launching our new topic 'Bright Lights, Big City'. We hosted our own Royal Tea Party, made our own crowns and learnt all about the Royal Family.



### Career encounter – The Fire Brigade.

UNCRC – Article 19 – Children have the right to protection from harm.

This week we were visited by the Fire Brigade. We learnt all about the many ways the fire service can keep us safe. We also learnt about the importance of water safety and how arson can impact our local area.



### Topic Engagement in Class 3 – Visit from Jett and Ben

UNCRC – Article 19 – children have the right to stay safe from harm.

To start our topic all about ‘heroes and villains’ we were visited by the police and Jett. We learnt all about how the police keep us safe in the local community and the special job that police dogs do.



### Recycling Matters

We had the Recycling Team from Durham County Council come and visit us in assembly today. We learned lots about recycling, how to dispose of waste properly and which bins are for certain types of materials!

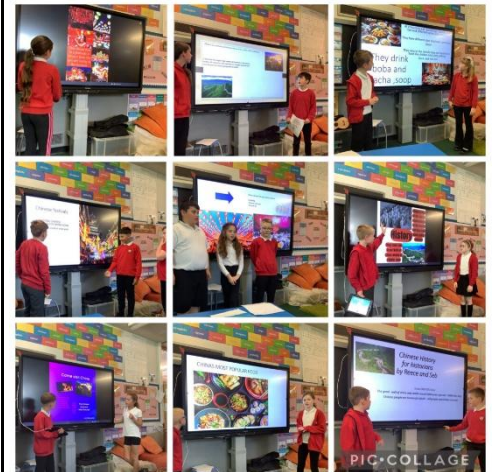
UNCRC Article 24 – every child has the right to a clean environment.



### Presenting in Computing

We’ve begun to look at the culture of China as part of our new Literacy topic. We created presentations in our pairs and presented them to the rest of our peers confidently, to try and persuade people to visit China!

UNCRC Article 17 – children have the right to media.



### Mini Police in Class 5

We were joined by Harry and Dan from the mini police this week. They taught us all about the importance of healthy relationships and online safety. Both very important topics that

will help us with our progression into year 7.



### Topic celebration in Class 3

UNCRC – Article 28 – Right to a range of activities to further learning.

To celebrate our cornerstones topic 'Scrumdiddlyumptious' we enjoyed a chocolate workshop! Sarah from The Durham Chocolate Company came to teach us all about chocolate. We learnt about the geography of where cocoa is grown and the importance of Fairtrade in this process. We had the opportunity to taste different chocolate and a cocoa bean. We then enjoyed creating our own chocolate lollies with lots of toppings.



### Football with Marc in Class 5

We loved our session with Marc today, demonstrating all of our amazing football skills but also learning new skills. All of which are preparing us for secondary school and the new challenges we will be taking on!



UNCRC – Article 28 – Right to a range of activities to further learning.



### Topic Celebration – Walk around the local area

UNCRC Article 31 – Right to take part in a range of activities.

Class 2 had a fantastic time using their maps to navigate their way around our local village. We looked for lots of different plants, linking to what we have been learning across the half term and spotted some familiar sights.



### Cricket with Durham Cricket Foundation.

Class 3 have really enjoyed developing their cricket skills with Chris from Durham Cricket Foundation. They have worked so hard on their batting and fielding skills. I think we have some future cricket stars in the making!

