Nettlesworth Primary School
Front Street
Nettlesworth
Chester le Street
Durham

3rd September 2026

Welcome back to Autumn 2!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school everyone, I hope you had a lovely break and enjoyed Halloween.

Our Cornerstones topic this half term is 'Street Detective', where we will be learning all about our local area, looking at maps and thinking of ways our area could be improved. To launch our topic, we have a visit from a Civil Engineer, who will be talking all about his career and how he makes improvements to the area. We will also be going on a walk around the local area, to celebrate our topic at the end of the half term and using maps to navigate our way around. We will be looking at how our area has changed over time.

Just some important diary dates:

- Homework and spellings – these will be given out on a Monday in your green homework book. We expect these to be complete and back in school for a Friday morning.
- Reading - We will be assessing your child to see which phonics group they will be going in to. Once all assessments are complete, we will begin to send out reading books that link to the phonics/reading level your child is working at in school and these will be changed on a Friday. It is important that the children are reading at home, as well as twice a week in school. Could you please read with your child at home, once a week, and record this in their planners, so that we can fill our reading display and earn some nice treats throughout the year! Your child will also receive a library book that they can choose themselves to read at home for pleasure, this will be changed every Monday.
- PE kits – Please send in a PE kit on a Monday morning and leave it at school throughout the week, we will return this home on a Friday. Our PE days this half term are Wednesday and Thursday however, we often have events in school that require PE kits, so it is important to still ensure children have their kits every day.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

Many Thanks
Miss Grimes.

Street Detectives

Cornerstones



Grab a magnifying glass, put on your deerstalker and change your name to Sherlock because we're going to become street detectives!

This half term, we'll follow a route around our local streets and take pictures of the buildings, businesses and plants we can see. Talking to residents about the area will help us understand how the local community could be improved. We'll learn nursery rhymes, write poetry and create persuasive adverts. Looking at photographs will help us to spot any similarities and differences between the houses and shops of today and the past. We'll find out about the history of our school and talk to former pupils about their experiences. We'll also study and draw maps, create a model of a local building, draw portraits of the people we have met and look at the work of urban artists.

At the end of our project, we'll design posters to advertise a 'Big spring clean' around school before cleaning and tidying the school grounds.

ILP focus	**History**
English	Recounts, captions, nursery rhymes, instructions, adverts, diary writing
History	Changes within living memory, significant people, places and events in the local area
Art & design	Famous local artists, portraits, views from the local area
Computing	Photo stories, algorithms
D&T	Selecting tools and materials, baking, sign making, designing buildings
Geography	Fieldwork in the local area, human and physical features, using and making maps with keys, looking at aerial images
Mathematics	Time, data handling
PE	Measurement, statistics
PSHE	Belonging to a community, improving the local area
Science	Identifying and comparing everyday materials, identifying plants in the local area

Help your child prepare for their project

Become street detectives and explore your local community. Why not visit a local museum to see what the local area was like in days gone by? You could also look up at the roofs of local buildings to spot interesting carvings and chimney shapes. Alternatively, read the book *A Street Through Time* by Steve Noon together to see how one street has changed over thousands of years.

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