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Autumn Term Newsletter

Synagogue Visit in Class 5

Synagogue Visit

Year 5 and 6 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the synagogue. The visit provided a valuable opportunity for pupils to explore Jewish beliefs, traditions and worship in a real-life setting. Children were highly engaged throughout the experience, asking thoughtful questions and showing great respect and curiosity. The visit helped to deepen their understanding of Judaism and brought their RE learning to life in a meaningful and memorable way.

UNCRC Article 14 – Right to a religion



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: o Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year. o Arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year. o 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.

World Mental Health Day

We marked **World Mental Health Day** with a focus on wellbeing, relaxation and enjoying time together as a school community.

At lunchtime, children were welcomed with calming and uplifting music, helping to create a peaceful atmosphere where everyone could relax, connect with friends and enjoy a positive start to the afternoon. Music can be a wonderful way to support emotional wellbeing and encourage children to take a moment to pause and recharge.

Later in the day, the children took part in extended outdoor choosing time, giving them the opportunity to play, explore and enjoy being active in the fresh air. Outdoor play provides many benefits for mental health, including reducing stress, building confidence and promoting happiness.

To make the afternoon even more special, the children were treated to a delicious ice lolly, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all!

It was wonderful to see so many smiles throughout the day, and we hope that our activities helped reinforce the importance of looking after our mental health and wellbeing. We are proud to support our children in understanding that it is just as important to care for our minds as it is to care for our bodies.



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 a member of staff 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.

Texts/Mail

We regularly send texts/mail to parents with details of events happening in school or just reminders. Please notify school if you haven't received any texts/mail in the last month. 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.

Absences

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Diary Dates

WB 19th Oct- Parents Meetings- AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS WILL BE CANCELLED THIS WEEK

Thursday 22nd October- Halloween Disco

Friday 23rd October- Harvest Festival

END OF HALF TERM

Monday 2nd November- Children return to school

Friday 6th November- Maths Day

Monday 9th November- Odd Socks Day-What makes us unique?

Tuesday 11th November- Remembrance Service for Children at school

Friday 13th November- Flu Vaccine

Tuesday 17th November- World Prematurity Day

Friday 20th November- Children in Need Day

Class 5 Sleepover for CRISIS

Wednesday 25th November- Parliamentary Week Coffee Morning

Friday 27th November- TEACHER INSET DAY

Monday 30th November- Children return to school

-End of Term Reports

Tuesday 1st December- Christmas Card Post Box Opens

-Decorate the Christmas Tree

Friday 4th December- Christmas Fayre

Tuesday 8th December- KS2 Nativity Performance

Thursday 10th December- KS1 Nativity Performance

Monday 14th December- Elf Run

Tuesday 15th December- Christingle

Wednesday 16th December- Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

Thursday 17th December- Christmas Party

Friday 18th December- End of Term

Wednesday 6th January- Children return to school

Further letters/details will follow about each event

Highlights in Class 1

UNCRC Article 1: Every child has all the rights in the UNCRC until they are 18 years old.

We have been learning about the **UNCRC Articles** and thinking about the rights that are important to us as we create our very own **Class Charter**. The children have shared some fantastic ideas about how we can make our classroom a happy, safe and welcoming place for everyone.

We have also been developing our **funky finger skills** using playdough, building those important muscles in our hands ready for writing. We have been working hard in **phonics**, practising our sounds and early reading skills, and in maths we have enjoyed **making sets of different numbers up to 5**, carefully counting objects and matching them to the correct number.

We are so proud of how enthusiastic and busy our little learners have been this week!



PE Trip to Maiden Castle in Class 2

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

Our PE trip was full of fun and active learning as the children took part in a range of activities designed to develop their fundamental movement skills. They practiced running, jumping, balancing, throwing, and catching through exciting games and challenges. The children showed great enthusiasm, teamwork, and determination as they built their confidence and improved their physical skills in a supportive environment.





Trip to the church

Class 2 enjoyed their visit to our local church, where Reverend Michael welcomed us and taught us about the different features of a church. The children explored important areas such as the altar, font, pulpit, and stained-glass windows, learning about their purpose. We also had great fun acting out a church service, taking on different roles and discovering what happens during worship.





Fairtrade Tuck Shop

Children enjoyed their visit to the Fairtrade Tuck Shop this term, buying some nice Fairtrade goodies!



Hancock Museum Visit

We had a fantastic trip to the Hancock Museum, where we explored a fascinating collection of dinosaur fossils. The children enjoyed discovering how

dinosaurs lived millions of years ago and learned about different species, their habitats, and how fossils are formed. The visit brought prehistoric history to life and gave everyone a deeper understanding of the amazing world of dinosaurs.



School Trip.

UNCRC – Article 29 – Developing children's knowledge through education.

This week we went back in time and visited Hardwick Park to learn about the Stone Age. We created Stone Age art, made fires and built dens all from resources we found in the park. We explored what it would be like to survive in the Stone Age and understood how different it was to life now.





Tri Golf Festival.

We participated in DSSP Tri Golf Festival. We enjoyed learning new golf skills and representing our school in a range of activities.

UNCRC – Article 29 – Children have to right to develop their talents



Rugby in PE

We're so enjoying learning lots of rugby skills in PE!

UNCRC Article 31 – children have the right to take part in a wide range of experiences.



Invertebrate hunt in Science

Today, we began to look at invertebrates in our Science lesson and decided to see if we could find some around our school field. We found some woodlice living underneath rocks and logs and took a closer look at

them with our magnifying glasses.

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

