

ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VA) FIRST SCHOOL



July 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we near the end of a busy term I would like to thank parents, children, staff, volunteers, Governors and other friends of our school for the continued support. It is our strong community spirit that makes our school so special and such a happy place to work and grow.



The children have had another active few weeks; everyone has visited their new class (or school) and taken part in Sports Day activities. We have been very lucky to have had such fabulous weather too, which we have all enjoyed.

EYFS- Nursery and Reception have held their EYFS Stay and Play event which was well received by children, parents and staff. Nursery enjoyed their visit to Kirkley Hall very much! Reception children had a great time on their open top bus tour, visiting the Angel of the North and seeing the sights of Newcastle.



KS1 (Years 1 & 2) – Year 2 have taken part in a Skipping Festival. KS1 visited Sunderland Winter Gardens and they hosted a fabulous Rainforest Celebration last Friday too.

KS2 (Years 3 & 4) – Years 3 & 4 both visited the Great North Exhibition which was excellent.

Year 4 - Year 4 hosted a “Transition Picnic” for their new friends at GCMS which is a great way for them to get to know new faces, ready for September.

PTFA

The School Fair was held on Saturday and was a huge success, raising £1433.49 - Well done everyone involved! The PTFA have generously supported the courtyard developments and have given a huge amount of time and funding to various activities this year. Their fundraising efforts have supported the purchasing of resources for Early Years, the new tables and chairs for KS1 & 2, storytelling chair, plants & planters in our Sensory Garden, Lexia Reading & spelling program, amongst other things.



BOOKBAGS

Our new tables in KS1 & 2 have individual drawers for children to store their book bags in. Please could children all use school book bags rather than rucksacks from September? Thank you.



WEBSITE

We are currently adding dates to the website calendar for next year. Autumn term dates are attached below but if you would like to see what's happening in Spring and Summer terms please visit our website which is currently being updated.

STAYING SAFE

Just a quick reminder that the wooden trim trail (on the main yard) is awaiting a safety inspection and must not be used please.

COMMUNICATION

Our Twitter followers are increasing by the day... Please follow us on @RuncieOf

You can also view tweets on our school website. Photos included are of large groups of children where individuals are not easily identifiable. Please could we ask parents using facebook to adhere



to the same protocols?

It has been great to have such open communication this term- thank you to those people who have made suggestions of how we can continue to improve- all feedback is gratefully received and acted upon, wherever possible. Please see below for common themes and responses.

Common themes	Action	Impact
Communication	Regular newsletters & updates Twitter started Mrs Massey on yard each morning/Rec yard after school Website updated Class notice boards Meet the teacher- contact details shared	Many comments about improved communication Parents talking more openly with staff Parents contacting staff directly
Learning environment	Repainting of foyer & Classrooms New furniture External painting Landscaping of Courtyard & Nursery outdoor area	Learning environment refreshed Improved first impressions for new parents and current pupils encouraged to respect their learning environment
More educational visits this term	All classes booked in for a visit before end of term	Achieved & Curriculum Review will build on this further in Sept
Increasing parental engagement	DIY SOS Parents encouraged to approach staff directly	Feeling of community and collective action Opportunity to talk informally and build relationships
Full time Nursery	30 hour provision offered in Sept 2018	Achieved- will be offered
Homework	Homework books bought for Sept 2018 (to be introduced at Welcome Meetings in Sept)	Parents will have a more structured approach to homework
Stability of staffing	See staffing plan for September	School is ready for next year
Increased curriculum information from staff.	Curriculum being reviewed then will be published on website Topic webs displayed outside each classroom Dates set for Welcome meetings in Sept	Aims: Better engagement and enjoyment leading to higher standards, particularly in writing. Parents have a better understanding of learning.

Teaching staff email contact details are now displayed outside each classroom; feel free to email teachers directly on

paula.hinsche@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk

katie.law@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk (Mon, Tues, Wed)

lorraine.mann@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk (Wed, Thurs, Fri)

vicky.nellis@tyneview.newcastle.sch.uk

jennifer.burns@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk

Staff check their emails daily, either before or after the school teaching day, on their working days.

REPORTS

End of Year reports have now been sent to all parents and carers. Thank you for your positive feedback!

Children in KS1 & 2 were assessed as:

Working Towards (not yet achieving age related expectations)

Expected (achieving age related expectations)

Greater Depth (achieving age related expectations with greater depth and understanding)

Apologies if this was not clear on the reports.

Reception children, Year 1 and Year 2 children will receive their Early Year Profile, Phonics Screen and SATs results from the LA this week- these match the assessment information already provided in the end of year reports.

READING & HOMEWORK

We have seen an increase in the amount of children reading to their parents and carers which is great news! It is still important to listen to children read- even when they are fluent and able. Well done everyone! A few parents have asked for ideas and question stems to help them question their children at home so we have added these to children's individual Reading Records (and attached them to this newsletter) to support parents with questioning.



Next term we will introduce Maths and SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar) homework too. Class Teachers will explain homework expectations at the Welcome Meetings in September (please see dates below).

LUNCHTIMES



From September we are going to reduce lunchtimes from 12:00-1:00pm for all children. Nursery, Reception and Year 1 will have lunch at 12:00pm in the hall, followed by a playtime and Years 2, 3 and 4 will have playtime 12:00-12:30pm then eat lunch on second sitting 12:30-1:00pm.

We will continue to offer school meals or packed lunches on a full time basis only. Please remember, any changes require two weeks notice. Payment for school lunches will be requested before or on the first day of term, for the full half term and should be made, ideally, via ParentMail.

STAFF

This term we are sad to say goodbye to several members of staff and wish them well in the future. Earlier in the term, Mrs Gray and Miss English accepted Support Assistant jobs in larger Primary schools, closer to their homes. Mrs Durr is returning to Grange First School and Mrs Scott (Parent Support Advisor) has a promotion in a larger school. We look forward to hearing how they are getting on and catching up with them in the Autumn Term. We would like to thank them for all they have done to support the school during their time here.

Mrs Foster and Mrs Senior are also leaving us this term. Mrs Foster has decided to spend more time with her family and Mrs Senior intends to pursue other ventures. We are very grateful for their positive contributions to our school over the years and wish them happiness for their future- they will no doubt pop in regularly to catch up on the news and we look forward to hearing theirs!

We would also like to thank the supply/temporary teachers and support staff who have worked with us this year on a short-term basis, particularly Mrs Nellis, Miss Taylor and Mrs Randall. We will definitely keep in touch with them all! Mrs Norman has been appointed as KS1 Teaching Assistant.

Mrs Cannell, our Lunchtime Supervisor, has decided to retire. Again we would like to thank for her support of the children over the years- they are very fond of her and we will all miss her.

We will have collection boxes in the School Office (available until Monday 10th September 2018). If families would like to contribute to gifts please send donations

Goodbye.
{for now}

in a clearly labelled envelope via classrooms in the usual way.

Staffing in September will be as follows:

	Class Teacher	Support staff
Nursery	Mrs Gregory	Mrs Marshall
Reception	Miss Leigh	Mrs Ramsay
Year 1	As Mrs Harrison is still absent, Mrs Hinsche will teach Year 1 in September until Mrs Harrison returns.	Mrs Norman
Year 2	Mrs Law & Mrs Mann	
Year 3	Miss McGregor	Mrs A Armstrong
Year 4	Miss J Burns	

We are also excited to welcome to our school community in Autumn Term:

- PPA Cover Supervisor (to be appointed)- lunchtimes & afternoons
- Mrs Kinnair, Admin Assistant- mornings & lunchtimes

Our new staff will be in school on Friday to meet the children and many of them will attend the picnic after school too.

OFSTED

Our Ofsted Action Plan update and current statutory data for end of EYFS and KS1 will soon be on our school website, for your information. Last week we received a Monitoring Visit from the LA & Diocese. Both were pleased with the rapid progress and actions taken and the end of year data for all year groups. Well done to everyone involved! We look forward to building on this success next year.

CURRICULUM

What does a learner at Archbishop Runcie First School look like?

We have had several themed weeks this half term to develop independence, friendship, resilience and sustained engagement- this has been very successful and we have noticed a real difference in attitudes and behavior as a result. Next year we have decided to theme each *half term* to allow children a longer period of time to develop and apply these skills. Autumn 1 will focus on independence so please, over the Summer, encourage your child to try to do things independently... this might mean Nursery children putting their own shoes and socks on, KS1 children writing by themselves and KS2 could undertake some independent research of something in the news or of interest to them.



Curriculum Review

We have begun the task of reviewing our curriculum this term, and are very excited about teaching our new programmes of study next year- we have hung on to some of the old favorites though! We have decided to run an overarching Key Stage topic but teach in year groups increasingly to allow for a clearer progression of skills.

In September, Years 1-4 will be involved in a topic about the school, its birthday and its history. We have lots of exciting activities planned including a KS1 & 2 visit to Beamish on Friday 21st September and a walking tour of the locality.

In addition, we are hoping to hold a "Face your Fears" visit to the low ropes at Gibside on 10th October.



More information will be shared at Welcome Meetings in September (please see below for dates). We will add our new yearly plans to our school website as soon as possible.

PE Week

This week we are "Running to Russia" (inspired by the World Cup) and we held our annual Sports Days which were great fun! We have received lots of positive feedback- thank you! The tug of war seemed to be everyone's favourite activity!



Homework for parents!

Sometime over the holiday, we would like parents to undertake a task... Please could you write a short letter/e-mail to your child's new Class Teacher(s), introducing your child. You might want to include a brief biography, special talents, worries or past school experiences. You might also like to include your hopes for the coming year. Include any information that you would like staff to bear in mind when working with your child. Staff are looking forward to receiving your letters! All information will, of course, be kept confidential.

COMMUNITY

Many thanks to all those who have supported the recent improvements to our school building and grounds. The courtyard is looking fabulous and 8 members of the Nike team generously helped paint railings and hosted a sports afternoon for KS1.

We are holding a "Cakes in the Courtyard" event today to thank all those who have helped us this year- you know who you are!



Mr Cunningham (St Nicholas' Church) is retiring. We wish him every happiness for his retirement and look forward to hearing about what he has been up to! Mr Dixon (curate at All Saints') leaves us to take on his own parish. We wish him well in his new role. Again, collections are in the office if families would like to contribute.

BUILDING WORK

We have some exciting building work planned for the Summer Holidays in our Reception Classroom; the classroom will benefit from having internal walls knocked down to enable us to make better use of the space. In addition, Nursery are having a small "hobbit" door created from their classroom to their outside area. We are currently improving the grounds by having some of the willow cut back and replaced with native trees.



BREAKFAST CLUB

We are delighted to announce that Captain Teds will be offering a Breakfast Club from September 2018. The club will run from 7:30am in the Residents Association Building next to school. Captain Ted's staff will then bring children to school at 8:45. Please contact them directly to book places. They will continue to run their after school club from their premises on Gosforth High Street.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

As you may be aware, our school will celebrate its 30th birthday (since its official opening in 1988) in September. We are currently creating a "time capsule" if anyone has any appropriate artefacts that we could borrow to include. This will form the launch of our whole school topic in the first week back- so please don't show your children! If you know anyone who attended the school in the past please encourage them to get in touch to share their memories (post boxes for this are in the main entrance to school and both churches). If anyone has any ideas about birthday celebrations we would welcome as much help as people can give! Many thanks.





SPARE CLOTHES

If children have any spare uniform/pants/socks that they have grown out of and would be willing to donate to Nursery and Reception, we would be very grateful. Please speak to Mrs Hinsche in Nursery.

CLUBS FOR SEPTEMBER

	8:00-8:50am	Lunchtime	3:15-4:15pm
Monday	Yoga (Y1-Y4)	French (Y1 & Y3)	Art (Y1- Y4)
Tuesday	Tennis (Alternates termly - KS2 in Autumn Term)		Taekwondo (Y1-Y4)
Wednesday			Awards (Y4)
Thursday	Dance (Y1-Y4)		
Friday		French (Y2 & Y4)	Football (Y3 & Y4)

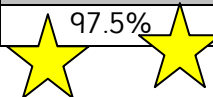
Please contact the organisers directly to book places (contact details will be available on our website).

ATTENDANCE

Well done to Year 2 who have had the highest class attendance this year!

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
94.3%	96.1%	96.6%	97.5%	96.1%	97.3%

The whole school average is 96.9%.



NURSERY SEPTEMBER 2108

If you know anyone who would like a Nursery place for a child who is currently 3 (or is turning 3) years old next academic year, please let them know that we have places available for September. This year we are offering 2½ day provision as well as 30 hour provision (5 full days) because we have a full time teacher and full time Nursery Nurse.

END OF TERM PICNIC

Parents and children are invited to play on the school field until 4:30pm after school on Friday 20th July. You are welcome to bring picnics, rugs etc. if you would like! You will also be able to meet new members of our staff team.



As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or queries.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and patience this year. You have all been amazing! I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you in my role as Acting Headteacher. The staff and I look forward to continuing to work with those of you who return to our school in September.

Wishing you all a safe and restful summer break.

With best wishes,

Mrs KE Massey

Acting Headteacher

“Love to learn, learn to love”

Dates for your Diary

September 2018

Monday 3 rd Sept	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 4 th Sept	School re-opens (Nursery and Rec staggered start) Launch of 30 th Birthday Topic for Y1, 2, 3 & 4
Friday 7 th September	Visit from the Bishop
Wed 12 th September	Parents Maths Workshop- TBC
Thursday 13 th Sept	Roald Dahl Day- children invited to dress up as a character from a Roald Dahl book
Friday 14 th Sept	New Nursery & Reception parents and children invited for lunch PTFA BBQ after school to celebrate our school's 30 th birthday (tickets via PTFA)
Monday 17 th Sept	New Reception children start full days Y4 Welcome Meeting (9:00-9:30am) Parents of children with SEND invited for information on the Local Offer 3:30pm
Tuesday 18 th Sept	Y3 Welcome Meeting (9:00-9:30am)
Wed 19 th Sept	Y2 Welcome Meeting (9:00-9:30am) National "Talk like a Pirate" day!
Thursday 20 th Sept	Y1 Welcome Meeting (9:00-9:30am)
Friday 21 st September	Y1, 2, 3 & 4 visit to Beamish- more info to follow
Sunday 23 rd Sept	School is 30 years old!
Wed 26 th September	Parents Maths Workshop- TBC
Thursday 27 th Sept	Nursery Welcome Meeting (9:00-9:30am)
Friday 28 th Sept	Reception Welcome Meeting (9:00-9:30am) National "Ask a silly question day" World's Biggest Coffee Afternoon (Y4 hosting)

October 2018

Mon 1 st October	Forest School- Nursery, Reception & Year 1- please wear outdoor clothes with long sleeves and bring wellies if wet/sunhat and suncream
Tues 2 nd October	Forest School- Years 2, 3, 4- please wear outdoor clothes with long sleeves and bring wellies if wet/sunhat and suncream
Thursday 4 th October	PTFA Film Night- tickets available via PTFA
Fri 5 th October	9:00 Harvest Festival- led by Year 4 (in school)
Wed 10 th October	National "Face Your Fears Day" Y1, 2, 3 & 4 visit to Gibside- TBC
Tuesday 23 rd Oct & Wed 24 th Oct	Parents evening- all classes and exhibition of work in hall (3:30-5:30pm)
Thursday 25 th October	exhibition open to wider community (1:30-3:00pm)
Friday 26 th October	Training Day

November 2018

Wed 7 th November	Diwali
Thursday 8 th Nov	PTA Disco (5:00-6:30pm)
12-16 th Nov	Antibullying Week
Wed 21 st Nov	World "Hello" Day
Wed 28 th Nov	Governing Body Meeting
Friday 30 th Nov	9:00 Advent Worship- led by Year 3 (in school)

December 2018

Friday 14 th Dec	PTA Christmas Fair 2:30pm
Monday 17 th Dec	Flu immunisations (pm)- more info to follow 1:30pm KS2 Nativity (Y3 & Y4) 5:30pm KS1 & 6:30pm KS2 Nativity
Tuesday 18 th Dec	Foundation Stage (N & Rec) Nativity 9:30am

Foundation Stage Party
Key Stage One Nativity 2:00pm (Y1 & Y2)
Wed 19th Dec KS2 Party
2:00pm Foundation Stage Nativity (N & Rec)
Thursday 20th Dec KS1 party
PTFA Film night
Friday 21st Dec 2:00pm Carol Service at **All Saints' Church**, West Avenue (off the High Street)

We are currently adding Spring Term dates to our website- please keep checking the online calendar to stay up to date.

“Love to learn, learn to love”



Reading with Attitude



Question prompts to promote inference, deduction and responding to literature

	<i>Dimension 1 (relationship with the text)</i>	<i>Dimension 2 (relationship with the author)</i>
Characters (people, animals, toys...)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ How do you think the character felt when...? Why? ★ What do you think the character will do when...? Why? ★ What would you have done in the same situation? Why? ★ Is the main character believable? Why/why not? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ What similar (or different) experiences have you had? How did that help you to understand the character? ★ Why do you think the author decided to give... (the character) spare this kind of personality? ★ How did the author help you to get to know the main character? (Through actions? What he/she said? Description?)
Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Where does the story take place? ★ What was the place like? ★ Have you ever been to a place like it? Tell us about it. ★ When did the story take place? (Is it in the future? Is it happening now? Did it happen long ago?) ★ Why do you think the setting was appropriate? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ How do you think the author was able to describe the setting in that way? ★ Why do you think the author chose this setting? ★ Do you think the author may have lived in or known a place like this? Why?
Plot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ What were the main things that happened in the story? ★ How did you feel when... happened? ★ Were you able to guess what was going to happen? What helped you to guess that? ★ What do you think was the most important part of the story for you? Why? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Why do you think the author left this information until the last chapter? ★ Why do you think the author decided to... (sequence the events in that way? use a 'flash-back'?) ★ Why do you think the author chose... (particular event) as one of the key events in the story? ★ Do you think... (experience) might have happened to the author? Why do you think so? ★ What did the author have to know in order to write about that?
Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Is there one 'big idea' in this book? What is it? ★ What does the book tell us about... (prejudice, equality, humour, family life, relationships, survival, personal journeys...)? ★ This book is about..., but what else is it about? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Do you think the author has suffered as a result of... (prejudice, inequality, etc) Why do you think so? ★ Why do you think the author chose to write about this theme? ★ What message was the author wanting to communicate?
Mood/ Style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ How did you feel while reading? Why? ★ How did your feelings change as you read the book? ★ What did you think was the funniest (saddest) part? Why? ★ What special words does the author use to help you hear things in the story?...see things in the story?...feel things in the story? ★ What pictures has the book left in your mind? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ How was the author able to make you feel...? ★ Why do you think the author wanted to make you feel that way? ★ What kind of person do you think the author is? Why? ★ Why do you think the author chose to write in this...(mood, style, genre)?