

# Norton Hill News



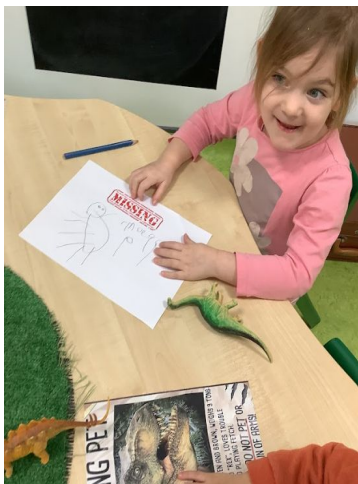
Newsletter 6 - Monday 22nd January 2024

## Curiosity Corner -

So far, this term has been all about building new friendships, supporting our new starters in settling in and being curious learners. The children have become palaeontologists and have been exploring our new enquiry question this term 'What happened to all of the dinosaurs?' To answer this question, we have been inquisitive and have been asking questions all about the past. We have time travelled back to the Mesozoic era, using our time travel tickets to seek further information to help us, during our time travel we were lucky enough to observe the dinosaurs in their natural habitat!

This week we have also been detectives as the children have been on the hunt for the missing dinosaurs who have escaped from our nursery. To help find them we have created MISSING posters and placed them around our nursery-fingers crossed we are successful in finding them!

We have spent lots of time outside enjoying the dry crisp sunny weather so have been warming our bodies up from the cold with lots of games. We have also been using our reading nook to keep us warm! Well done Curiosity Corner, what an amazing first few weeks we have had back already.



## HEADTEACHERS AWARD

**Friday 5th January**  
Headteacher awards go to

**Bumblebee:** Theo & Louie  
**Cricket Class:** Ralph  
**Dragonfly Class:** Ralph  
**Dolphin Class:** Mila M  
**Turtle Class:** Daisy  
**Gecko Class:** Ruby M

**Friday 12th January**  
Headteacher awards go to

**Bumblebee Class:** Liv  
**Cricket Class:** Lacey  
**Dragonfly Class:** Seb  
**Dolphin Class:** Lily-Rose  
**Turtle Class:** Ralphie  
**Gecko Class:** Orla and Elsie

**Friday 19th January**  
Headteacher awards go to

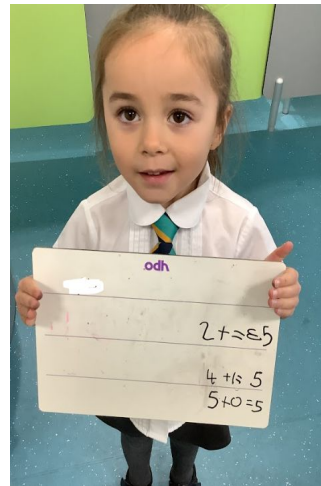
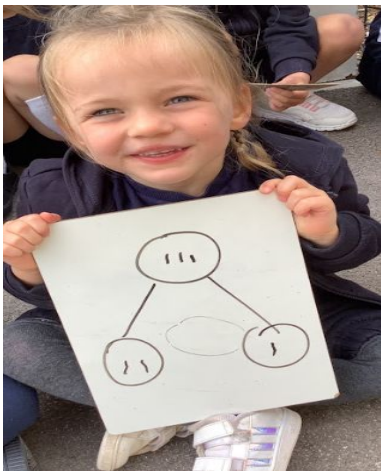
**Bumblebee:** Willow  
**Cricket Class:** Myla-May  
**Dragonfly Class:** Alice  
**Dolphin Class:** Elisha  
**Turtle Class:** Bertie  
**Gecko Class:** Valentina

## Reception -

Wow! What a fantastic start to a new term the children in Bumblebee Class have had. We have been busy immersing ourselves in our new topic 'Little Inventors'. The children have been busy completing STEM challenges linked to inventions and learning about famous inventors throughout time. It has been wonderful to see the children using their critical thinking skills when creating their own inventions as well as their imaginations.

In Phonics, we have started learning our Set 2 sounds. The children have been working on applying their phonics into the writing. It has been brilliant to see the children start to form sentences.

In Art, we are exploring clay and its properties. The children have designed their animal clay model and will create their masterpieces next week- we can't wait to see the results



## Year 1

Year 1 have been reading 'The Lion Inside', and writing descriptively about the African Savannah. They learned how to use a question mark and exclamation mark in their writing, as well as applying superlatives to their work. In DT, they have been creating Colour Monster puppets, based on the story by Anna Llenas.

In Science, Year 1 have explored their senses; they have been investigating different methods to enhance each sense. The children have enjoyed learning about Bridget Riley in Art, and demonstrating their folding and curling techniques to create 3D sculptures using paper and card.



## School Disco

If you would like your child to attend the disco please complete the [form](#) which can also be found in the SchoolPing message.

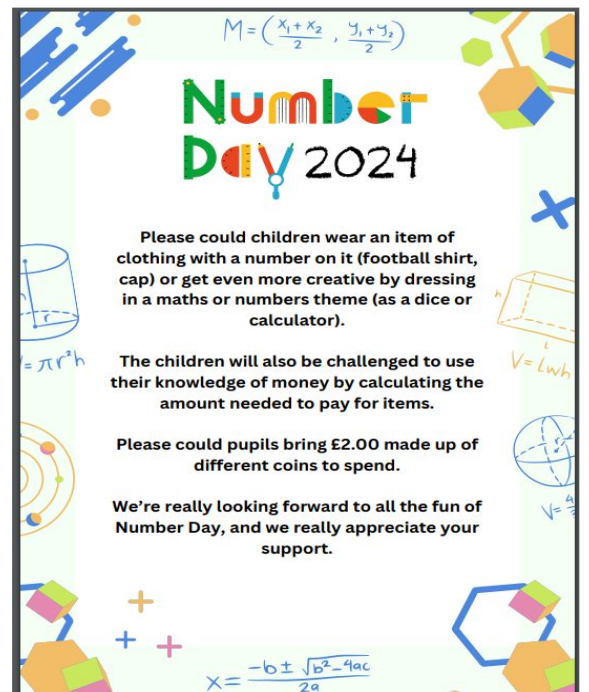
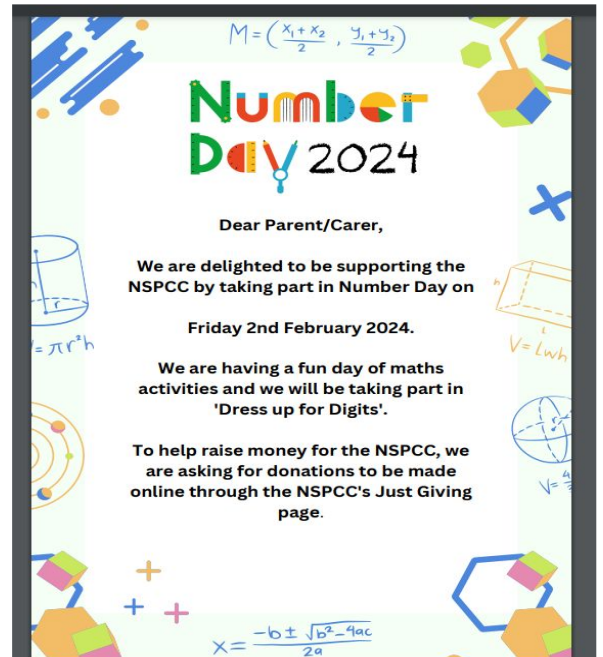
The deadline for this is Wednesday 31st January.

The cost per child is £5.00. Please put the money in an envelope and place it in the PKA box inside the school office entrance.

The disco will take place on Thursday  
8th February  
From 5pm- 6.30pm at Norton Hill  
Primary. Places are available for  
pupils in Reception to Year 3.  
(not Nursery)

## Outside School Achievements

If your child has received a certificate/trophy please send this in with your child on a Friday morning, so they can share this with us in our celebration assembly on a Friday afternoon. Please do not send in certificates/trophies on any other day.



## Birthday's

At the NHP we cannot accept birthday cakes / treats brought into the school for children / teachers due to allergies amongst us. This also includes handing out invitations to children within the classroom. Whilst we appreciate that children would like to hand out invites for their birthday parties, we ask that this is done outside of school times. Birthdays are celebrated each week during our Friday Celebration Assembly and children celebrating each week are brought to the front of the assembly to be sung to and to share their Birthday plans with the school.

We also have a birthday book scheme, there is no requirement to take part in the 'Birthday Book' initiative. Books purchased are gifted in Celebration Assembly and a poster is added inside the book with your child's name and Birthday. All books are then placed in the library on our Birthday Book shelf. Please be reassured that we will always celebrate and mark these important days in our children's lives, whether a book is gifted or not.

Nursery Wish List [https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2IQGG5KNO4VZB?](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2IQGG5KNO4VZB?ref_=wl_share)

Reception Wish List: [https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2DNUD6UX4WJ21?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2DNUD6UX4WJ21?ref_=wl_share)

Year 1 Wish List: [https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/DN5R899VG189?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/DN5R899VG189?ref_=wl_share)

Year 2 Wish List: [https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/VG9KI2CDS4A6?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/VG9KI2CDS4A6?ref_=wl_share)

# Attendance & Punctuality

**We encourage all children to have excellent attendance at Norton Hill Primary:** Regular school attendance brings enormous benefits to individual pupils, their families, schools and the community as a whole. Without regular attendance, levels of attainment suffer and opportunities are missed to obtain maximum benefit from education.

Persistent absence and lateness will affect a child's achievement and progress in school. Comprehensive research shows that there is a direct link between a child's level of school attendance and their level of school attainment.

As a parent it is your legal responsibility to ensure your child receives a suitable full time education. It is your responsibility that your child attends school each day and is on time.

It is important to set the expectation of good attendance right from the beginning of school so children grow up with 'good habits'

We realise that sometimes absence or lateness is unavoidable but this should be a rarity and not become the norm. If your child is absent from school you must inform the school, by telephone, giving a reason for the absence by 9am every morning of absence. Absences once reported are either authorised or unauthorised by the school.

Authorised absences would include time off for religious observance, medical appointments and genuine illness. Please note that the school has the right to ask for proof of medical appointments and confirmation from a medical professional.

Unauthorised absences would include time off for birthday treats, family days out, holidays ....

## **If you need to make a medical or dentist appointment:**

Medical appointments should where possible be made outside school hours. When this is unavoidable, your child should be in school for the remainder of the school day, whether before or/and after the appointment. Proof of the appointment will be required.

## **Holidays & Leave of Absence**

There is no legal entitlement to holidays or leave of absence during term time.

A leave of absence can now only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. Holidays are not deemed to be exceptional circumstances and therefore will not be authorised. If a parent wishes to request a Leave of Absence then a formal request must be made by completing a Absence Request Form. Please request these from the school office and any requests must be made in advance of the absence.

## **Lateness**

Having good attendance also means being on time and not being late to school. Children who arrive late can feel embarrassed, left out and miss out on important introductions to lessons. Punctuality is an essential life skill that needs to be taught from the very beginning. The school day starts at 8.45am and all school pupils should be in class by this time. All children arriving via the School Office after this time will be marked as late.

## **What happens if we are worried about your child's school attendance?**

Good attendance is 96% or more, if attendance is below 90% the child is classified as 'persistently absent' from school and this will have a negative impact on the child learning.

If we have concerns about your child's attendance, we will contact you so that we can offer support and work together to make sure your child's attendance is good. We employ an Education Welfare Officer (EWO) who will also work with families if there is concern about school attendance.

## **What you can do to help your child?**

- Make sure your child comes to school regularly and punctually.
- Please support Norton Hill Primary in our efforts to encourage punctuality, good attendance and behaviour.
- Take an interest in your child's school work
- If your child is off school, it is very important you phone by 9am on the morning of absence to tell us why. Staff will be concerned if they do not hear from you.
- If your child has been away from school for more than 3 consecutive days you will be asked to provide confirmation you have consulted a GP/Pharmacist.
- If your child starts missing school, work with the school without delay to put things right. Communication is very important.

Thank you for your continued support

## Office News

### Absence

If your child is off school, it is very important you phone by 9am on the morning of absence to tell us why. If you leave a message or email please give a brief description of why your child is off. Our statutory duty is to call you if you have only advised us that your child is ill.

### School Meals

Please remember to book your school meals by Midnight on Thursdays for the following week.

Unfortunately, if you miss this deadline we will be unable to provide a meal and you will need to send your child with a packed lunch.

### Wraparound Care

All wraparound care bookings should now be made via ParentPay. Tax Free Childcare payments will be allocated in ParentPay on Thursday.

## Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Details
<b>Term 3</b>		
Wednesday 31st January	Science Master Class	Year 2
Friday 2nd February	Ice Cream Van Visit	NSPCC Number Day
Thursday 8th February	PKA Disco	Please see SchoolPing
Monday 5th February	Judaism Workshop	Year 1, 2 and 3
Friday 9th February	No After School Club	
Friday 9th February	Last Day of Term 3	All
<b>Term 4</b>		
Monday 19th February	Start of Term 4	All
Wednesday 21st February	Starbook Cafe	9-10 am Reception - More information to follow
Wednesday 21st February	Humanism Workshop	Year 1, 2 and 3
Thursday 22nd February	Starbook Cafe	9-10 am Year 1 - More information to follow
Tuesday 27th February	Starbook Cafe	9-10 am Year 2 - More information to follow
Wednesday 28th February	Starbook Cafe	9-10 am Year 3 - More information to follow
Friday 1st March	Non-School Uniform Day	All children can wear non-school uniform for a tombola donation
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day	Information to follow
Monday 11th - Friday 15th March	Science Week	Whole School including Nursery
Thursday 28th March	No After School Club	
Thursday 28th March	Last Day of Term 4	