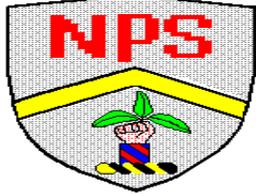


Spring Term Newsletter



Adam Bushnell

As a launch into our new topics across the school this half term we invited Creative Children's Author - **Adam Bushnell** along to provide a first class engagement. From forest dragons to splendid skies, gods and mortal to off with her head! The day inspired the children to find their love for reading and writing once again after the

Christmas break

It was fantastic to see all of the children enthused in the workshops and putting all of their amazing imaginations out their through whether that be through storytelling, acting, writing, or drawing.

The writing that has since been produced from these sessions has been a fantastic read - we certainly have some future authors and

illustrators



Class 1 learning outdoors

Welcome back to the start of our new time! It has been great seeing all of the children excited to see their friends again after the Christmas break!



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 and Class 2 begin their phonics sessions at 8.45 am and Class 3 and Class 4 begin their challenge time activities at 8.45 am. We also have co-ordination programmes 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.

Texts/Emails

We regularly send texts to parents with details of events happening in school or just reminders. We are now also sending emails. 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.

Diary Dates

Tuesday January 28th - Class 2

Gymnastics at Sherburn Leisure Centre

Tuesday 4th Feb - KS2 SATS Meeting (Letters to follow)

-Whole School Judo taster session

Tuesday 11th February - Safer Internet Day Coffee Morning

Thursday 13th February - Y5/6 Triathlon at Freemans Quay

Friday 14th February - Springtime Disco 4pm-6pm

END OF HALF TERM

Monday 24th February - Children return to school

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/carers 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.