



Newsletter January 2024

A Message from Mrs Harvey, Head Teacher

It is always lovely to reflect back and look at the wonderful things the pupils have been doing over the last few weeks. I have given an abundance of reading badges, timetables superhero certificates and values certificates- thanks so much for the support you give your children with this - it really does make a difference.

I talk to the pupils all the time about acceptance and welcoming everybody into our Netherton family. I am so proud of how caring and kind our children are and how they are beginning to go the extra mile for each other.

Can I take this opportunity to also thank parents who have helped us transport pupils to sports competitions or events; this is so helpful and means we can create numerous opportunities for your children knowing we have your support. Thanks also to any parents who support with the school football team, setting up, refereeing - you are a huge asset.

I will be sending a questionnaire out in a few weeks to get some feedback from you regarding a number of things - please take the time to do this as your voice is paramount.

Mrs Harvey

Attendance & Punctuality

Please may we remind you that good attendance at school is vital for pupil success. Parents are legally responsible for ensuring that their child attends school.

The national target for attendance is 96%. If your child misses more than 7 days across the school year, their attendance will fall below this and they will have missed more than 35 hours of learning. School is obligated to follow up poor attendance and repeated absence may result in referral to Education Support Service or Social Services.

Pupils should not be missing time off school due to minor issues such as oversleeping, birthdays, siblings/parents being off school/work etc. Absence will only be authorised if there is a genuine reason such as illness (although pupils can still come to school with minor illnesses -see NHS site for guidance) or medical appointments, though pupils should come to school before and/or after the appointment where possible.

If your child is absent, please make sure you inform the school office.

Schools are unable to authorise any holidays during term time and are obliged to report this to the Education Support Service, who may issue a fine.

There are an increasing number of children arriving late to school. School officially begins at 8:55 and the registers close at 9:00 . Pupils arriving after this will be marked as late, Pupils arriving after 9:30 are late and this then becomes an unauthorised absence, contributing to their attendance rate.

Remember the Arbor portal shows your child's attendance - if you have any queries, please speak to us .

Inset Days

Fri 27th June 2025
Mon 21st July 2025

February Half Term

Mon 17th Feb - Fri 21st Feb 2025

Easter Break

Mon 14th Apr - Fri 25th Apr 2025

Whitsun Break

Mon 26th May - Fri 30th May
2025

Spring Term 1 Dates

Fri 7th Feb - Mental Health Day -
wear your own clothes

Weds 12th Feb - Valentine Disco

Fri 14th Feb - break up for half term

Mon 24th Feb - school reopens to
pupils

Spring Term 2 Dates

Thurs 6th Mar - World Book Day

Mon 24th Mar - The Book Bus

Weds 26th Mar - World Maths Day

Fri 11th April - break up for Easter

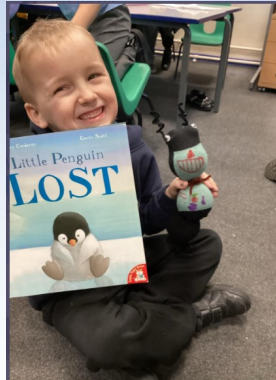
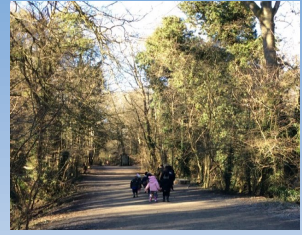
Mon 28th April - School reopens to
pupils

Lots of learning, every day

The children have been incredibly busy in the first 4 weeks of term. Here is a taste of what's been going on...

EYFS Winter Walk

Reception walked through Saltwells Woods on Friday 31st January, to observe the changes in the environment during the Winter season.



Y1 Parent Workshop

On Monday 20th January, Y1 were delighted to be joined by their special adult, to create a 'sockybug' (sock puppet) linked to the text they had been studying in English, Little Penguin Lost.

The children and adults had a great time and created some fabulous 'socky bugs.'

Y2 Art - Printing

In their art lessons, Y2 have been experimenting with printing. They used paint and printed with different fruits; they then used paper and a small hammer to print with flowers; then they used foam tiles to print.



Y5 Roman Workshop

Y5 took part in a Roman workshop. As well as sharing their knowledge with the workshop leader, they learned lots more from him.

They also had the opportunity to see, handle and try on replica artefacts, clothing, armour & weaponry.

Such an opportunity really brings learning to life.



Year 6 - Art

We had a lovely (and surprisingly mess-free!) afternoon making clay poppies! Now, we just have to wait patiently for them to dry out.

Our work was inspired by the work of Paul Cummins, who was responsible for the large-scale installation 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' that was once at the Tower of London. The piece comprised of 888,246 ceramic poppies - one for each life lost at the Front during the First



History in The Hive

This half term, we will explore leisure and entertainment in the 20th Century and begin to think about what children in the past did to entertain themselves.

Yesterday, we learnt that there were 10 years in a decade and we created our very own timelines going back in blocks of 10. We located the decade the children were born in, Mrs Powell, Mrs Hill and Mrs Smith. The children counted back in steps of 10.

Year 4 - Art

Year 4 used string to make Islamic Art printing blocks.

They then used their stamping plates to create a beautiful print with different orientations of their image.



Year 3 - History

In HISTORY, last week, the children really enjoyed playing traditional games as part of exploring their BIG QUESTION in History- What would you have done after school 100 years ago? How is it different from today? They played each game wonderfully, considering how they are the same or different to games available to them today.

The Eco Team - Tree Planting, Class Allotments & Willow Fence Weaving

After a long, wet and windy winter we are looking forward to the excitement that spring brings and along with it a delivery of sapling trees for our school.

As part of our ongoing allotment project, we are working with The Woodland Trust to plant a whopping 270 trees, all of native British variety.

The trees will arrive with us in late February or early March and it will be spades at the ready to get them in the ground. Alongside a variety of fruit trees, this will include a native hedgerow for surrounding our allotment area.

The children have been busy already- planting throughout the winter season- and have planted an astonishing 1000 willows around the forest school site to support habitat, create a timber supply for weaving and reduce flooding next year.

We are still working on filling our raised beds for the year with food crops, making a greenhouse and widening our variety of fruit trees on site. This will be an exciting year for our school!

In their Forest School session, Esmee, Jack and Aiden from 5PW created a wonderful fence using willow weaving techniques.



Super Story Writers!

Some of our Year 5 pupils entered a competition held by Young Writers to write a story in 100 words.

We are very proud to announce that 8 of those pupils will be having their stories published!

Well done William, Tishe, Tillie, Mikayla, Rayan, Dakota, Lily-Mai & Emilia.

British Values

On Tuesday, we had a focus day on our British Values. We learnt about our freedom to make choices and think differently. This is known as Individual Liberty.

Every class completed different activities to embed their understanding: Reception focused their day on the story 'The Huey's in the new jumper' and created their own drawing of the Huey's and decided how we wanted them to look! Year 5 completed a whole class activity, charades and posters



Netball

Monday 27th January saw our team play against Sledmere. They started well and with some great passing and good movement we came out victorious with the final score being 10-0 to Netherton, We play Priory away next Monday. What a great job Mrs Hugo has done with our children in such a short space of time. Keep going, we are all so proud of you!



Football Match

On Wednesday 29th January, our Y5/6 football team played against Brockmoor Primary School. They won 9 - 0! Well done Team Netherton!

A big thank you to Mr McNally, who marked out the pitch and refereed the game so that we could play and thank you to all of the parents who stayed behind to help tidy and bring the equipment back to school.

Census Day - School Lunches

On Thursday 16th January, the school kitchen had a Space Themed lunch.

All children ordering a school lunch receive a lolly; some children who found a shooting star on the bottom of their plate received a space themed goody bag. The names of all of the people ordering a lunch were entered into a draw and the 2 lucky names drawn won a £20 Asda voucher.

Well done, Vanessa in Y6 and Raphael in Y1.

The next census day is on Thursday 15th May, look out for more details.

Netherton Chocoholics



Thank you to everyone who has sent in their empty chocolate tubs.

The school council have been collecting these throughout January to support the Tubs2Pubs initiative run by the Greene King pub chain. The tubs are collected at their pubs throughout the country before the brewery chain collect them and take them to a recycling plant, which pay them 8p per tub. Greene King then donate all of the money to Macmillan.

Whilst the amount per tub is not a lot, it all adds up and so much plastic is recycled rather than going to a landfill site.

Each class has been competing to see who can collect the most tubs - it has become quite competitive amongst the KS2 classes! There will be a prize for the class who collects the most.

Today was the last day for collection and as a school we have collected 441. This means we have raised £35.28 for Macmillan as well as preventing all of that plastic going to a landfill. The class which collected the most was 4G—they collected 122.



Safeguarding Spotlight

Ensuring the safety and well-being of our pupils is our first priority and naturally, this extends to their families. Part of this role is to share the latest information on issues that may affect our young people; share guidance and signpost support. There is a wealth of information on our website under Key Information ~ Safeguarding.

<https://www.netherton.dudley.sch.uk/key-information/safeguarding>

Kinship Carers

Kinship carers are family or friends who step up, often during an unexpected crisis, to care for a child when their parents aren't able to. Kinship care is a commitment. To bring love and hope to a child who has experienced trauma. No matter what.



We have recently been made aware of a charity, that provides advice, support and guidance to people who have stepped up to raise a child. We hope it will be of interest and use for some of our families who are Kinship Carers.

<https://kinship.org.uk/>

ROUTES - Youth Advice Hub. Merry Hill

ROUTES – DUDLEY is a space for young people (13 –25) to turn to when they experience challenges or adversity in their day-to-day lives. Their team aims to empower young people to reach their potential, no matter their circumstances.



This hub is a walk-in, youth friendly space at Merry Hill shopping centre (located by the bus stops) which allows young people to access information, advice, and early interventions with our friendly team and a range of support services

ROUTES provide a wide range of specific services tailored to children and young people that provide tools, advice and support with:

- Drugs and alcohol
- Mental health awareness
- Managing emotions and behaviour
- Sexual health
- Career support
- Lifestyle advice
- Physical health
- Family and carer support

<https://cranstoun.org/help-and-advice/young-people/routes-dudley/>

They also provide volunteer opportunities for young people to work together with others.

Online Safety

Keeping our children safe in a world of technology continues to be a priority.

Each Wednesday, on Dojo, we share **#Wake Up Wednesday** from The National College.

This is a weekly guide which focuses on an aspect of technology; the risks and tips to keep your child safe. The guides are in an easy-to-follow format.



Safeguarding: If you have any concerns or need support, please call the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) between 9am & 5pm on telephone 0300 555050 or telephone 0300 555 8574, if out of hours.