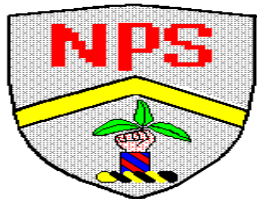


Autumn Term Newsletter



Jeans for Genes Day

We took part in this year's 'Jeans for Genes' Day on Friday 22nd September.

1 in 25 children has a genetic disorder that makes their life very difficult. That's one in every class. Simply by wearing our jeans and donating, we will change the lives of these children. All children and staff were invited to wear their jeans on Friday for national 'Jeans for Genes' Day and it was great to hear the inspiring stories of some of our staff and children who have genetic disorders.

Thank you for your all support, we have raised £76



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.

Holidays in Term Time

We have seen a large increase in requests for holidays in term time. Due to this, our school attendance has fallen from 96.7% to 95.5%. Our school attendance target is 96%. This target is National Average. Ofsted evaluate school attendance and a low attendance can affect school's Ofsted judgements. Just to remind parents and carers that as of 1st September 2013, Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Absence during term time should be avoided because children can fall behind with their work and may find it difficult to integrate. An application using the leave of absence form (available from the school office) for leave must be made in writing to the Head Teacher, detailing the exceptional circumstances. The Head Teacher must be satisfied the circumstances warrant the granting of leave. If you do not apply for leave in advance, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. You can be fined for taking

your child on holiday during term time without consent from the school.

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.

Week 1 Highlights in Reception Class

UNCRC Article 31: Every child has the right to relax and play.

What a great first few days at school we have had in Class 1. The children have settled in really well and made lots of new friendships. It has been exciting to explore our indoor and outdoor classroom – with the new areas and topic 'Marvellous Me!' I can't wait to come back next week and see all of our lovely smiling faces – until then, have a wonderful weekend





Diary Dates

Friday 29th September- Class 3 Tri golf Festival

Tuesday 3rd October- Tempest School Photographs

Thursday 12th October- Flu vaccines

Sunday 22nd October- Messy Church 3-5pm

W/B Monday 23rd October- Parent Evenings (No after school clubs this week)

Tuesday 24th October- Harvest Festival 2pm

Thursday 26th October- Halloween Disco 4.30pm-6.00pm

Friday 27th October- Class 1 Stay and Play Day

End of Half Term

Monday 6th November- 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:-

- 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 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.

Class 2's Beamish Visit

We enjoyed a visit to Beamish museum as part of our History topic on WW2. We enjoyed being

evacuees and taking part in activities that children during the war would do. We loved our workshop with Emma and Kev, although we weren't so keen on the thought of picking up the pool!



Class 3's first Ukulele lesson.

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

Class 3 had a fantastic introduction to playing the Ukulele. We learnt how to pluck the strings and enjoyed playing along to 'My dog has fleas'. The children all listened so well and learnt so much.



Native American Dreamcatchers in Class 4

In today's Art session, we used our previous plans for dreamcatchers to create some beautiful Native American inspired pieces. We've been

learning about the Native Americans in History and how they use dreamcatchers and tried our best to recreate their style. How do you think we did?

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





Forest School in Class 5

UNCRC Article 31 – leisure, play and artistic culture

A fabulous session in Forest School today where we collected a range of natural resources of a range of colours to create Forest Art – Poppies in collaboration with our Cornerstone's Curriculum Fallen Fields.

Rights Respecting Gold ethos demonstrated by all our children.

