




December 2020

Newsletter 10 – 4.12.20

PTFA UPDATES

Walk to the North Pole!

Children began their trek to the North Pole on 23rd November and launched their journey with the Active Mile run in school. They each brought their sponsorship form home last week. To date, class totals are as follows.

Nursery	48	Distance to North Pole
Reception	72	 2,428 miles
Year 1	116	
Year 2	121	
Year 3	139	
Year 4	242	
Total so far	738 miles – 1690 miles to go!	



These don't all include the miles done at home at present - please let your class teachers know if you have managed to complete miles at home too! Well done everyone! Thank you.

Class Hampers



Thank you for all of the wonderful donations towards the class hampers. Your raffle tickets will be coming home in book bags today for the amazing hampers that have been collated by each class. There are 14 colour themed hampers in total with great goodies within! You will receive 2 strips of raffle tickets per child - each ticket costs £1 so the full two strips would equal £10.



Please decide how many tickets you would like to buy, write your child's name on the back of the ticket and place **that half** back into the envelope keeping the other half for your reference. Please also place the money in the envelope provided and seal whilst completing the front of the envelope and **return to school by Tuesday 15th December.**

The raffle will be drawn at 3:30pm on Wednesday 16th December and hampers will be sent home with children on Thursday 18th December.



Christmas Cards

The Christmas cards that have been ordered via Chameleon Create are expected in school imminently and will be sent home via book bags with children after they have been quarantined.



Christmas Jumper Swap

Each morning this week, our PTFA have collected pre-loved Christmas jumpers to sell on to other families. Not only is this a great fundraiser for school but it also ensures jumpers get more use which is better for the environment.



CHRISTMAS

Craft Stall

On Monday 7th December, we will have a pop-up Elf Craft stall for children in Nursery, Reception, Years 1, 2 and 4 to visit. Children can buy craft kits that they will then make later in the week. Year 3 can visit the Elf Craft Stall on Thursday 10th December. Items will be individually priced but children will not need more than £5 each. Money must come to school in a named envelope please. Thank you!



Film Nights

On Wednesday 9th December, children in Nursery, Reception, Years 1, 2 and 4 are invited to stay after school for a class film night (Year 3 can go to After School Club). Tickets can be booked via ParentMail. Year 3 Film Night will be held on Thursday 10th December. Collection for each class is 5:00-5:15pm from classroom doors as usual please.

Class Parties

Each class will have a class party (see dates attached). Children are invited to come to school in party clothes on their party day (there will not be PE on these days) but please ensure children have layers to keep warm and sensible shoes. Thank you! Party food, prizes and pulling crackers will be included in the price of the ticket, which you can buy on ParentMail. Thank you.



Christmas fun day - Friday 11th December

On Friday 11th December, children will take part in a class Christmas fun day. This will include Christmas lunch which can be booked via ParentMail. Children in Years 1-4 are also invited to bring a board game to play on the day. Please note these must be in school by Tuesday 8th December to allow them to quarantine. They will be returned home the following week.

This day is also Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. Donations can be made via ParentMail. Thank you.

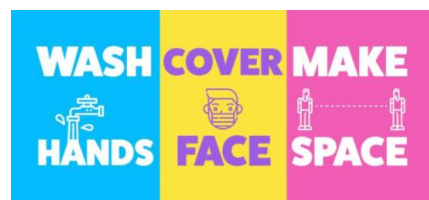


As you know, on this day we have also arranged festive surprise for our children. They will need suitable clothing (water resistant gloves, hat, coat, wellies and, ideally, waterproof trousers). The cost of this activity is £5.00 per child and can be paid via ParentMail please. Thank you!

COVID-19 UPDATES

Dropping off and picking up

A reminder that only one parent or carer should drop off and pick up their child(ren) from school please in order to keep the yard as quiet as possible. We are also asking that parents and carers wear a mask on the yard at both pick up and drop off please. Many thanks for your help in keeping our children and staff safe.



Reminders

As previously explained, we are currently unable to hand out birthday sweets in school. Please do not send these into school. Thank you.

Please do not ask your child(ren) to bring other items in from home, such as show and tell objects, toys, books etc. unless specifically asked to do so. In order to keep our children and staff safe, we are minimising objects shared between home and school to essentials. Thank you.

PLEASE REMEMBER

During the last couple of weeks, we have had children absent from school feeling unwell for a short period. Unfortunately, if your child is unwell with a high temperature or cough (even just for a day or so) they will not be able to return to school until they have had a negative covid test result, even if you do not believe your child has had covid. If you choose not to test your child after they have displayed these symptoms, they should self-isolate for 14 days and must not return to school during this time. I appreciate that this may cause inconvenience to you and your family but we must follow the statutory advice in order to protect our school community. Thank you for your understanding.

Free School Meal Christmas Vouchers

Parents of children who are entitled to Free School Meals will very soon receive a text or email, direct from Wonde, in preparation for the Christmas holidays (£15 per week, £30 for the two week break). Mrs Valentine will send a reminder, via ParentMail, to eligible families before the end of term.

Once Wonde has contacted you, you will then have to choose which supermarket you intend to spend your vouchers. **Please note that once you have done this you are not able to change your supermarket choice.** After this, you will receive the vouchers (which is a QR code) via text and/or email which can be used in the shop or online.

This is therefore the last opportunity to update us with your contact information (including up to date email addresses). Please see the next paragraph to see if you may be entitled.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you are in receipt of Universal Credit, you are very likely to be eligible for Free School Meals. You may also be eligible if you receive Child Tax Credit or Employment and Support Allowance, as well as a range of other government benefit schemes.

Are you entitled?

All applications should be made online [here](#). For further information, click the previous link or click [here](#).

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. This money is absolutely essential to the school as it is the principal source of funding for our teaching assistants – without Pupil Premium funding, we would not be able to have as many wonderful adults in school. Thank you in advance.



PARKING

Thank you to those families who have reported parking concerns to the Parking Service. We understand that parking tickets have now been issued from at least two visits to the area around our school.

ALL STARS

This week, All Stars children were presented with an Advent calendar each. Thank you to our All Stars leaders for providing these treats to our members!



ADVENT TRAIL

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.
One window will be revealed by 4pm each day and will stay in place until Christmas.



We would like to thank all of the families who have offered to take part and display an advent window for everyone to enjoy. Attached is a list of clues to direct you around the advent trail. Can you find all 24 Advent windows? We would love to see how many you find! Please tweet us @RuncieOf to let us know!

Also, on Sunday 20 December and on Christmas Eve between 2pm and 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. Don't forget to follow the star!

RECEPTION LANGUAGE PROGRAMME

As part of an initiative funded by the Department for Education in response to Covid-19, our school is being offered access to a programme called Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI). The programme is designed for Reception pupils and involves providing targeted small group and one-to-one support for children who would benefit from additional support with their language and early literacy skills.



The programme initially involves using a tablet-based assessment called LanguageScreen with all our Reception pupils to help us understand who may benefit most from receiving NELI. LanguageScreen is a short (approx.. 10 minutes) and fun activity for children and will give us useful information about children's language skills. This screen will be conducted in December and we will use the same assessment again at the end of the school year to understand how children's language skills have progressed through their time in Reception. From this assessment, we will then select a small group of children to take part in the Nuffield Early Language Intervention Programme. Parents of children who are selected for the programme will be informed in Spring term.

The data collected will be deleted after the assessment has taken place so the school can know the outcome of the assessment without the data being retained by the LanguageScreen team. The LanguageScreen data Privacy Policy can be accessed on www.languagescreen.com. If you have any questions about the screening process and the language programme or your child's participation in this, please email Miss Wilkinson directly.

EYFS REQUEST

Nursery and Reception are in need to spare boys' and girls' knickers and girls tights aged 3-4, 4-5 and 5-6. These can be left in boxes outside Nursery and Reception and will be quarantined before being used. Thank you!



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!



“Love to learn, learn to love”

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

Monday 7 th December	Christmas Elf Craft stall (not Year 3)	Afternoon	Children can bring money to school (max of £5) to buy crafts to make in class during the week.
Tuesday 8 th December	Deadline for board games to be brought to school (Years 1-4)		Please do not bring anything of value or with lots of small parts and ensure everything is clearly named! Parents of Y3 children are invited to leave these at the office.
Wednesday 9 th December	Christmas Film Night (individual classes) with popcorn etc. (not Year 3)	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)
	Year 3 Christmas Elf Craft stall	Afternoon	
	Christmas Film Night - Year 3	3:15pm-5:00-5:15pm	
Friday 11 th December	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day (please wear the rest of uniform as normal)	All Day	Children invited to wear Christmas jumpers for a suggested donation of £1 via ParentMail
	Year 2 Fire of Newcastle Workshop	9:30am	
	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 (by Tuesday 8 th) All children will also need water-resistant gloves, hat, coat, wellies and, ideally, waterproof trousers.
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)
	Board games will be returned		
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)

	Deadline to return named, purchased raffle tickets to school along with money (in envelope provided).		
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)
	Raffle drawn		
	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)
	Raffle prizes sent home with children		
	Christmas crafts sent home from school with children		
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		

“Love to learn, learn to love”