

Headteacher Mr M Cunniffe

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear parents,

### Spring Term 2025 Update

Last week all the children and staff settled smoothly back into the school routines and we had a positive week with attendance and punctuality being very strong – keep it up Team NPA! To help ensure that we continue our positive start to the new calendar year, we wanted to highlight a few important points and give you some key information.

#### Attendance and Punctuality Matters

Before we finished for the end of term on December, we wrote to all parents to inform them of their child's percentage attendance for the autumn term (Term 1). **Our aspirational target for all children is that they achieve 96% attendance for the academic year.** We understand that there are times when children are unfit to attend school, however, this should be rare (unless there are exceptional individual circumstances). We closely track attendance data and work with families to support when we can. Our school has always been proud to have attendance figures above the national averages but more recently we have found that our attendance has dipped slightly and this is especially true for boys. We know that attendance percentages usually rise



through the year and current figures can be impacted by a prolonged illness. We also know the vast majority of our children have very good attendance. Currently, our school attendance figure is 94.9% and we want achieve our aspirational target of 96%. Please support us by ensuring your child attends on time and that you always inform us when they are absent by contacting the school by phone.

100% Attendance	0 days missed...
96% Attendance	6 days absence or just over a 1 week of missed learning.
90% Attendance	19 days absence or 3 weeks and 4 days of missed learning.
85% Attendance	29 days absence or 5 weeks and 4 days of missed learning. Almost one-half term missed!
80% Attendance	38 days absence or 7 weeks and 3 days of missed learning!
75% Attendance	48 days absence or 9 weeks and 6 days of missed learning!

#### Engagement in Learning

We have established a really positive learning culture at Northbrook and love the fact that our children arrive at lessons 'ready to learn'. This half-term we will be challenging our children to be 'fully engaged' with their learning. We will be reminding them that **'It is super SMART to be an NPA Superstar!'** Children who demonstrate the SMART characteristics



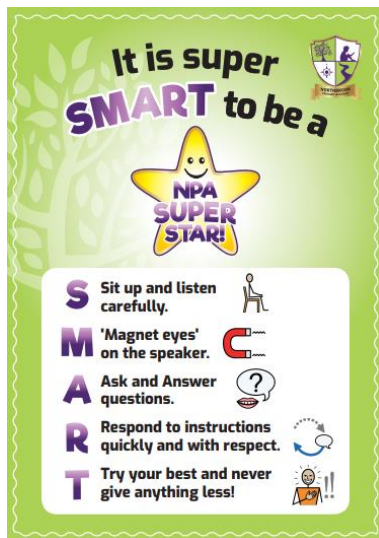
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will find that they will move up the gauge and our 'NPA Superstars' will be awarded their superstar sticker at the end of each day. This is something that needs to be celebrated at home as it is a real achievement!

During assemblies this week we have challenged all our children to demonstrate our school values and especially our focus value of 'Aspiration'. In particular, we have spoken about taking **pride in their work** and the importance of their books demonstrating that they 'try their best and never give anything less'.

### Checking Understanding

During the INSET day, all staff have been continuing their own learning around the delivery of Read Write Inc phonics and supporting reading. We have also refocused on developing the way that we check understanding through questioning, use of 'show me' boards and co-operative learning structures with children working pairs. These strategies will help teachers to challenge children to be in the 'learning zone' and reduce times when they can opt out. This means that some children may feel that learning is harder, and staff have expected more from them than previously. We would appreciate your support in helping our children understand this and for some it will involve being expected to give answers to appropriately pitched questions, possibly pushing them out of their 'comfort zone'.

### Curriculum Enrichment

With the help of the Friends of Northbrook (FON), we have invested a significant amount of money to develop enrichment opportunities to support children's learning. We are working with a number of new external providers this academic year and want to continue this work during spring and summer terms. You may have seen examples of this work on our [Facebook](#) or [X](#) platforms. We will be writing to you very soon about how you can help us to continue this offer, through voluntary parental contributions each term.

### NPA 'Classes' Page

At the start of each new half-term we update the class pages section of our website. These pages give you an overview of the key information for your child's class; such as a curriculum overview (what they are learning this half-term), homework and the extra-curricular offer/clubs. These pages can be accessed from the link here [Classes | Northbrook Primary Academy](#).

Finally, we hope that you have all had a great winter break, but please do not hesitate to contact us if you feel there is some important information that you need to make us aware of to ensure we best support your child. We are really looking forward to helping every member of team NPA to be the very best they can be!

Kindest regards,  
*Mark Cunniffe*  
Headteacher