



January 2017



Welcome Back!

A very Happy New Year to you all; we hope that everyone enjoyed the celebrations and a good 'break'. A big 'thank you' for all your good wishes, cards and gifts in the run up to Christmas; they were much appreciated by us all!

A Message from Mrs Bunn and Miss Bunn



" We would like to send a very big thank you to everyone at Archbishop Runcie for their kind words, cards and gifts when we left at Christmas. We would normally write to everyone individually to thank them but since leaving school on the 21st and getting the keys on the 22nd December we spent all of the school holidays in the shop cleaning and decorating in readiness for reopening on 3rd January. We are thoroughly enjoying our new venture and are really busy - which is great. Please again accept our thanks for your kindness and apologies for not replying individually. Thank you to everyone who has called in to see us and we'd love to say hello again to anyone else able to call in. Kind regards and a belated Happy New Year to you all. Diane and Sarah Bunn."

Nursery Applications

We are beginning the application process for Nursery places now. Our Nursery currently offers 26 morning places but we are exploring the possibility of offering full-time places to families who qualify for the government's 30 hours offer.

The government's policy statement says: 'The additional 15 hours will be available to families where both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family), and each parent earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at national minimum wage (NMW) or national living wage (NLW), and less than £100,000 per year¹. Working will include employed and self-employed persons. Parents do not necessarily need to actually work 16 hours a week, but rather their earnings must reflect at least 16 hours of work at NMW or NLW, which is £107 a week at the current NMW rate.'

More information can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/482517/Childcare_Bill_Policy_Statement_12.03.2015.pdf

We cannot, at this stage, make a firm commitment to providing 30 hours as we need to collect information on how many people are eligible in order to decide whether it is feasible. If you have a child who will be 3 years old by 31st August 2017 you are eligible to apply for a Nursery place for them to start in September 2017. Application packs are available from school. If you have not already put your child's name down on our Nursery list please contact the School Office. If you know of anyone with pre-school age children who may be eligible for Nursery this year please ask them to get in touch with us as soon as possible.

This term



New topics are underway in each Key Stage and by now you should have received information about what is to be covered and ways in which you might be able to be involved. Early Years' topic is 'Winter', Key Stage 1 are basing their work on the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and Key Stage 2 are learning about Spain. If you have any resources or suggestions you think might be useful please have a word with the staff.



Health

There are a number of unpleasant illnesses going round school at present including high temperatures and sickness and diarrhoea. Whilst we want to encourage the best levels of attendance possible if children are really unwell they should stay at home so that the infection does not spread. In cases of sickness and diarrhoea children must stay at home until 48 hours after the last symptoms. This is in line with Health Authority advice.

Staff Changes

We have welcomed two new staff; Miss English is a Teaching Assistant in Key Stage 2 replacing Miss Bunn and Mrs McCloud is Admin & Finance Officer, replacing Mrs Bunn. We hope they will both be very happy here.

Dinner Money

Dinner money for this half term is £64. Payments can be made in cash, cheques payable to 'Newcastle City Council' or via ParentMail+Pay. It is important that, if you are not using ParentMail+Pay, dinner money is paid on a MONDAY morning so that the registers can be completed and all monies accounted for. Please ensure money is sent in to classroom staff in an envelope clearly named and with the amount written on it. (Exact money if possible as change is very limited).

Winter Weather



We have enjoyed some unseasonably warm weather recently, if a little wet! However, Just as a reminder.....As stated in previous newsletters we will only seek to close the school if the weather is too dangerous for travel and we cannot guarantee sufficient staff presence to keep the children safe in school. The overriding concern must be the safety of pupils and staff. We would obviously want school to remain open but we would not wish to place either adults



or children in any danger through using dangerous roads or footpaths. Decisions to close are never taken lightly; our staff always take every effort to attend. In the event of a school closure due to severe weather we will place a message on our school website and, as soon as we are able, text or email parents. We all fervently hope we won't need to do this!

In snowy or icy weather Mr Laidler will clear and salt the paths from the car park gate and the gate at the corner of Christon Road and the lane leading to the car park as a priority. We do not have the resources to salt the entire playground so it may be necessary to walk on the grass.

Please be aware that, unless it is icy, the children will still be outside for work and play so please will you ensure they have a warm coat, gloves, hat etc ***all clearly named.***

Please also ensure they have suitable footwear for outdoors and a change of shoes (eg plimsolls) for indoors. It would be helpful if children could have Wellingtons in school for outdoor work. Please ensure footwear is clearly named and that a named clothes peg is provided to fasten shoes/boots together when not in use. Thank you.

Topic Money

We would be very grateful if you were able to contribute £5 per family towards school funds so that we can continue to involve the children in the wide range of activities they have become accustomed to. Please send in to the classroom staff in a named envelope. Many thanks!

Poppy Appeal



We have received notification that our collection for the Royal British Legion raised £79.05. The organisers have said this is a fantastic amount for a school the size of ours. So, thank you very much for your support.

Extra-Curricular Activities

We offer a number of extra-curricular activities before, during and after school. In order to ensure that the experiences for the children are of the highest quality we will be closely monitoring provision and will reserve the right to change provision if necessary.

Day	Class/Key Stage	Club
Monday 3.15-4.30pm	Key Stage 2	Art Club
Monday lunchtime	Year 3 & Year 1	Le Club Francais
Tuesday 8.00-8.45am	Key Stage 2	Tennis
Tuesday 3.30-4.30pm	Key Stages 1&2	Tae Kwondo
Tuesday 3.30-4.30pm	Key Stages 1&2	Cake Decorating
Wednesday 3.30-4.30pm	Year 4	Awards Club
Thursday 8.00-8.45am	Key Stages 1&2	Dance
Thursday 3.30-4.30pm	Key Stage 2	Lee Sterry Football
Friday lunchtime	Year 4 & Year 2	Le Club Francais

Dates for Your Diary ***January 2017***

31st - Year 2 Parents' meeting about SATs - 5.30pm

February 2017

1st - Year 1 Parents meeting about the Phonics Screen

6th & 7th - Reception to Year 4 Parent Teacher Consultations (letter to follow)

ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE CHURCH of ENGLAND (VA) FIRST SCHOOL



2016 – 2017

January Newsletter

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Disclaimer

From time to time we send out leaflets and letters signposting parents to activities and organisations in the local area. These are purely for information and not necessarily endorsed by the school. The school cannot accept any responsibility for such activities.