



November 2020

Newsletter 9 – 20.11.20

PTFA UPDATES

AGM

Following our virtual AGM on Thursday evening, we now have two lovely new members to the PTFA committee. We would like to welcome Susan Heeley (who has a daughter in Year 3) and Katy Palmer (whose daughter is in Reception and son is in Year 1). Both are really creative so we cannot wait for the next meeting when we can work on some of the ideas discussed at the AGM. Camilla Stewart has therefore stood down from the PTFA. We can't thank her enough for her years of support. Caroline Peters has agreed to stay on as treasurer until we find someone else with a love for book keeping!



Walk to the North Pole!

In the run up to Christmas, we have a challenge for our children... together, we are going to attempt to travel "to" the North Pole (or at least the equivalent distance!).

It is **2,428 miles** from Newcastle upon Tyne to the North Pole. Children can skip, run, jump, bike, walk (or travel any other ways they can think of); that's the equivalent of just over **16 miles per child** (so roughly **4 miles per week per child** until the end of term)!



We recognise that our older children may be able to reach this target easier than the younger children in the school but we are hoping that, collectively, we can reach our goal. This could include walking, biking or scooting to school or to the supermarket, skipping around your garden or just heading to the park. In return we hope parents, grandparents, wider family and friends will sponsor your child(ren) for each mile they complete, raising important funds for the school through the PTFA!

We hope this will be a fun and safe activity that families can do together, as part of their daily exercise, during this challenging time, getting us out and about and keeping us fit and healthy.

We would love to see photos of your children completing their miles, especially those travelling in the most innovative or funny ways! You can post your photos on Twitter and mention @RuncieOf or alert the PTFA via their Facebook page.

This event will be launched in school next week and sponsorship forms will follow. Please be aware that with gift aid for every £1 raised it raises an extra 25p to the PTFA.



Class Hampers

As we are unable to hold the PTFA Christmas Fayre this year, we are asking for themed donations from each class to create hampers which



will be prizes in the PTFA Christmas raffle. Each class will have a colour theme to stick to (if possible!).

We are looking for wicker boxes to put goodies in too if anyone has anything suitable at home. If you know any local businesses that may be able to support us with goods, we would be really grateful. Thank you!

Nursery	Purple	Items can include festive drinks, snacks and treats, pamper goodies, candles, decorations, jams and preserves, crackers, chutneys, cheeses, chocolates and sweets etc (or anything else you can think of!) of the allocated colour (where possible). Thank you!
Reception	Red	
Year 1	Green	
Year 2	Silver	
Year 3	Gold	
Year 4	Purple	

Children can wear their own clothes on Friday 27th November in exchange for hamper donations. Thank you in advance!



As the festive period approaches and you begin to think about your Christmas shopping, please consider using Easy Fundraising and Amazon Smile.

Easy Fundraising

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online you could be **raising a free donation our School PTFA**? There are nearly 3,000 retailers on board ready to make a donation to our school, every time you shop online... and it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's really simple, all you have to do is:

- **Join**- <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/archbishoprunciefirstptfa/> and sign up for free.
- **Shop**- Every time you shop online, **go to easyfundraising first**, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.
- **Raise**- After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation the PTFA for no extra cost whatsoever!

Join, shop and raise here:
[easyfundraising.org.uk/archbishoprunciefirstptfa](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/archbishoprunciefirstptfa)



There are no catches or hidden charges and Archbishop Runcie CE First School PTFA will be really grateful for your donations.

Amazon Smile



The PTFA is also registered with Amazon Smile where 0.5% of the value all your Amazon purchases are donated to our PTFA. It is a one-time registration and then you can use Amazon as you usually would whilst raising funds as you shop! You can register via the apple or android Amazon app, or the website. Just go to 'settings', 'Amazon Smile' and search for Archbishop Runcie Church of England

(Aided) First School Parents Teachers and Friends Association as your chosen charity.

We have raised £60 from Easy Fundraising and Amazon Smile in the last quarter from only 35 users, but it would be fantastic if we could boost this and see more parents, friends and families using these features to raise additional funds free!

Bridget Higham

Chair of the PTFA

Anti- bullying week

[illegible]

In Years 3 and 4, children discussed different forms of bullying and what we can do to help those in need.



During Maths week, children in Year 1-4 have taken part in daily “Barvember” challenges. Children in Year 1 have also focused on subtraction using playdough, squashing the playdough balls to show the subtraction visually! Years 2, 3 and 4 have also taken part in their Time Table Rock Stars challenge and revisiting multiplication facts.

Across the school, children have been learning about the festival of Diwali. Some children have made Rangoli patterns and others have been looking at light and dark. Nursery have enjoyed using the torches in our dark tent and looking at shadows, as well as using the light box to explore pattern and shape. Reception have made their own salt dough diya lamps, painting and decorating them too. As Year 4 are learning about Hinduism, they have applied their fantastic knowledge

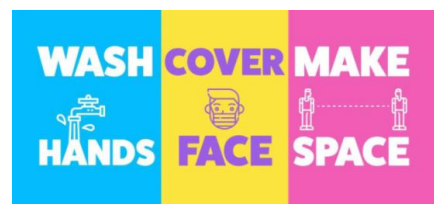


for this very important cultural event.

This week, we have had monitoring visits from Clennell Education as well as our School Improvement Partner. Both were extremely complimentary about the work of the school and of the staff and children! I am always delighted to show visitors the excellent work of the school and feel so proud of our children, staff team and wider community but this week I was genuinely buzzing with pride! Well done everyone and thank you all for your ongoing positivity, passion and commitment to our gorgeous school!

Updated guidance for parents and carers

The DfE have updated our guidance for parents and carers on [what they need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#). This update provides information on the national restrictions that came into force on 5th November, the latest advice for clinically extremely vulnerable children and young people coverings in education settings.



The Government intend to issue families, who are entitled to Free School Meals with an electronic “voucher” over the Christmas holidays (as they did during lockdown). It is therefore imperative that Mrs Pygall has up-to-date email addresses for all our FSM families you can receive these via email.

If you previously received EdenRed vouchers, but have now changed your email address, please let Mrs Pygall know urgently. Thank you.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you are in receipt of Child Tax Credit, with no Working Tax Credit (income below £16,190), Income Support, Income Based Jobseekers Allowance, Income Based Employment and Support Allowance, Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit or fall under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 you may be entitled to qualify for free school meals.

Are you entitled?

All applications should be made online at:

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/help-school-and-learning-costs/apply-free-school-meals>. Not only does this allow your child to have a free hot meal each day, it also brings funding (known as Pupil Premium) directly in to the school budget.

POLITE REMINDERS

Before and after school

We would be grateful if parents did not let children play with the toys outside Nursery and Reception while waiting to drop off children. These resources are cleaned at the end of each school day in preparation for children returning and should therefore not be touched by anyone outside the bubble. Thank you in advance.

We have noticed an increased number of parents on the yard after they have dropped children off. Please remember to leave the yard swiftly to allow for social distancing of others. Thank you.

Hand gel

As we have plenty of alcohol gel in school, can we please remind you that children should not bring their own hand sanitiser to school, particularly when fastened on to coats or bags. Children are supervised carefully when using hand gel in school but we have had several instances of children misusing gel, that they have brought from home, that staff were unaware of in the first place! Thank you.

PARKING

I have, this week, been contacted by several families and local residents about parents and carers of our school parking on the double yellow and zig-zag lines outside school. We frequently request surveillance and support in enforcing parking restrictions. If you would like to log your concerns directly, please contact Parking Services on 0191 261 4503 or via email at parking@newcastle.gov.uk. If a vehicle is causing an immediate obstruction to pedestrians, or other road users or driving dangerously, please call Northumbria Police on 101.



If you wish to request enforcement action because a vehicle is parked in contravention of a parking restriction, please contact the Parking Enforcement Team with the details of the vehicle, i.e. vehicle registration number, make and model of the vehicle and the location where it is parked. They can be contacted on 0191 277 2739 between the hours of 6.30am to 9.30pm, Monday-Saturday and 8.00am to 5.30pm on Sunday.

In order to keep our children safe, please park and drive considerately around school. We understand that parking close to school can be very challenging but ASDA remain happy for our families to use their carpark and walk to school from there.

Our priority is the safety and wellbeing of our pupils and we would very much appreciate your continued support with this, particularly as the nights draw in and roads become busier in winter weather.

CHARITABLE GIVING



As you know, we sold various poppy appeal goodies. We raised £249.64, which is amazing! Well done everyone! From our spotty non-uniform day we raised £173 for Children in Need. What a fantastic effort! Thank you all for your support.



BOOKBAG REQUEST

If anyone has any pre-loved bookbags that they would be willing to donate to school, we would be really grateful. Thank you!



WORSHIP

Hopefully you will have seen via Twitter that Year 4 led our Remembrance worship this year. The other children watched, on the interactive boards, in awe from their own bubbles!

CHURCH LINKS

As you already know, St Nicholas' Parish Church are organising Advent trails in the area and Archbishop Runcie CE First School have been invited to have their very own trail!

To do this, we will need 24 (or more) families to volunteer to decorate one window in their house please. Currently we only have 9 families who have expressed an interest in taking part. If you would like to be included, please email Miss Wilkinson at katie.wilkinson@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk **as soon as possible** (by Monday 23rd November at the latest). When emailing, please include your address so we can draw an accurate trail map. Only your street name will be shared with others as part of the trail. Miss Wilkinson will then be in touch with you next week to confirm your place on the trail and to let you know the date which your window will need to be displayed from. Thank you in advance!

Rev'd Jane Nattress from Gosforth, St Nicholas' will be leading a virtual Christingle Service for all children in school on Friday 18th December. Each child will bring home a "Christingle kit", donated by the Children's Society and St Nicholas' Church, to create their own Christingle at home following the service. Inside each kit, there will be a candle box that children are invited to fill with loose change and return to school in January. These collections will be donated to the Children's Society. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS CARDS



Unfortunately, we will not be able to hand out Christmas cards from children in school this year. As a staff team we decided, several years ago, that in lieu of exchanging individual Christmas cards we would take part in the St Oswald's "Share a card" campaign. We intend to extend this to the children in each class this year. If you would like to give a donation towards St Oswalds', you can donate via ParentMail from 1st December. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS

The staff have been working hard to come up with some "covid friendly" Christmas ideas over the last couple of weeks. We are mindful of the probability that some children or staff may not be in school due to covid during the last weeks of term but we cannot let the festive period of 2020 pass without trying to make it as special as possible for those of us who are in school.



I have added the programme of events, that we intend to host, to the calendar attached however please be aware that if there is significant staff absence or other unforeseen events we may need to cancel events at short notice. Please be patient with us.



Christmas lunch

On Friday 11th December, each class will have a traditional “family” Christmas Day with their bubble staff and peers. This will include Christmas lunch (with crackers!), followed by board games and a festive surprise! Payments can be made via ParentMail. Thank you in advance! Lunch is £2.10 for Nursery or £2.20 for Years 3 and Year 4 but is provided free to children in Reception, Years 1 and 2. The surprise will cost £5 per child.

Christmas Parties

During the final week(s) of term, each class will have a Christmas party. Dancing will take place in the hall (except for Nursery children) and Mrs Battista will prepare individually plated up party food, which will be served in classrooms. She is aware of dietary requirements of all children who have a school meal already but packed lunch children may wish to check details are up to date.



Children are invited to arrive at school in their party clothes on their class party day. We are requesting a donation of £2 per child for the party food, crackers and prizes for games please. Thank you in advance.

Christmas Movie Night



Each bubble is invited to say after school for a Christmas film with refreshments on Wednesday 9th December. There will be a cost of £5 to cover refreshments, provided by the PTFA. All children should be collected from classrooms between 5:00-5:15pm please. If you would like your child to attend, please book places via ParentMail.

If your child usually attends After School Club, they will automatically take part in the film night event. If you have paid by card, on ParentMail, Mrs Valentine will refund the difference in price (£4.00). If you have paid by childcare vouchers, please adjust your January payment accordingly.

Christmas Crafts

All children in school will make a Christmas card and calendar to bring home at the end of term.

Additionally, on Monday 7th December, children are invited to bring a small amount of money into school to spend at the pop up “Christmas Elf Craft Stall”. They will be able to purchase a couple of craft kits and decorations to make in class over the last week or two. Each item will be priced individually (between £1 and £2.50) and children can select the crafts that they would like to make. Children should bring a maximum of £5 to school please in a named, sealed envelope. Change will be returned on the same day. Children will bring finished decorations home on Thursday 17th December.



MUSIC PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE

Please find attached flier for any talented individuals or “duos” that might be interested in performing virtually. If your child sings or plays an instrument you can submit their video for a chance to make it through to the final five performances which will be showcased in a concert on 16th December. Performances must be no longer than four minutes and can be a duet or solo. Details attached and deadline is 20th November (today!). For more information email fiona.johnstone@northumberland.gov.uk or visit <https://music.northumberland.gov.uk>



NURSERY PLACES

We still have some places available in our Nursery class for January 2021. If you would like to find out more information, please contact Mrs Francis. We would love to meet your little ones!

SAFEGUARDING

Mrs Massey and Mr Booth are our school's Designated Safeguarding Leaders. If you have concerns about a child, please contact one of us. If it is an emergency and a child is in immediate danger please call the police.

Members of the public can also report concerns to Children's Social Care directly. If you have a concern about a child please contact one of the following:

- **Initial Response Service** – 0191 277 2500
- **Northumbria Police** – 101 (in an emergency always dial 999)
- **NSPCC Helpline** – 0800 800 5000



There is also a secure online referral form available for you to explain your concern, if you are a member of the public. <https://nccportal.newcastle.gov.uk/forms/referral/public>

With my very best wishes as always,

Mrs KE Massey

Headteacher



The journey to Bethlehem in Gosforth

Celebrating Christmas 2020

(COVID secure of course!)

Over 2000 years ago, Bethlehem was in chaos...
no room left for the birth of Jesus
Join in the journey in Gosforth as it turns into Bethlehem to
help us all to celebrate Christmas

7 Trails to follow.....from 1 Dec – Christmas Eve. Maps and photos will be available on our Facebook page and website



1. The Roman Emperor Caesar Augustus
2. The innkeepers
3. The angels
4. The shepherds
5. The Wise men
6. Herod
7. The donkey

– a census, Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem.
– Is there any room? No!
– sang Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth.
– heard the angels song and rushed to Bethlehem
– wandered around following a star
– a King threatened by the news of the birth of Jesus
– not in the bible but part of the Christmas tradition

The trails commence on the evening of 1st Dec
1st Dec with one house window per trail revealed to begin the story.
2nd Dec there will be two windows on each trail,
3rd Dec there will be three windows on each trail
and so it continues until Christmas Eve.....until there are 24 windows on each trail.
The church lights will be lit each evening as a beacon of hope for us all.



Carols

On Sunday 20 Dec and on Christmas Eve 2pm – 4pm, as you wander along the trails, carols will be played from sound systems in houses with an open window, or families and friends will be on doorsteps singing familiar carols..... you will be met by innkeepers, angels, shepherds and wise men who will tell you about the chaos in Bethlehem and how Jesus the saviour of the world was born. They will give you a clue about where to find Jesus in a manger with Mary and Joseph taking care of Him..... follow the star. And, the innkeepers might have some mulled wine and roasted chestnuts to share

The four Sundays of Advent...
The Vicarage windows on Rectory Road will be decorated to depict the themes of Advent, revealing one on each Sunday of Advent



29 Nov The Candle of Hope The Patriarchs. We hear the message of hope told to Abraham
6 Dec The Candle of Peace The Prophets. We hear from Isaiah of one who will be born Prince of Peace
13 Dec The Candle of Love John the Baptist. John the Baptist spoke bravely that we should share what we have with others, treat each other kindly and show God's love
20 Dec The Candle of Joy Mary the Mother of Jesus, with Joy when she knew that she would become the mother of Jesus

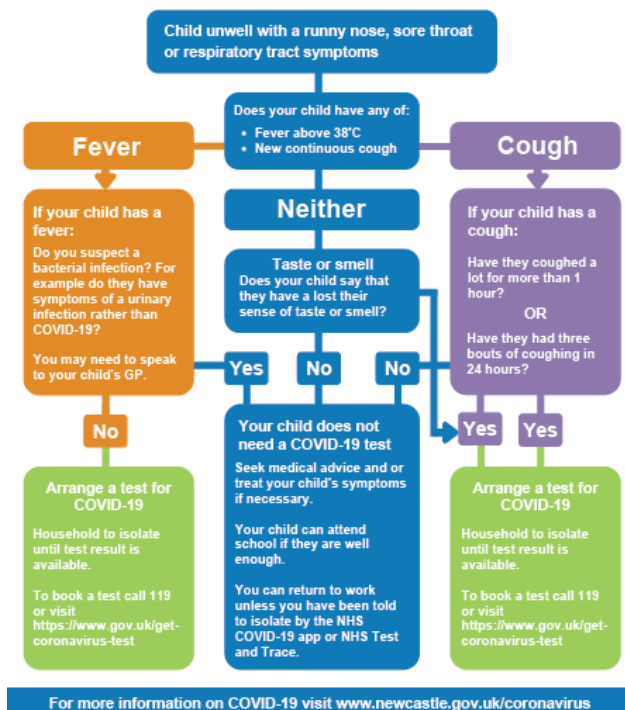
Watch for details of carol services in the church and on Zoom
Contact Rev'd Jane Nattrass, Vicar of Gosforth Parish Church of St Nicholas, nattrassjane@aol.com 07568530503





COVID-19 guidance for families with children

This flowchart should be used as guidance only by families with children. If you suspect your child has COVID-19 please arrange a test.



UNITY THROUGH MUSIC

MUSIC PARTNERSHIP NORTH

Great Northumberland

APPLY NOW TO BE INCLUDED IN MUSIC PARTNERSHIP NORTH'S LIVE STREAMING CONCERT

IF YOU SING OR PLAY AN INSTRUMENT SUBMIT YOUR VIDEO FOR A CHANCE TO MAKE IT THROUGH TO THE FINAL 5 PERFORMANCES WHICH WILL BE SHOWCASED IN OUR CONCERT ON 16TH DECEMBER 2020

PERFORMANCES MUST BE NO LONGER THAN 4 MINUTES AND CAN BE A DUET OR SOLO.
AGE LIMIT IS 18 AND PARENTAL PERMISSION MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE TIME OF SUBMISSION. CLOSING DATE IS 20TH NOVEMBER 2020

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL
Fiona.Johnstone@northumberland.gov.uk
OR VISIT
<https://music.northumberland.gov.uk>
Twitter: @MPNEhub Facebook.com/MPNEHub

Northumberland County Council

Newcastle City Council



“Love to learn, learn to love”

Please note that all activities in school are for children and staff only at this time.

November 2020			
18 th November	Gosforth Voices (online)	3:45-4:30pm	Please register via link in Newsletter 3
Thursday 24 th November	Governing Body Meeting	5:30pm	
25 th November	Gosforth Band (online)	3:45-4:30pm	Please register via link in Newsletter 3
Friday 27 th November	Advent Worship in school led by Year 3	9:15am	Children only
	Non-uniform day in exchange for Christmas hamper donations.		N- Purple Rec- Red Y1- Green Y2- Silver Y3- Gold Y4- Purple
December 2020			
Tuesday 1 st December	St Oswalds' Share a card donations available via ParentMail		Deadline 18 th December
2 nd December	Gosforth Voices (online)	3:45-4:30pm	Please register via link in Newsletter 3
2 nd - 16 th December	PTFA Sponsored walk/ride/scoot to the North Pole		More info to follow from PTFA
Friday 4 th December	Children invited to wear Christmas jumpers to school (please wear the rest of uniform as normal)		No donations required
Monday 7 th December	Christmas Elf Craft stall	Afternoon	Children can bring money to school (max of £5) to buy crafts to make in class during the week.
Wednesday 9 th December	Christmas Film Night (individual classes) with popcorn etc	3:15pm- 5:00- 5:15pm	Please pay for this via ParentMail. Collect children from their usual exit at classroom doors between 5:00-5:15pm.
	Gosforth Band (online)	3:45-4:30pm	Please register via link in Newsletter 3
Thursday 10 th December	Year 4 Christmas party	1:00pm	Please wear party clothes to school and pay for party food via ParentMail (£2 per child)
Friday 11 th December	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day (please wear the rest of uniform as normal)		Children invited to wear Christmas jumpers for a suggested donation of £1
	Nursery and Reception Mrs Claus' Christmas Day	All Day	£2 per child. Please pay for this via ParentMail
	Traditional Christmas Lunch & festive surprise (all year groups)	All Day	Please order lunches and pay via ParentMail. Please bring a board game to play in the afternoon

Monday 14 th December	Year 4 Outdoor Games morning	9:30am	Please wear PE kits
	Year 3 Christmas party	1:00pm	Please wear party clothes to school and pay for party food via ParentMail (£2 per child)
Tuesday 15 th December	Year 2 Christmas party	1:00pm	Please wear party clothes to school and pay for party food via ParentMail (£2 per child)
Wednesday 16 th December	Nursery & Reception Christmas parties (part time children invited to stay all day)	1:00pm	Please wear party clothes to school and pay for party food via ParentMail (£2 per child)
	Gosforth Voices & Gosforth Band Party	3:45-4:30pm	Please register via link in Newsletter 3
Thursday 17 th December	Year 1 Christmas party	1:00pm	Please wear party clothes to school and pay for party food via ParentMail (£2 per child)
	Christmas crafts sent home from school.		
Friday 18 th December	Children invited to wear Christmas jumpers and headwear to school (please wear the rest of uniform as normal)		
	Christingle Service in school for children and staff with Rev'd Jane Nattress (Gosforth, St Nicholas')	2:00pm	Please collect children as children at the end of the school day as usual.
	School closes for Christmas holidays	3:20pm	
21 st Dec - 1 st January 2021	Christmas holidays		School closed to children
January 2021			
Monday 4 th January	School re-opens to children	8:40am	
	Please return Christingle candle boxes filled with loose change as donations for the Children's Society.		
15 th January 2021	Deadline for Reception applications for September 2021	noon	
February 2021			
15 -19 th February	Half Term		School closed to children
March 2021			
April 2021			
2-16 th April	Easter holidays		School closed to children
Monday 19 th April	Staff Training Day		School closed to children
Wednesday 21 st - Thursday 22 nd April 2021	Y4 Residential		
19 th March	GST Deadline Applications for Nursery places for September 2021		
26 th March	GST Letters of offer for Nursery places		
May 2021			
Monday 3 rd May	Bank holiday		
June 2021			
31 st May - 4 th June	Half term		
July 2021			
Friday 23 rd July	School closes for summer		

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