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24th November 2026

Autumn Term Newsletter

Children in Need 2026

We had a fantastic time celebrating **Children in Need** and helping to **"Make Life Lighter"** for children and young people across the UK. The children came to school in their pyjamas, bringing lots of smiles and creating a fun, relaxed atmosphere while supporting this wonderful cause.

During the day, we took on the exciting **16-step Strictly Come Dancing Challenge**, where the children enjoyed learning and practising the dance routine together. It was wonderful to see everyone joining in with such enthusiasm, showing off their moves and having lots of fun while getting active.

To round off our celebrations, the children enjoyed a special **movie afternoon**, complete with a delicious treat. It was the perfect way to relax together and celebrate all the fundraising efforts that help make a difference to the lives of others.

As well as having lots of fun, the children learned about the importance of helping those who may need extra support and how even small acts of kindness can make a big difference. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm, compassion and willingness to get involved.

A huge thank you to all our families for supporting our Children in Need events. Together, we made the day extra special while helping to support an important cause and raised a wonderful £115.00





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.

Safeguarding Week

This week, our school has been taking part in **Safeguarding Week 2026**, helping children to understand the importance of staying safe, healthy and happy both in school and beyond.

Throughout the week, the children have engaged in a variety of age-appropriate activities, discussions and stories focused on key safeguarding themes. We explored how to keep ourselves safe, who our trusted adults are, the importance of speaking up if something worries us, and ways to build positive and respectful relationships with others.

The children also learned about staying safe online, looking after their physical and emotional wellbeing, and understanding that everyone has the right to feel safe, listened to and valued. Through circle times, role play, creative activities and class discussions, they developed important skills and knowledge that will help them make safe choices as they grow.

It has been wonderful to see the children thoughtfully contributing to discussions, sharing their ideas and demonstrating kindness and respect towards one another. Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do, and this week has provided a valuable opportunity to reinforce these important messages in a positive and engaging way.

We are incredibly proud of the maturity and enthusiasm the children have shown throughout the week and of the caring school community we continue to build together.

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

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

Odd Socks Day 2026 *Anti-Bullying Week*

Our school proudly took part in **Odd Socks Day** to mark **Anti-Bullying Week 2026**. The children came to school wearing their odd socks and were excited to celebrate what makes each of us unique and special.

Throughout the day, we talked about the importance of kindness, respect and inclusion, learning that our differences should be celebrated and that everyone deserves to feel safe, valued and accepted. The colourful collection of odd socks was a wonderful reminder that we are all different, and that difference is something to be proud of.

Thank you for your support in helping the children take part. We loved seeing all of the creative combinations and using the day to reinforce the important message that together we can make our school a kind,

welcoming and bullying-free place for everyone.

The children looked fantastic, and we are very proud of the thoughtful discussions and positive attitudes they showed throughout the day.

World Nursery Rhyme Week 2026

Our EYFS children have had a wonderful time celebrating **Nursery Rhyme Week 2026**! Throughout the week, we have explored a range of much-loved nursery rhymes through singing, storytelling, movement, role play and creative activities.

The children enjoyed joining in with familiar rhymes, learning new actions, developing their listening skills and building confidence as they sang and performed together. Nursery rhymes play an important role in supporting early language development, communication skills, rhythm, memory and a love of reading, so it has been fantastic to see the children so engaged and enthusiastic.

From acting out favourite characters to creating themed crafts and taking part in exciting rhyme-based challenges, the week has been filled with fun, laughter and lots of learning. The children particularly enjoyed sharing their favourite nursery rhymes with their friends and joining in with whole-class singing sessions.

We are incredibly proud of how confidently the children participated and the enthusiasm they showed throughout the week. Thank you for your support in helping us celebrate the importance of nursery rhymes in children's early learning and development.

EYFS & KS1 Road Safety Roadshow

Our children had a fantastic time taking part in a special **Road Safety Roadshow** led by the amazing **Magician Colin**. Through a fun-filled combination of magic, laughter and audience participation, the children learned some very important road safety messages in an engaging and memorable way.

The interactive show helped the children understand how to stay safe near roads, the importance of holding an adult's hand, stopping and looking carefully before crossing, and always paying attention to their surroundings. Colin's magic tricks kept everyone captivated while reinforcing these key safety messages in a way that was both educational and entertaining.

The children thoroughly enjoyed joining in with the show and were eager to share what they had learned. It was wonderful to see them so enthusiastic and engaged as they developed their understanding of how to keep themselves safe.

A huge thank you to **Magician Colin** for delivering such an exciting and valuable experience. The children had an incredible time and left with important road safety knowledge that will help keep them safe both at school and in the wider community.





Class 5 Sleepover 2026

Class 5 had an amazing time at their recent sleepover while raising money for **Crisis**. The children enjoyed a range of exciting activities, showed excellent teamwork, and created lots of wonderful memories together. Their enthusiasm, resilience, and positive attitudes made the event a huge success. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported the event through their generous donations. Your kindness and support will help make a real difference, and we are incredibly grateful for your contribution. Well done, Class 5, for representing the school so brilliantly!





Celtic Hillforts

In our History session today, we looked at Celtic hillforts and had a closer look at how their roundhouse settlements would've looked!

UNCRC Article 28 – children have the right to an education.



Class 2 making a rain gauge

This week in science we made our own Rain Gauges. We worked in teams to make them out of plastic bottles, adding a measurement. We then planted them around the field, ready to see which area gets the most and least amount of rain over the course of a week.



Career Encounter – Civil Engineering

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

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.



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Class 1 Highlights

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

The children have been full of excitement as we have started exploring our new topic, Space, which was chosen by the children

themselves. We have enjoyed sharing what we already know about planets, stars and astronauts, and we are looking forward to discovering even more over the coming weeks.

We also had lots of fun supporting Children in Need. The children enjoyed taking part in special activities while helping to raise money and awareness for this important cause. Thank you for your support in making the day such a success.

In Literacy, we have been working hard on forming all the letters in our names correctly and taking pride in our handwriting. We have also been practising writing the numbers 0 and 1 carefully and correctly. It has been wonderful to see the children growing in confidence and showing great determination with their learning.

We were also treated to a fabulous Road Safety Roadshow! The children were fully engaged as they learned important road safety messages through an exciting and interactive magic-themed performance. It was wonderful to see them joining in enthusiastically while learning valuable skills to help keep themselves safe.

We are very proud of all the children for their enthusiasm, effort and positive attitude this week. We hope you all have a lovely weekend and look forward to another exciting week of learning ahead!







