



# January 2021


## Newsletter 12 – 8.1.21

### PTFA UPDATES

#### Walk to the North Pole!

We made it! Well done everyone who contributed- what an amazing effort! So far, we have received an incredible **£706.50** which is absolutely brilliant!



	Distance walked	
Nursery	268	
Reception	283	
Year 1	376	
Year 2	437	
Year 3	382	
Year 4	781	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2527 miles</b>	 <p><b>Distance to North Pole</b> <b>2,428 miles</b></p>



We would be grateful if children could **return their sponsor forms** and money to school as soon as possible, if they have not done so already. Thank you!

### Class Hampers

Amazingly, the PTFA raffle raised £713 (which is as much as we raise in the normal Christmas raffles). Thank you to everyone who bought tickets! The winners of hampers were:

**Nursery** - Hadin

**Reception**- Franki, Jacob

**Year 2** – Layla, Ben, Thomas

**Year 3**- Summer, Oliver, Owen

**Year 4** – Libby, Maya, Lenya, Jessica



### COVID-19 UPDATES

What a week...!

It was wonderful to see all our children's smiling faces on Monday and hear their exciting Christmas news. As you know, we were heartbroken on Monday evening when we heard we would not see many of you in person for the next few weeks. Thank you all for your swift responses to the form that we sent out on Monday night and for allowing us some time on Tuesday to prepare. We really do appreciate it!



Our home-learning children have made an excellent start and we have had almost 90% engagement with work set on Tapestry this week. This is fabulous! Thank you all for your efforts. It really will make such a difference to your children when they return to school. Please be assured that learning at home matches learning in



school so, although we miss your children greatly, together we are minimising the impact of lockdown, academically.

### Home Learning

As you know, home learning is issued daily via Tapestry accounts. A parent has suggested that we release the work the previous evening in order to allow working parents' preparation time. From Monday, class teachers will endeavour to publish tasks by 8:00pm the evening before to support working parents however this is not intended to add additional pressure to those of you at home. Please just continue to do what you can, when you can.



A few parents have asked about uploading work a week in advance instead of daily. We upload work daily so that staff can be responsive to children both at home and in school (for example, if a number of children experience difficulties one day, we will repeat the lesson the following day).

If you are a day or two behind, that is fine! If you would prefer to work with your children at weekends rather than during the week, that is fine too. You will each have a system and routine to suit you and your family circumstances (and it might take you a couple of weeks to get into your stride) but please know that school is here to support you and not add pressure to an already difficult situation. If you are pushed for time and need to prioritise, we would encourage you to complete English and Maths activities rather than foundation subjects with children of this age range.

Additionally, it is your choice about how often and how much you upload your child's work to Tapestry. The more you upload, the more teachers will comment (which of course will help your child) but we completely understand that it is a very challenging time and that working patterns are unique.

Staff are currently checking who has accessed each learning task so if you've not accessed work yet, you will receive a call or email from someone in school but this is only to check that everything's ok and to help troubleshoot if necessary.

There is no requirement to print work at home (unless you prefer to do so). Please note that we will not be sending hard copies of work or emailing work to families. All work can be viewed on screen and recorded in the children's exercise book that came home last term. **If/when you need a new book, or if you would like a maths book, please pop in to the school office to collect one. Thank you.**

We have had a number of questions from families who are struggling to access home learning (for example due to a lack of devices). We have been allocated a very small number devices via the Department for Education; however, this is for Year 3 and above children only, it is limited to those with extensive extenuating circumstances, and there are likely to be significant delays in procurement. We have a small number of SIM cards with mobile data for those who are struggling with their internet access – for this, and if you believe you may be eligible for laptops or tablets, please contact Mr Booth via email ([jonathan.booth@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:jonathan.booth@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk)). Additionally, please read the following DfE information about ways to access additional data if you wish (<https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/about-increasing-mobile-data>)

For any families who want to 'top up' their home learning time, there are lots of resources available on Oak National Academy and the BBC are, from next week, producing lots more content to help families at home. Teachers will direct parents to some relevant resources but please do not be afraid to find even more if you require them.



## Nursery places

As you know, **Nursery is open** as usual, to all children (either 2.5 or 5 days depending on children's usual attendance pattern).



It has been lovely to welcome several new families to our Nursery and school family this week. We hope you love it as much as we do!

The Nursery boiler is being replaced on Monday therefore we are encouraging parents, who are able, to keep their children at home where possible.

## School places

In line with DfE guidance, we have allocated places, based on the information that you have provided to us, to all children in category A, B, C and D. This has been confirmed via ParentMail for individual children.

*A – My child is categorised as vulnerable because they have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), social worker, Early Help Plan or has a special guardianship order and I wish to take up a place*

*B – I believe my child is categorised as vulnerable under a different category from the above guidance and I wish to take up a place.*

*C – All adults within my household are critical workers as per the above guidance and I wish to take up a place. (This could mean either both in a two-parent household or one in a one-parent household and that there are no other adults able to care for your children from a support bubble).*

*D – One primary caregiver is a critical worker, whilst one or more is not. As a result, I wish to take up a place for my child.*

In addition to the criteria that we set out on Monday, the DfE have issued further additional guidance around the wider definition of vulnerable children from the last full lockdown, as well as those who have EHCPs or social workers, it now also includes:

- children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
- adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
- those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
- those living in temporary accommodation
- those who are young carers
- those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
- care leavers
- others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health.

Obviously, this much wider definition of vulnerable will mean that the number of children eligible to attend school will be higher than we had previously planned. We will do our very best to accommodate these children where we can. If you feel that your child meets these wider criteria, please email me directly on [kate.massey@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:kate.massey@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk).

The definition of critical workers has also changed slightly since our first lockdown in March. Please see revised guidance. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Following DfE guidance published last night, we can confirm that children will be taught in smaller bubble groups by their usual class teachers and support staff. We can also confirm that Breakfast Club and After School Club will remain open for attending children. Mrs Pygall will issue refunds, in due course, for children who are learning from home who had booked places for January.



As Class Teachers are currently managing both face-to-face teaching and home learning, we would appreciate your patience and understanding while we adjust to this balance. It is likely that support staff will support in both the delivery of face-to-face teaching in school as well as home learning, in order to support their colleagues with this workload. Although there are many advantages to being part of a small school community, one of the disadvantages in a small staff is that teachers plan by themselves, unlike in bigger schools where the workload of planning and resource making can be shared across two or more teaching staff.

Unfortunately, at this time we are not able to offer places to category E families.

*E – My child does not fit in the above categories but I would like to take up a place as soon as this is possible.*

We would be grateful if you did not challenge fellow parents on their self-assessment as this is a personal judgement and should not need to be justified to others. Thank you.

### Free School Meals

If your circumstances change and you think you may be entitled to benefits-related Free School Meals, please contact Mrs Pygall. You will need to complete an eligibility form online then you will be issued with e-vouchers for the supermarket of your choice via Wonde. This has been reduced to £12 per week.



Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, who are in school, are also entitled to a free of charge infant school meal.

If your child is in school, they will receive their free school meal from Mrs Battista as usual.

I will be in touch in the next day or two with additional information, as I receive it.

Thank you all once again for your ongoing support and patience. We hope to see you all very soon!



### ALL STARS

Susan and Rachel are seeking another parent to help them continue to run All Stars (virtually for now but hopefully face-to-face before too long). If anyone is interested in helping or finding out more, please contact them for further details via email [susan\\_abraham@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:susan_abraham@hotmail.co.uk) Thank you!

### NURSERY PLACES

We are now receiving applications for new Nursery starters for April 2021 for any child who has turned three. Please note that we have very few places remaining. If you would like to find out more information, please contact Mrs Francis. We would love to meet your little ones!



Please remember that admission to our Nursery does not guarantee a place in our Reception class as the application process is entirely separate.

### STAFFING UPDATES

Mrs Pygall will be taking over the role of School Business Manager from January 2021. Please email her for queries relating to Breakfast Club and After School Club bookings and payments or other financial items at [Ashlea.Pygall@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:Ashlea.Pygall@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk). Mrs Boon will be supporting her in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays until Easter.

Mrs Palmer has been appointed as Nursery Lunchtime Supervisor and will support in both Nursery and Reception during afternoon sessions.



If your child is moving from packed lunch to school dinners, or vice versa, Mrs Battista requires a minimum of two weeks notice please.

Please remember sweets should not be included in children's packed lunches. Staff will ask children not to open packets of sweets and will return them at the end of the day.



It is really important that Mrs Pygall has at least three contacts for each child in school please. If you want to add a contact for your child(ren), please email the details to [admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk)

Mrs Armstrong (KS1&2) and Mrs Brown (EYFS) continue to manage medicines in school. If your child needs medicine administering during the school day or has a medical condition that requires medicines to be kept in school, please make an appointment to meet with Mrs Brown or Mrs Armstrong to discuss this. You will need to complete a form with them too. You can contact them on [andrea.armstrong@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:andrea.armstrong@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk) and [gemma.brown@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:gemma.brown@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk)



Mrs Pygall will be contacting those parents of children whose medicines have expired.



It has, unfortunately, been brought to our attention that there have been some posts on social media that have implied bullying within the school. As a small school, children are easily identifiable and this is not acceptable. I will not hesitate contacting our safeguarding consultants if this issue persists.

Safeguarding remains a high priority for staff at ARFS, despite many of our children not attending at this time. If you have any concerns or anxieties, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

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** – 0808 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>



It has been a very busy week and start to the year (and not the one we had hoped for) but the children and families of our school have made us all so proud. Firstly, please pass on our thanks to your wonderful children for their adaptability and resilience. I would also like to thank the staff for the speed at which they converted face-to-face teaching to an online curriculum and for putting their all into work provided to all children. Finally, huge thanks to all the parents at home who are juggling work and home-life commitments- it is not an easy task! I feel so thankful to be part of such a caring and positive community who have worked together for our children. Thank you all once again for your ongoing support.

Wishing you all a safe and happy weekend.

With my very best wishes,

*Mrs KE Massey*

Headteacher



**“Love to learn, learn to love”**

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

January 2021			
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Nursery boiler being replaced		Nursery open to families who require childcare but bring lots of layers!
<b>15<sup>th</sup> January 2021</b>	Deadline for Reception applications for September 2021	noon	
February 2021			
<b>15 -19<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Half Term		School closed to children
March 2021			
April 2021			
<b>2-16<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Easter holidays		School closed to children
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Staff Training Day		School closed to children
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> - Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021</b>	Y4 Residential		
<b>19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	GST Deadline Applications for Nursery places for September 2021		
<b>26<sup>th</sup> March</b>	GST Letters of offer for Nursery places		
May 2021			
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	Bank holiday		
June 2021			
<b>31<sup>st</sup> May - 4<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Half term		
July 2021			
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	School closes for summer		