

A Message from Mrs Harvey, Head Teacher

So many things happen at Netherton C of E, on a weekly basis, which enhance the everyday lessons and learning in the classroom. Our teachers work incredibly hard to offer a wealth of opportunities and experiences for our pupils and to see the happy faces of our pupils, to hear them talking enthusiastically, and to see them eagerly participating in the many, varied events, makes me a very proud Head teacher.

Learning a musical instrument with a specialist teacher from Dudley Performing Arts and performing for parents; the opportunity to take part in the annual Science Fair led by Mrs Taylor; RE workshops for Y1, 2 & 3, are just a few of the highlights this June.

Sport continues to be a strength of the school thanks to Ms Harrold & Mr Ludlam's tireless leadership of PE & Sport and, due to the better weather, there have been lots of competitions and events this half term.

Another highlight of the Summer term is the Heritage Project— combining the teaching and learning of History and Geography, to study our local area. It is impressive to hear our pupils speak confidently and with great knowledge, about Netherton. This project is unique to our school and has been enthusiastically developed and led by Mrs Powell & Mrs Ryall-Whyte. It is such a strength now, that they have spoken to other teachers from other schools, about how to develop a Heritage Project in their setting and those teachers visited last Thursday, to see Heritage lessons, speak to the pupils and see the wonderful Heritage Showcase. *Mrs K. Harvey*

Staff News

This month, we are saying goodbye (for a while) to Miss Brierly, as she starts her maternity leave. We send best wishes to her and her family as they welcome their new bundle of joy.

School Uniform & belongings

Please may we ask that all uniform and belongings are named. We are ending up with a **lot** of lost property - sometimes complete sets of clothes including shoes—which we struggle to reunite with their owners as the items are not named. Names can be written on clothing labels & inside lunch boxes etc or printed name labels can be ordered from various companies.

If your child has misplaced anything, please come and have a look.

Free School Meals - Don't forget to apply!

All children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 are automatically entitled to a free school meal. When your child moves into Year 3, this no longer applies. However, if you receive certain benefits then you can apply for free school meals to continue. For more information and to apply online, visit <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/benefits/free-school-meals/>

Summer Fair

On the last day of term, Friday 19th July at 12:45-3pm, we will hold our summer fair to raise money for the school. Your child will be dismissed at 12:30pm so you can enjoy the fair together. We look forward to seeing you all and thank you for your support.

School dates:

30.06.24 - 03.06.24 - PGL Residential

04.07.24 - General Election—school closed

05.07.24 - INSET - school closed to pupils

06.07.24 - Nursery Open day

10-11am & 1:30 -2:30

15.07.24 - School reports to parents

19.07.24 - Summer Fair & last day of term



Exciting News!

Netherton C of E will be holding a
Summer Fair on Friday 19th July, 2024
12:45 – 3pm

Rent a stall – keep the profit & promote your business

As well as all the fun stalls, sporting challenges and performances, this year, we would like to offer you, our wider community, the opportunity to make some money too.

This year, we will be renting stalls at the summer fair, where you can sell your own goods.

The cost for a stall is £10.00. This money will go directly to the school. Any money then made by the stall holder, is theirs to keep.

The Summer Fair will begin at 12:45pm and finish at 3pm. Stall holders may set up from 11:45am.

If you would like to rent a stall, please register your name, what you intend to sell, and pay your £10, at the main office. We will provide you with a receipt and details of the stall & timings of the day.

Arrangements for the day

Children will have an earlier lunch and be ready for collection by their parent at 12:30pm so you can enjoy the Summer Fair together. Only children collected by an adult will be allowed down to the field.

Leave of Absence

Any time that your child is off school for any reason other than illness or medical appointments, is known as a Leave of Absence. Parents must request this time off in writing (letter or email), prior to the leave, and each request is considered on an individual basis.

The most common reason for requesting a leave of absence is to go on holiday.

Schools are not permitted (by the Government) to authorise leave of absence for a holiday and have to refer this to Education Support Services, who may then issue a fine. This is currently £60 per child, per parent. (This is due to increase to £80 in August 2024).

The school year is 190 days, This means that there are 175 days out of term time when a holiday can be taken.

Procedure for requesting a Leave of Absence

1. The request for a Leave of Absence should be **made in writing** to the school —this can be a letter or an email.
2. The written request should be made **by a person with parental rights**.
3. The written request should be **made in advance** of the leave being taken.
4. The written request should state the pupil's name, the date the leave would begin and end, and the reason for requesting the leave.
5. Each request will be considered on an individual basis.
6. School will respond to each request in writing, stating whether all, or some of, the leave will be authorised.

The School Day

| | |
|--------|---------------------------------------|
| 8:40am | Pupils may come into school |
| 8:55am | School begins & the register is taken |
| 9:00am | Registers close |

Pupils arriving **after 9:00am** are late and will be marked as **L** on the register

Pupils arriving **after 9:30** are late but this is considered an unauthorised absence for the morning session and will be marked as **U** on the register.

Lots of learning, every day

The children have been incredibly busy already this half term...and we're only 3 weeks in!
Here is a taste of what's been going on...



Y1

Y1 have been very busy throughout June!

They took part in a Victorian Day where they learned about what life was like in school in Victorian times - they sang traditional hymns, played outdoor games, made peg dolls, and learnt our 3 Rs.



Miss Worton, who used to work in the school 46 years ago when it was a middle school, came in to tell the children what it was like.

Y1 took a short walk to Netherton High Street to see the building which is now a furniture shop, which used to be Netherton Primary school.

Y5 - Guitar Performance

In Years 5 & 6, the pupils have the wonderful opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument, free of charge. Small group music lessons through DPA, cost £70 per term.

Year 5 are currently learning to play the guitar. Each week, they have a lesson with a specialist music teacher from DPA.

5PRW and 5B put on a guitar performance for their parents.



The Hive - Walk to Saltwells Woods

Following on from the fantastic work the group did about butterflies, the pupils from The Hive went on a walk to Saltwells Woods where they immersed themselves in nature, hunting for Insects and observing what they found.

The children were respectful and careful of nature and all living things were returned to their natural habitats— including the children themselves!





Y3 - DT

Y3 have had so much fun in DT! The children explored food from Asia and created a fruit skewer with plum sauce. They were very engaged in the lesson and enjoyed cutting, and skewering the fruit independently.

Y3 - Walk to Bumble Hole

On Thursday 25th June, Year 3 walked 7 miles to and from Bumble Hole.

As part of their Heritage project, they had done a lot of map work and the walk was an opportunity to see all of the physical features they had seen on the map.



Y1, 2 & 3 - RE Workshop

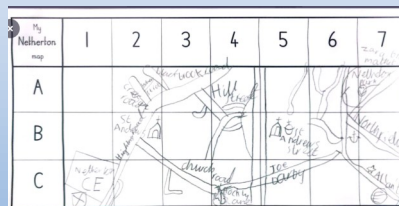
Year 1, 2 & 3 took part in a RE workshop.

Years 1 & 2 learnt more about Islam and Y3 learnt more about Judaism. The workshops gave the pupils the chance to demonstrate their knowledge and learn some more; to handle artefacts; try on clothing & even sample foods.



Y2 - Heritage Walk

As part of their Heritage Project (History & Geography work on the local area), Y2 have been considering: Why We Should Remember. They completed some map work using grids and went on a walk as part of their Heritage Project.



Sports Day 2024

On Monday 17th June, the whole school took part in their annual Sports Day; Key Stage 2 took part in the morning and Key Stage 1 in the afternoon. The Sports Leaders did a great job of setting up, supervising and keeping scores and it was lovely to see so many parents cheering the pupils on



Y3/4 Football - a team of Year 3 & 4 children took part in a football tournament at Hawbush Primary. They won three games but lost in the final.

Y5/6 Girls Football final - the girls team qualified after beating all of the other Dudley North schools. The girls won our group and finished 7th out of 16 schools.

Dance Experience - the Dance Team had an amazing opportunity to go to the Walsall Campus of Wolverhampton University, where they worked with a choreographer all morning before performing this along with their own dance. A big thank you to all of the parents who came to support us.

Girls Rugby - Children from Y4 & 5 took part in this tournament. They played 4 Rugby matches against older children from other schools, on a very warm day! They were all amazing and managed to win every game. The coaches from DKRFC commented on how good they were.

Tournament Day - Years 3 - 6 took part in Rugby, Rounders & Football matches against the opposite class in their year group. A big well done to Years 3 & 4, who really tried hard in each sport.

Y 4,5 & 6 Rounders - Netherton CofE hosted this tournament which was attended by 5 other schools. Our Year 5 team won 3 of their 4 games, finishing second overall.

Y 4& 5 Swimming - Once again, the Pop-up Pool has been a real success. All of Y4 & Y5 pupils are having daily swimming lessons for 3 weeks. In addition, over 30 children are having lessons after school as part of our extra-curricular offer.



Heritage Project Showcase

On Thursday 27th June, parents, teachers from other schools and friends from the local community came to see our Heritage Showcase—the culmination of this year’s learning about our local area.

Pupil representatives from each class shared their year group’s key question and talked confidently about what they had learned, demonstrating their knowledge and understanding.



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 sign-post support. There is a wealth of information on our website under Key Information ~ Safeguarding.

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

Smacking - is this ever okay?

What is the law on smacking children? <https://childlawadvice.org.uk/information-pages/the-law-on-smacking-children/>

It is unlawful for a parent or carer to smack their child, except where this amounts to 'reasonable punishment'. This defence is laid down in [section 58 Children Act 2004](#), but it is not defined in this legislation.

Whether a 'smack' amounts to reasonable punishment will depend on the circumstances of each case, taking into consideration factors like the age of the child and the nature of the smack.

There are strict guidelines covering the use of reasonable punishment and it will not be possible to rely on the defence if you use severe physical punishment on your child which amounts to wounding, actual bodily harm, grievous bodily harm or child cruelty.

What is the guidance of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)?

It can be tempting to think a smack sorts out incidents like disobedience and biting. However, it does nothing to teach your child how you want him or her to behave.

Instead it:

- * gives a bad example of how to handle strong emotions
- * may lead children to hit or bully others
- * may encourage children to lie or hide feelings to avoid smacking
- * can make defiant behaviour worse, so discipline gets even harder
- * leads to a resentful and angry child, and damages family relationships if it continues for a long time.

How to discipline without smacking

- * Give love and warmth as much as possible
- * Have clear simple rules and limits
- * Be a good role model
- * Praise good behaviour so it will increase
- * Ignore behaviour you don't want repeated
- * Criticise behaviours, not your child
- * Reward good behaviour with praise
- * Distract young children or use humour
- * Allow children some control; joint decisions, choices

If a punishment is necessary, the removal of privileges, 'time out' or natural consequences are better.

We have a duty of care to our pupils. If a child tell us that they have been smacked or hit at home, school will follow this up. A Designated Safeguarding Lead will speak to the child to gain more information and dependant on what they say, may contact the parents to discuss this. In some cases, the school may have to make a referral to children's services.

Safeguarding: If you have any concerns or need support, please call the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) between 9am & 5pm on telephone 0300 5550050 or telephone 0300 555 8574, if out of hours.