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12th November 2026

Autumn Term Newsletter

Remembrance Day

UNCRC Article 38 – Governments must do everything they can to protect and care for children affected by war.

This year, our school marked **Remembrance Day** with a range of meaningful activities to help children understand the importance of remembering those who have served and sacrificed in times of conflict. Every child created a beautiful piece of poppy artwork, which was proudly displayed on our school fence for the local community to enjoy. In class, pupils learned about the history and significance of Remembrance Day and reflected on why we continue to remember today. As a whole school, we came together for a special Remembrance Assembly, raised money through the Poppy Appeal, and observed a respectful one-minute silence to honour those who gave so much.







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.

Harvest Festival

This afternoon, we took part in our annual Harvest Festival and performed our poem and sang hymns for our families and friends. It was a wonderful service to help us give thanks for all the lovely things that we have.

UNCRC Article 14 – children have the right to any or no religion at all.



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.

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Diary Dates

Friday 13th November- Flu Vaccine

Tuesday 17th November- World Prematurity Day

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

took part in a range of activities designed to develop their

Class 1 Activities

In Literacy, our learning has been based around the story Zog and the Flying Doctors. The children have loved taking on the role of doctors and potion makers, creating magical remedies to help our poorly imaginary patients feel better. This has inspired lots of fantastic storytelling, discussions and imaginative play.

We have also been learning about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. The children discovered what Guy Fawkes tried to do to the Houses of Parliament many years ago and why we celebrate Bonfire Night on the 5th of November each year.

In Art, we created beautiful poppy artwork in preparation for Remembrance Day next week. We have been talking about the importance of remembering the brave soldiers and animals who gave their lives during times of war and reflecting on why we wear poppies as a symbol of remembrance.

In Maths, we have been focusing on subitising numbers and groups up to 5. Subitising is the ability to recognise how many objects are in a group without counting them one by one. For example, being able to quickly recognise that a group contains 3 objects without needing to count each one.

Finally, we started our PE topic for this term, Fundamental Movement Skills. These are the basic movement skills that help children develop confidence and coordination, including running, jumping, balancing, throwing and catching. These skills provide the foundation for future participation in sports and physical activities.





Career Encounter – Civil Engineering

UNCRC Article 29 – Right to fulfil our talents and abilities to the full.

Today we had a visit from Civil Engineers, Lewis and Joe. They showed us some of the equipment they use and helped us measure the length of our classroom, whilst teaching us how they stay safe. We also enjoyed designing and building strong structures using Lego. The children asked lots of thoughtful questions and learned more about what it is like to work as an engineer and the important role engineers play in designing and building the world around us

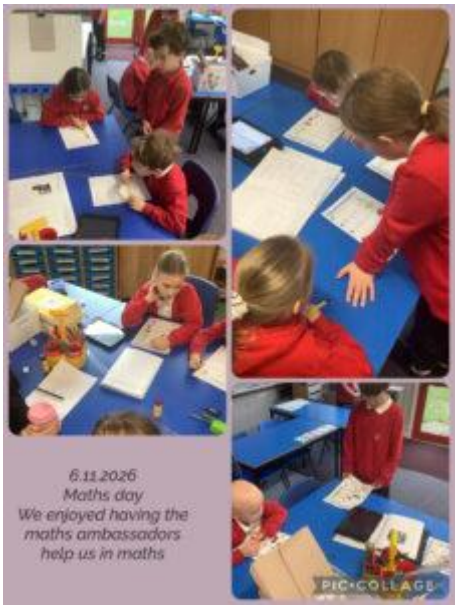


Maths Day!

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

Today the children had an excellent maths lesson, working with the Maths Ambassadors to play some numeracy games. We practiced our rapid recall and addition and subtraction skills whilst joining in with different games.





Topic Celebration

We loved celebrating the end of our topic ‘Road Trip USA’ by tasting some American dishes. They were so yummy!

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

