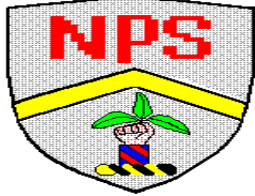


Spring Term Newsletter



June's Retirement

June will retire on Friday 24th May, after working 32 years at our school. She will be a massive miss but is ready to start her next adventure. The Governing Body have appointed Mrs Philippa Miller as school administration officer. She will start our school on Wednesday 24th April and work with June for the first half of the Summer Term. Thank you for your continued support.

Parent Pay

School dinners are paid through parent pay. Please can you keep a regular check of your account to ensure that you are in credit. **We have had a financial audit and debts of £55 or more will be referred to Local Authority.**

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. **Please can you ensure children arrive at school for 8.45am. Thank you so much to parents/carers for your continued support.**

End of Term

Hope you all have a fantastic Easter Holiday. The children have worked so hard this term and deserve a well earned rest.

Holidays in Term Time

We continue to see a large increase in requests for holidays in term time. Due to this, our school attendance has fallen from 95.71% to 95.5% from September to present. 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.

Class 4 Trip to Hindu Temple

UNCRC Article 14 (freedom of thought, belief and religion)

Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights.

Our children today had the opportunity to visit the Hindu Temple in Newcastle where we learned that Hinduism is over 4,000 years old and is the oldest religion in the world. We discovered that Hindus believe in one God, Brahman, but the millions of qualities that Brahman has are represented by many different gods and goddesses. The Hindu Priest told us that going to worship at a shrine is like visiting the gods and goddesses, and the Hindu Temple is the centre for the community and worship. When a Hindu enters the Temple to pray, they ring a bell to awaken god, then bow and pray to the statues to ask for help or to thank them.

We met Shiva – the creator; the monkey god Hanuman – for strength; Ganesh the elephant god – for intelligence; 3 of many gods within the Temple. We even joined in with the Puja (Hindu prayer).

We all had a superb at the Hindu Temple, and the Priest has welcomed us all back anytime.



Absences

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. **Please can you let the school office know if you change your telephone number as we need two emergency contact telephone numbers at all times. Thankyou.**

Nettlesworth School Community Group

Thank you to The Nettlesworth School Community for arranging stalls and games after the Easter Egg Competition on Wednesday 3rd April, 2pm. We raised nearly £150. Thank you for your support.

PE Kit

Please could children remember to bring PE kit on a Monday and leave it at school until Friday. Each class has certain days on the timetable but we constantly have coaches and sporting experiences for the children so days can change. We are a Sainsbury's Games Platinum Mark School and now have the AFPE (Association for Physical Education) award which is given to schools who promote and maintain high standards and safe practice in all aspects of PE. Many Thanks

Class 4 visit to Discovery Museum

UNCRC Article 31 (leisure, play and culture)

Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

Our children visited the Discovery Museum (Newcastle) where we saw a variety of exhibitions and display linking our curriculum to local heritage. We loved exploring the electrical conductors and science maze, where we were able to interact with the displays and learn more about the history of the light bulb. We also discovered: Newcastle through the Ages (taking us back to Roman Newcastle to present day); the Story of the Tyne; 250 years of Circus in Great Britain; 3 of a number of fabulous galleries on display.

The children were impeccably behaved and thoroughly enjoyed their day.



WE ARE AN ACTIVE 30 SCHOOL

Every child in our school takes part in 30 minutes of activity every day.

UNCRC Article 6



DIARY DATES

Fri 5th April- End of Term

Class 4 go to Forest School with Class 1 and Miss Grant

Wed 24th April- Children Return Back to School

Wed 24th April- Class 2 Skipping Festival at Maiden Castle

Thur 25th April- Year 2 SATS Test Meeting with Parents

Fri 26th April- Class 3 Tennis Festival at New College Durham

Fri 3rd May- 10am-11am Road Safety Coffee Morning with visit from MP Keven Jones

Fri 10th May- Destination Judo Taster Visit

Mon 13th May-Thurs 16th May-KS1/KS2 SATs Tests

Tue 21st May- Kalma Kids Yoga sessions

Thurs 23rd May- Class 2 Trip to Beamish Museum

Fri 24th May- End of Half Term/June Retires

Mon 3rd June- Children Return to school

Further letters/details will follow about each event