



April 2020

Weeks 28 & 29 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all staying safe and well and are managing to juggle work, children and other tasks ok. Please be assured that staff are here to support you in whatever way we can. Please let us know if you need anything!

CONTACT

As you know, each class teacher writes to their class each Monday morning in addition to making, at least fortnightly, calls to all families. If you would like more frequent calls please let your class teacher know. Staff are really enjoying talking to parents and children. We hope you are enjoying hearing from us too!

We have been unable to contact a small number of families via telephone/email as the email addresses and phone numbers that we hold in school are not up to date. Mr Tolan will therefore carry out home visits if we are unable to contact families. Please contact Mrs Pygall to update your contact details held in school. Thank you.

NEXT WEEK

You will be aware that next Friday is a Bank Holiday to mark VE Day. It would be lovely to see photos of how you have celebrated this at home; perhaps a picnic in the garden, bunting or a street sing-a-long. Please share your pictures with us on Twitter @RuncieOf Thank you! School will be open to children of key workers.

HALF TERM PROVISION

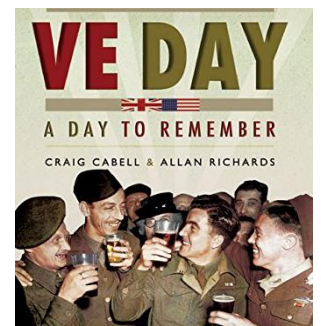
School will remain open during May half term for children of key workers and other families who need support.

ONLINE & HOME LEARNING



After the Easter holidays, all staff updated their class pages on the school website with new home learning packs. Please remember that these are only for parents who are looking for activities to do with their child(ren) and are absolutely not compulsory.

The government have launched a national online learning site called Oak National Academy which has online lessons and resources for each year group. This can be accessed at the following web address <https://www.thenational.academy/online-classroom> . You can also access daily lessons if you wish to, on <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/dailylessons> These resources, as well as others, have links on class pages. You can continue to access White Rose Maths videos, on their home learning page, but worksheets will no longer be included. BBC bitesize will provide extra questions if the ones in the



video are not sufficient. Another resource that is useful is Pie Corbett Talk for Writing (English). Links for all of these are on class pages on the school website along with other links, tasks and suggestions.

I know many of you are very anxious about children's missed education and feeling pressurised to "home school" your child(ren) however the emotional well being of the children far outweighs any missed learning so please try not to worry unduly. This is the same situation for all children across the country and staff have plans in place to ensure our children are where they need to be.

The government has provided information for parents around home learning at this time. You can view this at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-primary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

We have had a small number of requests for personalised learning activities to match specific needs or interests. Unfortunately staff are not able to provide these at the moment. We have also had requests from a couple of parents for video conferences with teachers. This is not supported by the Local Authority, safeguarding consultants or other schools within GST for primary aged children.

Several parents have reported to us how WhatsApp groups amongst fellow parents are adding to stress and pressure at home. Many parents are feeling like they're not doing a good enough job, compared to other parents and carers. We would be really grateful if you would be mindful of this when using WhatsApp. Thank you. If you do find WhatsApp groups upsetting, you could mute notifications or leave the group and re-join later.



VIDEO CONFERENCING

The National Cyber Security Centre updated guidance on video conferencing can be found at <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/video-conferencing-services-security-guidance-organisations> Specific guidance in relation to Zoom from the Cabinet Office and Government Digital Service can be found at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1u3ov0HtAJbvdgi5VMd-hShSbhl8LzGDBSglZtJqLcU/edit>

Key points to note include (extracts from guidance documents in blue):

"Use of the browser version of Zoom, not the mobile application, should be encouraged as far as possible".



We recognise that people may be invited to Zoom meetings hosted by other organisations. Note that if the other organisation isn't using Zoom Business, then there is a risk that the meeting could be "zoom bombed" and anything disclosed or shared by a member on a call could be compromised and/or our staff/students could encounter disturbing content. Anyone invited to a Zoom meeting should therefore be extremely careful in terms of what they share in the meeting and should ask the organiser to provide a "join by browser" link on their meeting invite following the instructions.

There have been well publicised concerns about Zoom's approach to security including the fact that it is using a non-standard type of encryption. Analysis has shown that Zoom is transmitting information through China, even when all participants are in other countries.

On 15th April it was reported that a Zoom data breach has led to 500,000 Zoom accounts being sold on the dark web. There have been numerous reports of "zoom bombing" incidents so please take care.

In terms of using other online platforms to deliver recorded lessons, we as a school have decided against it on a number of grounds, most of all that we are giving families the autonomy to decide how much and what they do so they can fit any work around their busy schedules, not scheduled around the school's

needs and the young age of our children,. Almost all families have expressed positivity about the way in which we are using home learning packs and the lack of pressure on families at this incredibly hard time.

As a school, we have prioritised individual responses, with things like the postcards and fortnightly calling. This is so that we can respond to family needs and tailor responses. We strongly believe that such a response is more appropriate for our community. We view our role during this lockdown as a mixture of moral support and work signposting, rather than powering on as if nothing has changed.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

E-codes, for supermarket vouchers, have now been issued to our families who are in receipt of pupil premium. Unfortunately not all email addresses are up to date therefore a small number of families have not received their vouchers. Please can we ask all families to ensure the contact details that we hold in school are up to date. Thank you.



The school sent out Free School Meal entitlement forms to all families in October and January so if you have filled this out before and have not had confirmation that you are entitled to Free School Meals, you will not be receiving any vouchers. If you did not fill out the form or you believe that you will now be entitled to Free School Meals because your circumstances have changed, please **apply directly to the local authority**. For further information on eligibility, please see <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

In order to issue these FSM e-vouchers we must have correct, up to date email addresses. Please contact Mrs Pygall if you have changed your contact details recently. Thank you.

Universal Free Meals: The universal free school initiative (wherein **all** pupils from Reception to Y2 receive a hot, nutritiously balanced meal each day) will not receive a meal during the school closure.

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. Just call 0845 6006400 to apply immediately over the phone. Alternatively you can log on to <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>.

We would encourage anyone who is unsure whether they qualify to apply anyway.

ST OSWALD'S HOSPICE

As you already know from my last newsletter, St Oswald's Hospice are looking for the support of GST schools.

We would like to invite our children to join in with the national campaign to raise the spirits of our communities by placing a

Bear or picture of a bear on your window to cheer up people passing on your streets and children on their daily exercise. St Oswald's would like to share pictures of your bears and messages you bears want to give At Bears4StOwalds. You can make donations from your bear and for bears you spot on your daily exercise

Donations can be made via JustGiving page - <https://justgiving.com/campaign/soh-urgent-appeal>

Please also find below a link to a booklet from St. Oswald's Hospice for your child(ren).

<https://www.ps-connect.cloud/a/?a=e7h33w&b=119357837>

If your child(ren) would like to colour in pictures from the booklet, they can then take pictures of their work and share them directly via social media, tagging the hospice directly (instructions are in the booklet).



If you would like to send any additional pictures or messages that children draw or design you can do this by emailing directly to LauraLowther@stoswaldsuk.org



COMPUTER EQUIPMENT SURVEY

You should have seen on our Twitter page a link to the Local Authority "Learning in Lockdown" campaign which aims to help families access computer equipment or internet access so children can learn from home. The deadline is 2:30pm today (1st May)

RECEPTION ADMISSIONS

We are delighted to receive lots of applications for Reception in September 2020. Offers of places must be accepted by 2nd May please.

NATIONAL POSTWORKER DAY

Wednesday this week was National Postworker Day. Thank you to all of those of you who got involved and thanked your post man or woman!



CUPCAKE BOXES

Six cupcake making kits were donated to school from Cakes, Classes & Cutters in Gosforth this week. We would like to thank them for their generosity. It was very much appreciated by the recipients.



HOODIES

Year 4 parents should already be aware that Mrs Gill is organising leavers hoodies for our Year 4 pupils. Please order these directly with Mrs Gill or Tots to Teams. If we return to school before July, children in Year 4 will be able to wear these for school. Having said that, there is absolutely no pressure from school or fellow parents to buy the hoodies.

READING BOOKS

We are still preparing for the roll out of the new Reading Scheme in school. So that we can complete stickering books accordingly we would be grateful if you could return your school reading books to the large container by the school gate next week, please. These will be stored for a few weeks to minimise infection spread then labelled ready for children returning to school.



ALL STARS

Members of All Stars lunchtime Bible Club should, this week, have received a message and activity from the club leaders. How lovely that they have kept in touch during the partial school closure!

WORSHIP



On Thursday 30th April the Archbishop led the first national assembly with the new online Oak National Academy. The Assembly will be held on the Oak National Academy website (as will our weekly collective worship resources).

In addition, the Church of England are also launching FaithAtHome, which will be available to many children and young people, to provide collective worship with Oak Academy, and through church and school networks. It will offer people of all ages and faith backgrounds a chance to pause, think and reflect, and to rebuild lost habits of prayer and faithful reflection in the home. The first videos can be accessed at www.churchofengland.org/faithathome

TWITTER



Please follow us on Twitter @RuncieOf to find out what we've been up to! It is easy to join Twitter or, if you prefer, you can see our Twitter feed on the home page of our school website. This is not a private page because we use it to promote our school and it is used by prospective parents, Ofsted and our wider school community.

If you prefer not to use social media, you can always let Class Teachers know what children have been up to via email. If children want to email Class Teachers they are also welcome to do so! We will also be updating class news pages on the school website with children's work as we receive it.

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.

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, love and prayers,

Mrs KE Massey

Headteacher



“Love to learn, learn to love”

1 Corinthians 16:14

May 2020			
May 2020	CANCELLED SATs for Year 2 children	All month	Year 2 children must be in school please
Wednesday 6 th May	CANCELLED Staff & Governor Training- Valuing All God's Children	4:00pm	
Thursday 7 th May	Wesak (Buddhist)	All day	Activities in school
	CANCELLED Dinnington First School official opening	TBC	
Friday 8 th May	Bank Holiday VE Day		School Closed
Monday 11 th May	CANCELLED Christian Aid Worship, led by Year 2	9:00am	All welcome!
Thursday 14 th May	CANCELLED Y3 Team Games festival	1:00-2:45pm	Children may be slightly late

	at Walker Dome		returning to school
	CANCELLED Reception Stay & Play	2:00pm	Reception Parents invited
Friday 15 th May	CANCELLED Phonics Screen Workshop for Year 1 Parents	9:00am	
Sunday 17 th May	POSTPONED Children's Cancer Run	TBC	
Monday 18 th May	CANCELLED DAAB planting	10:30-11:30	Selected Year 1 children
Tuesday 19 th May	CANCELLED GST Teach Meet	3:45pm	Staff only
	CANCELLED Class Photos	TBC	
Thursday 21 st May	CANCELLED GST Y3 & Y4 Benchball competition at Brunton	TBC	Selected children only
	Ascension Day Worship, led by Year 3	9:00am	All welcome!
	CANCELLED		
	World Day for Cultural Diversity	All day	Activities in school
Friday 22 nd May	GST Daft Day	All day	
	CANCELLED Y4 Times Table test	9:00am	
	Parent Workshop		
	Eid	All day	
Monday 2 th May-Friday 29 th May	Half Term		
June 2020			
Monday 1 st June	CANCELLED GST Staff Training Day	All day	School closed to children
1-5 th June	CANCELLED Year 1 Phonics Screen assessment	All week	Year 1 children must be in school please
Tuesday 2 nd June	Pentecost Worship, led by Year 4	2:30pm	
	CANCELLED Year 3 & Year 4- All Saints' Moses Activities	TBC	
Wednesday 3 rd June	Gosforth Voices	3:45-4:45pm	at Grange First School
Thursday 4 th June	GST Y3 & Y4 Tag Rugby at RFFS	TBC	Selected children only
	GST Inclusion Fair	1:00pm	More info to follow
Friday 5 th June	Roy Lawson visiting Years 3 & 4	TBC	More info to follow
Monday 8 th June	Year 2 visit to St Mary's Lighthouse	All day	Children will need to bring or order a packed lunch please
	No French	-	
Tuesday 9 th June	New Nursery Parents Meeting for children starting Nursery in September 2020	5:00pm	
Wednesday 10 th June	New Reception Parents Meeting for children starting Reception class in September 2020	5:00pm	
	Gosforth Band	3:45-4:45pm	at Archibald First School
11 th June	Year 3 School Nurse feelings & relationships session	1:30pm	
15-19 th June	CANCELLED Y4 statutory Times Tables test	All week	
Tuesday 16 th June	Year 3 & Year 4 playing at the Big Gig (out of school all day)	Performance at 1:30pm	Northumbria Sports Central- Y3 & Y4 parents invited.
Wednesday 17 th June	Gosforth Voices	3:45-4:45pm	at Grange First School
Thursday 25 th June	CANCELLED Year 4 Diocesan Leavers Service	10:45am	St George's Church, Cullercoats. Staff and children only due to space restrictions.
Friday 26 th June	Y4 visit to Vindolanda	All day	Children will need to bring or order a packed lunch please
30 th June	Pyramid Concert (Gosforth Voices & Gosforth Band)	4:00pm Rehearsal 6:15pm at Trinity Church	
July 2020			
Wednesday 1 st July	pm Y4 Skipping Event- GJA	TBC nearer	

		the time	
	Nursery Stay & Play	2:00pm	Nursery parents invited
Thursday 2 nd July	GST Y4 Netball at Grange	TBC	Selected children only
	GST Transition Day	TBC	
Friday 3 rd July	Reports out		
	Y4 Bikeability all day	All day	All children in Year 4 need to bring a bike to school.
Saturday 4 th July	PTFA Summer Fair	TBC	
Monday 6 th July	KS1/2 Sports Day	1:30pm	Parents Invited
	PE Week (Mon- Fri)	All week	
	Drop in for parents	3:30-5:00pm	No need to book an appointment
Tuesday 7 th July	Drop in for parents	3:30-5:00pm	No need to book an appointment
Wednesday 8 th July	Y2 skipping at GJA	9:30-12:30	
	pm EYFS Sports Day	1:30pm	Parents invited
	Full Governing Body Meeting	5:30pm	
Thursday 9 th May	Y2 Team Games festival at Walker Dome	1:00-2:45pm	Children may be slightly late returning to school
Friday 17 th July	Year 4 Leavers' Service	9:00am	
	End of term picnic lunch for staff and children	Noon	Please pay via ParentMail
	Picnic in the Playground	3:15-4:15pm	
	School closes for Summer		
September 2020			
Monday 7 th September 2020	Staff Training Day	All day	
Tuesday 8 th September 2020	School reopens to pupils.	8:45am	
Sunday 20 th September	Children's Cancer Run	TBC	
Wednesday 30 th September- Thursday 1 st October	Y4 Residential	TBC	More info to follow

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1 Corinthians 16:14