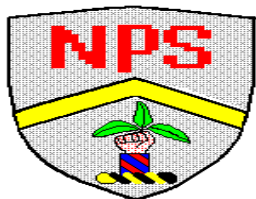


SummerTerm Newsletter



Durham Cricket Ground Visit

Class 5 enjoyed their trip to Durham Cricket ground this week. We were given the opportunity to watch a game of cricket and take part in a range of activities promoting the sport and learning about the importance of staying hydrated.

UNCRC Article 24 – Relax and play



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 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
- 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:-

- o Contact school on the first morning of absence, providing a reason for their absence.
- o Keep school informed on a regular basis if your child is absent for a long period.
- o 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.

children were amazing and we have had such a lovely day together.



Year 2 became Class 3 children. We loved exploring our new classroom, learning about our new cornerstones topic, creating art for Art Week and PE with Mr Beveridge.

Drowning Prevention Week 2026:
Building Water Confidence and Saving Lives

This week, our children proudly took part in **Drowning Prevention Week 2026**, an important national campaign led by the Royal Life Saving Society UK. The aim of the week is to help young people learn how to stay safe in and around water – a vital life skill as we look ahead to the summer months.

Throughout the week, pupils across the school engaged in a range of fun, informative, and

practical activities designed to build their awareness and confidence. From classroom discussions and videos to interactive role-play and problem-solving tasks, the children explored key safety messages in an age-appropriate and engaging way.

The children learned:

- How to recognise potential dangers around water, such as rivers, lakes, canals, and the seaside
- The importance of never swimming alone and always being supervised by a responsible adult
- What to do if they find themselves in difficulty in the water, including the **“Float to Live”** technique
- How to help someone else safely by remembering to **Call 999 or 112 and ask for the Coastguard** in an emergency
- Why it's important to stay calm and think carefully in unexpected situations

One of the highlights of the week was practising the “Float to Live” position, where children learned how floating on their back can help them recover their breathing and stay safe until help arrives. The children were fantastic at demonstrating this and showed great maturity when discussing real-life scenarios.

We are incredibly proud of how seriously the children have approached this learning. Their enthusiasm, thoughtful questions, and willingness to practise new skills have been truly impressive.

Class Swap Day

UNCRC Article 31 – Take part in a range of activities.

Year 1 and 2 have had an excellent day in class 2, making new friends and finding out what it will be like in September. We explored the areas in the classroom, had a great PE session with Mr Beveridge and took part in Art Week, creating our own self-portraits. All of the



Durham Dash 2026

Durham Dash Success at

Beamish Museum

A huge well done to this year's **Durham Dash team**, who took part in the event at **Beamish Museum**. All of our runners showed fantastic effort, determination, and team spirit throughout the race – we are incredibly proud of them all!

A special mention must go to **Jess in Year 6**, who made history as our **first ever finalist** in the Durham Dash – an amazing achievement and thoroughly deserved!

Well done to everyone who took part and represented the school

so brilliantly!



Art Week!

This week children have took part in Art Week, during our class swap day, giving every child the chance to explore a range of exciting and creative activities. Throughout the day, pupils worked with their new teachers and experienced a variety of art activities. It was wonderful to see children so engaged, building new skills and expressing their creativity in different ways, while enjoying the opportunity to learn alongside new classmates.

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

Class 2

Class 2 worked hard, creating a self-portrait. We used pencils to draw our features and then added appropriate colours.

Class 3

Class 3 loved creating art all about their cornerstones topic Predators! They used water

colours to paint predators ready for our topic display in September.

Class 4

Class 4 enjoyed using watercolours to create some Native American inspired art for our art gallery in September, linking to our upcoming Cornerstones topic!

Class 5

Class 5 loved creating flower sketches – preparing us for our new topic in September!





Sports Day 2026

Our recent **Sports Day at Nettlesworth Primary School** was a fantastic success, filled with energy, teamwork, and lots of smiles! The whole school came together to celebrate.

A huge well done must go to our **Sports Leaders**, who played a vital role in organising the event. They worked incredibly hard to make sure everything ran smoothly, from setting up activities to supporting younger pupils and keeping events running on time. Their leadership and enthusiasm really helped make the day such a positive experience for everyone involved.

We would also like to give a special thank you to **Mr Beveridge** for all of his support and dedication in helping to organise the day. His efforts behind the scenes were instrumental in ensuring the event was enjoyable and successful for all pupils.

Throughout the event, all teams showed excellent determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship. It was wonderful to see pupils encouraging one another and giving their best in every event.

And finally... a big congratulations to this year's winners — **YELLOW TEAM!** An amazing achievement and well deserved!

Well done to all pupils for making Sports Day such a memorable occasion. We are already looking forward to next year!



Robinwood Certificates

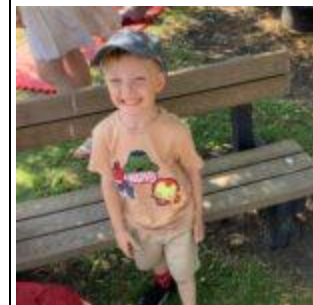
Well done to the children who took part in the residential trip to Robinwood – you showed wonderful Rights Respecting values and had an amazing time!



Transition Visit 4 – Our Final Visit

We were delighted to complete our fourth and final transition visit to school—and what a wonderful session it was! It was fantastic to see the children settling in so calmly and confidently. They thoroughly enjoyed spending time with their new friends, getting to know their teacher and exploring their classroom both indoors and outdoors.

The children showed growing independence and enthusiasm and it was clear how comfortable they are becoming in their new environment. We are incredibly proud of how well they have adapted and look forward to welcoming them back very soon as full members of our school community!



Summer 2 in Class 1

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

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.



Summer Fayre 2026

Thankyou for coming to the Summer Fayre and all of your support and raffle donations- it was a great success and we raised £911.62