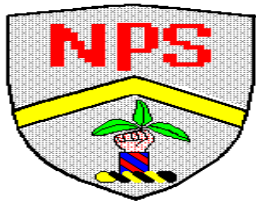


SummerTerm Newsletter



EYFS Graduation 2026

We celebrated a wonderful milestone as our little learners graduated from the Early Years Foundation Stage. It's been a year filled with laughter, discovery, and growth. We've watched them blossom—learning to share, explore, and express themselves with confidence.

As they take their first steps into Key Stage 1, we couldn't be prouder of how far they've come. Congratulations to our EYFS graduates—your adventure is just beginning



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

Wednesday 15th July- TT Rockstars Day

Thursday 16th July- Year 6 Leavers Assembly

- Year 6 Prom
- KS2 SATs Results

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/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 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.

Class 1 Trip to the Beach

The children in EYFS had a wonderful day on their educational visit to **Seaburn Beach**. Our adventure began with a walk to the lighthouse, where we discussed its purpose and linked it to the knowledge we have been learning in class. The children were excited to see a real lighthouse and enjoyed sharing what they knew about how it helps to keep boats and ships safe at sea.

When we arrived at the beach, we watched the **tide slowly move out**, revealing more and more of the sandy shore. This was a fantastic opportunity for the children to observe nature in action and talk about what happens to the sea throughout the day.

The children then had lots of fun exploring the beach, building impressive sandcastles, digging in the sand and paddling in the sea. There were plenty of smiles and laughter as they enjoyed

playing together and making special memories with their friends.

To finish our exciting day, we all enjoyed a delicious **fish and chips lunch** by the seaside. The children were extremely well-behaved throughout the trip and represented our school brilliantly.

It was a fantastic day of learning, exploration and fun, which the children will remember for a long time!



Class 1 Performance of Enormous Turnip

We performed our end of year performance on stage to the whole school and our parents. We learned the storyline, parts, songs and actions perfectly, putting on the most amazing show



Charity Event for the Great North Hospital

We were delighted to host a special charity event in support of the **Great North Children's Hospital**, helping to raise funds for the care and support provided to children like Leo. The afternoon was filled with fun, laughter and teamwork as the children enjoyed a range of football activities with their friends. It was wonderful to see our school community come together for such an important cause. The Sports Leaders did an amazing job at running the event and supporting the children.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our parents and families for their kind donations and generosity, we raised **£254**, which will make a great difference. A very special thank you also, to Candy Kids for their incredible support, including donating an inflatable football

goal and a visit from Sonic the Hedgehog, who was a huge hit with the children! Their kindness helped create a truly memorable afternoon for Leo.



Reception Superhero Festival

One of the highlights of our week was taking part in the Superhero Festival! The children had so much fun joining in with a range of exciting activities led by our fantastic Sports Leaders. It was wonderful to meet and play alongside Reception children from seven primary schools across Durham. The children showed great enthusiasm, teamwork and determination throughout the event



Topic Celebration – Heroes and Villains.

UNCRC – Article 31 – the right to a range of activities.

Class 3 enjoyed celebrating their cornerstones topic this half term. We dressed as our favourite hero and talked about careers that can be heroes or people who inspire us.



Visit to a Hindu Temple

UNCRC – Article 14 – Freedom of religion

In RE Class 3 have been learning all about Hinduism. We enjoyed visiting a Hindu temple to learn about how people celebrate their religion.



Ice Cream

UNCRC – Article 3 – Children have the right to enjoy things in their best interests.

We really enjoyed the talent show and showcasing our talents. After we loved eating an ice cream! Thank you so much Mrs Lee!

End of Year Performance In Year 6

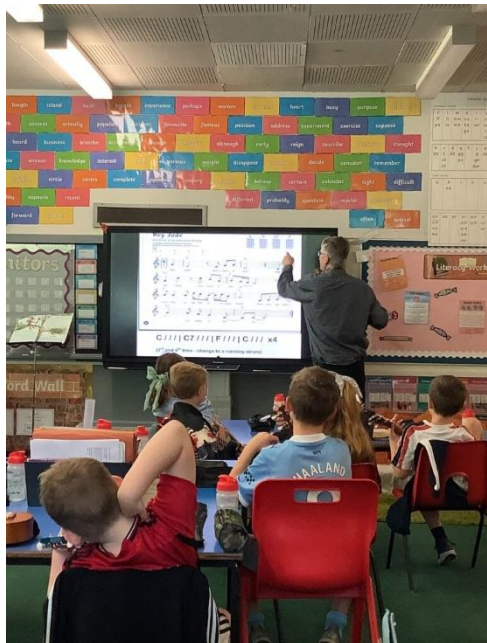
I am so proud of all of the amazingly talented children in class 5 who put on the best performance of our first ever 'I'm an 11 year old – get me out of here' show. We were all blown away by your acting and singing skills.



Ukulele in Class 4

To celebrate the upcoming England match, we played some England team inspired tunes in our ukulele session!

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



Superhero Event with the SSP

Our sports leaders all supported an event hosted by the SSP. Our leaders worked with a range of different schools. All adults commented on how amazing they all were!



Transition work in Class 5

Today we discussed all of the emotions we are likely to feel in the run up to finishing primary school and beginning our new journey at secondary school.



STEM trip to Beamish

We loved showing off our crane at the Crank it up festival. The judges commented on how sturdy our crane was and how well it had been designed and built, well done class 5!

