



## June 2020

### Weeks 34 & 35 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

#### **PTFA NEWS**

If you have any outgrown school uniform we would be grateful of donations left, in bags, at the office please. These will be quarantined/ washed then will be available for to buy via the PTFA. This is not only a great way to get rid of old clothing whilst helping other families in school but is also much better for the environment than throwing pre-loved uniform away as well as raising money for our wonderful PTFA!



Thank you in advance for your donations!

#### **THANK YOU!**

We have received lots of emails over the last couple of weeks thanking staff for making school so welcoming and reassuring children on their return to school. Thank you... these have really helped us during a tough couple of weeks!

#### **FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

Many of our families financial circumstances have changed during lockdown and several families have now discovered that they now qualify for free school meals (FSM). This means they receive a £15 supermarket voucher each week per child (this will run until September) as well as having benefits for the school in terms of funding. For every child who qualifies for FSM, the school is awarded Pupil Premium funding. This means the cost of school visits can be paid for directly from this funding (rather than by parents) and that support staff hours can be funded to specifically support these children. In addition, FSM children receive 10% off new uniform costs purchased via Tots to Teams. If you qualify for Universal Credit you are likely to qualify for FSM.

Each child usually requires a separate application so siblings are not automatically awarded FSM.

The Government has temporarily extended free school meal eligibility to include some families with no recourse to public funds. This extension is temporarily in place to support families facing difficulties due to the current unique circumstances. It covers both children who are attending school and children who are at home and will end when schools re-open.



If you think you may be eligible for free school meals please make an application at <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/help-school-and-learning-costs/apply-free-school-meals>

We have had several concerned parents asking whether their child will be aware that they now qualify for FSM. Please be assured that only staff will know that your child is in receipt of FSM. It is not within our ethos to make any child feel different or to stand out. Children are not aware of who receives FSM or who pays for meals and there are no separate FSM systems that make children different to their peers e.g. lunch choices like there were when I was at school!!

If you have any concerns about anything financial or otherwise, you can contact "Action for Children" who can provide targeted support.



### NURSERY PLACES AVAILABLE

We have places available in our Nursey Class in September. If you would like to come for a visit or to find out more information, please contact Mrs Francis. We would love to meet your little ones!

### WIDER OPENING OF SCHOOL

As you know, we were asked by the government to prioritise younger children in the first phases of wider opening. We took a phased approach to this which has been really successful. We would like to thank you all for your patience and understanding during this time.



**Phase 1:** From Monday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, children of Key Workers and vulnerable children were reorganised into age based bubbles to support direct teaching.

**Phase 2:** From June 8<sup>th</sup>, children in Year 1 whose parents opted to return their child(ren) returned to Year 1 and Miss Young. They all skipped in happily!

**Phase 3:** From June 15<sup>th</sup>, children in Reception whose parents opted to return their child(ren) joined some of their friends and their Year 1 teacher-to-be, Miss Davison, in school. They were all so excited to be back and Miss Davison was delighted to meet them!

**Phase 4:** June 22<sup>nd</sup>- on Monday, we will welcome back children in Nursery whose parents opted to return their child(ren). We will also be splitting Year 3 and 4 into separate bubbles to prepare for Phase 5.

On Monday this week, we received updated guidance from the DfE which stated that "Primary schools should only welcome back additional children where:

- they have already made provision available for children of critical workers, vulnerable children, and children in nursery, reception, year 1 and year 6 and have ensured as many as possible are able to attend (especially for those who would particularly benefit from being in school because of other disadvantage)
- they can accommodate more children while still following the approaches set out in the protective measures guidance and their own risk assessment
- they do not require additional funding, staff or classrooms to do so. If schools have access to space on other school sites (for example, local secondary schools, if that is feasible alongside the secondary offer) they may use this, taking care to ensure children stay in allocated groups. However, other community buildings (such as village halls) should not be used to expand capacity this term, while they remain closed in line with the government's roadmap"

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-primary-schools> (updated 15.6.20)



**Phase 5:** June 29<sup>th</sup> – we will be inviting back additional pupils as per guidance above (disadvantaged and children of key workers).

**Phase 6:** June 29<sup>th</sup> – we will allocate places to Nursery, Reception and Year 1. The guidance clearly asks us to ensure as many as possible in selected year groups are able to attend. Many families have now changed their mind and are now in favour of their child(ren) returning to school. Children on our waiting list in Nursery,

Reception and Year 1 will be given places where possible. If you have a child in Nursery, Reception or Year 1 and originally said that you did not want your child to return to school but would now like your child to attend, please contact me ASAP on [kate.massey@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:kate.massey@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk) so that your child's name can be added to a waiting list. Thank you.

Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that children will be with their peers or with their usual teacher as most established bubbles are now full.

**Phase 7:** If possible, we will do our very best to accommodate Year 4 (as a transition year group), if we have sufficient staff and classrooms. **We are not able to commit firmly to this, as this will depend on uptake in Phase 5 and 6.** Thank you for your patience and understanding.

**Phase 8:** If we have capacity, we will then offer available places to children in Years 2 and 3.

September... Unfortunately, we do not know what September will currently look like. As soon as we receive guidance from the government, we will let you know!

As you know, this guidance changes frequently and our plans will be adjusted in light of DfE guidance.

## AFTER SCHOOL CARE

In September, we will be running an on-site after school club much like our Breakfast Club. This will be instead of external providers running weekly clubs in the hall. After school activities, such as art, may still be able to run in classrooms. The reasons for this are two fold; firstly, it means that children will not need to attend wrap around provision with children beyond those in school and therefore mix so widely with children from other schools, if they choose not to. Secondly, many parents have asked about the provision of wrap around care in recent months so we feel there is now sufficient demand to provide this to our families. Staffing, cost and timings will be confirmed nearer the time.

## TRAVELLING TO SCHOOL

With more children returning to school, we wanted to remind you of the changes that have been made to public transport. We want all our children and families to feel comfortable and secure when you have to travel by public transport although if at all possible consider walking, cycling and the car as alternatives to public transport please.



You can help us to keep you and fellow passengers safe by staying alert, and following a few simple steps:

- Follow guidance on your journey, such as floor and wall markings, to help maintain distance.
- Travel outside the busy peak periods in the morning from 7am to 10am and in the afternoon from 4pm to 6pm, if you can.
- Wear a face covering in confined spaces including stations and vehicles – this can be a simple scarf or snood pulled over nose and mouth, or an over-the-counter mask. This will be compulsory from Monday 15 June.
- Consider walking, cycling and the car as an alternative to public transport, where possible.

You can find more information at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>



## ONLINE & HOME LEARNING



New home learning packs were added to class pages after May half term, for children at home. Staff in school will work through these with children who are in school. If any parents need a paper copy, please contact Mrs Pygall. We are, as always, more than happy to post these out to you.

For the DfE list of online resources, please see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-online-education-resources-for-home-education>

For guidance on supporting your child at home, please see

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

The guidance is designed to complement support and advice provided by school. Engaging with your child's learning will be helpful in their continued educational development.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

If children complete learning at home and they send it via email or Twitter to class teachers, staff will send praise and feedback to children.

## RECEPTION VISITS



We are keen to invite in Reception children, who will be joining us in September, for 1:1 meetings. This time can be used to speak directly to Miss Wilkinson in order to ensure children are supported before they begin school in September. If any current Nursery parents feel that their child would benefit from a visit, please do get in touch. Contact will, of course, be in line with the current guidance on protective measures.

## UNNY HALL WILD FLOWER COMPETITION - YEAR 4

Each summer term, Year 4 take part in our annual "Unny Hall Wildflower painting competition". Unny Hall was a teacher at ARFS many years ago who loved wild flowers. We are now on our third shield with the names of winners from the last 34 years, since 1986.

Mrs Armstrong will be sending instructions to our Year 4 children at home, via post, on how to take part. We will provide pre-cut watercolour paper and a SAE for Year 4 children to return their masterpieces by 13<sup>th</sup> July. These will be framed and judged later in the week. Children who are in school will complete this with staff. We can't wait to see their finished work!



## YEAR 4 TRANSITION

We have been looking at ways to include Year 4 before the end of the academic year if possible. We are hopeful that we will be able to welcome back Year 4 pupils in some form and would be grateful if parents could let us know their suggestions for this, via ParentMail. Thank you.

In lieu of our usual end of term traditions, we have booked Bigfoot Theatre Company to create a film called "Memories and Moving On" with our Year 4 children. They will work with small groups, on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July, then edit the material to create a film (which will hopefully be complete by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July). They also offer the option of creating DVDs for all of the children to keep at a cost of £2.50 per child, which we are hopeful will be a keepsake of their time at ARFS. For any children who are not able to attend on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July, there will be the opportunity to send a picture or message (we will discuss and coordinate this nearer the time) so that they all have the opportunity to be included.

## WORSHIP



In class worship at school, we have been learning about the Fruit of the Spirit. It has been lovely to see some of you at home thinking about this too!

You can look at YouTube to help explain this to children at home.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2bhXAR1gCU>

## CHILDREN IN SCHOOL

We have asked staff to wear long hair tied up, keep fingernails short and remove all jewellery to aid with effective handwashing and personal hygiene. We would be grateful if children could do the same please. Thank you.

In addition, we are asking staff and children to wear clean clothes for school every day, please. If you would prefer to leave jumpers and jackets at school, rather than washing these each night, you are welcome to do so. Thank you.

A reminder that children do not currently need water bottles in school as all classes have single use paper cones which children can use throughout the day to drink regularly. School is providing mid-morning fruit as a snack and packed lunches for all children in order to minimise the number of items that are taken home by children.

In response to feedback from fellow parents, we intend to increase the dialogue between children who are not attending school and teachers. Therefore, from Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June we will only be providing childcare during the morning (not education). Children who are already attending are still welcome to attend on Friday mornings at the same times but will be supervised by a member of support staff. It is likely they will watch a film or complete craft activities during this time. Attendance will not be compulsory and will not be subject to the usual school attendance procedures. Thank you for your understanding.

Updated DfE guidance also asks schools to “consider the potential risks inherent in broader social mixing outside school and communicate with pupils about not socialising with each other in groups outside school.”

Please continue to be mindful of social distancing outside school time so as not to put children and staff within the bubble at greater risk. A reminder that if anyone in the bubble displays symptoms, the child will be sent home all member of the bubble asked to test for COVID-19.

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario.

“Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.”

## SUMMER HOLIDAY “CATCH UP”

We have received several queries from parents asking about the government plans for children over the summer. We are yet to receive any guidance or information on this so have currently no information to share with you. We will, of course, keep you updated if the situation changes. Thank you for your patience.

We anticipate this will be organised at the local authority level rather than individual schools.



Headlice have been reported in school. **Please check your child's hair!**

A close-up photograph showing three adult female mites on a dark, fibrous substrate. The mites are light brown or tan in color, with a segmented body and several pairs of legs. They are positioned at different angles, with one in the upper right, one in the lower right, and one in the middle left. The background is a dense, dark, fibrous material, likely the substrate used in the experiment.

Routine hygiene inspections are not carried out in schools. If you would like further help or advice, please contact Esther Scorer (School Nurse) on 0191 282 3319.

Miss Orr is busy restocking class book corners and reading areas in school. She would be grateful of donations of old children's comics or magazines that you have finished with and which are in good condition. You can drop these off at the school office.

Thank you!



Nursery and Reception classes are seeking donations of white or wicker storage baskets and containers of varying sizes. If you have any suitable boxes or baskets at home, that you no longer need, they would be extremely grateful to receive them! They are also seeking balance bikes, scooters, trikes and bike helmets. Thank you



If anyone has any old adult t-shirts or shirts, that could be donated to school as painting shirts, we would be very grateful. Thank you.

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** – 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>



## OPERATION ENCOMPASS

You may be aware that cases of domestic abuse have risen significantly in recent weeks. Domestic Abuse cuts across all levels of society, across all ages, genders, cultures and races. Children exposed to domestic abuse are victims of child abuse. Operation Encompass was created to support children experiencing Domestic Abuse through timely information sharing between police and schools.

If you feel at risk, please speak up. You can speak to school staff directly, if you feel comfortable doing so, or you can contact

- **National Domestic Abuse Helpline** - 0808 2000 24724-hour
- **Women's Aid**- <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/information-support/>
- **Live Fear Free Helpline** - 0808 80 10 800 (24 hours a day)
- **Men's Advice Line** - 0808 801 0327 (weekdays 9am-5pm)



For general enquiries contact [info@operationencompass.org](mailto:info@operationencompass.org) or <https://www.operationencompass.org/>

We really hope that we will all be together again soon. In the meantime if you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to get in touch.

You are all in our thoughts and prayers,

*Mrs KE Massey*

Headteacher



**"Love to learn, learn to love"**

1 Corinthians 16:14

June 2020			
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Phase 4 wider opening to Nursery children who have been offered a place in school.		
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>CANCELLED</b> Year 4 Diocesan Leavers Service	10:45am	St George's Church, Cullercoats. Staff and children only due to space restrictions.
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>CANCELLED</b> Y4 visit to Vindolanda	All day	Children will need to bring or order a packed lunch please
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Phase 5 - wider opening disadvantaged pupils then Phase 6 – wider opening to Nursery, Reception and Year 1 children		Please email me directly if you would like your child's name to be added to the waiting list.
30 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>CANCELLED</b> Pyramid Concert (Gosforth Voices & Gosforth Band)	4:00pm Rehearsal 6:15pm at Trinity Church	
July 2020			
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	<b>CANCELLED</b> pm Y4 Skipping Event- GJA	TBC nearer the time	
	<b>CANCELLED</b> Nursery Stay & Play	2:00pm	Nursery parents invited
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	<b>CANCELLED</b> GST Y4 Netball at Grange	TBC	Selected children only
	<b>CANCELLED</b> GST Transition Day	TBC	
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Reports out <b>POSTPONED</b>		
	<b>CANCELLED</b> Y4 Bikeability all day	All day	All children in Year 4 need to bring a bike to school.
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>CANCELLED</b> PTEFA Summer Fair	TBC	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>CANCELLED</b> KS1/2 Sports Day	1:30pm	Parents Invited
	<b>CANCELLED</b> PE Week (Mon- Fri)	All week	
	<b>CANCELLED</b> Drop in for parents	3:30-5:00pm	No need to book an appointment
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>CANCELLED</b> Drop in for parents	3:30-5:00pm	No need to book an appointment
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>CANCELLED</b> Y2 skipping at GJA	9:30-12:30	
	<b>CANCELLED</b> pm EYFS Sports Day	1:30pm	Parents invited
	Full Governing Body Meeting	5:30pm	
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>CANCELLED</b> Y2 Team Games festival at Walker Dome	1:00-2:45pm	Children may be slightly late returning to school
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Reports out		
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Y4 Unny Hall painting entries must be returned to school please		
	Year 4 Memories and Moving On sessions - <b>TBC</b>		Half of Y4 in the morning and other half in the afternoon
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>CANCELLED</b> Year 4 Leavers' Service	9:00am	
	<b>CANCELLED</b> End of term picnic lunch for staff and children	Noon	Please pay via ParentMail
	<b>CANCELLED</b> Picnic in the Playground	3:15-4:15pm	
	School closes for Summer		
September 2020			
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	Staff Training Day	All day	
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	School reopens to pupils.	8:45am	
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Children's Cancer Run	TBC	
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> September- Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Y4 Residential	TBC	More info to follow



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1 Corinthians 16:14