



# March 2016



## ***This Half Term***

This is a short half term and an extremely busy one! Such a lot to squeeze into a short space of time! The children are busily engaged in their learning and enjoying their topics. Early Years are learning about Dinosaurs, Key Stage 1 about Florence Nightingale and Key Stage 2, the Ancient Egyptians. Key Stage 2 began their topic with a visit to the Egyptian Exhibition at the Great North Museum, Key Stage 1 welcomed 'That History Bloke' in role as a Doctor with his colleague Florence Nightingale. Early Years children are engrossed in their topic and have had some exciting experiences with dinosaur eggs in the garden!

## ***Nursery Applications***

Just a reminder that the closing date for Nursery applications is Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March. Application packs are available from the School Office or by email [admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk). If you know of anyone with pre-school age children who may be eligible for Nursery this year (children who will be 3 years old before 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016) please ask them to get in touch with us as soon as possible. ***Please spread the word!***

## ***World Book Day***



World Book Day was a great success. Lots of children (and staff) dressed in storybook character costumes made school a very lively and colourful place. We'll be putting some photos on the website for you to see. The PTFA Book Swap was also a great success - thank you to the parents who organized and ran it. And thank you to everyone who took part and made it such a success. 10 lucky children won a voucher each to spend at the forthcoming Book Fair.

## ***Quicksticks Tournament***

A group of Year 4 children took part in a Quicksticks Tournament at the Centre for Sport in February and were placed 3<sup>rd</sup> out of twenty schools competing. Congratulations to the team who displayed excellent sporting behaviour.

## ***Scouting and Guiding Uniform day***



It was lovely to see so many children dressed in their Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies and Cubs uniforms on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Thanks to your donations we raised £53 for Daft as a Brush! Mrs Bunn has collected the donations from all the schools in Gosforth Schools Trust that took part and is able to send a cheque for £268.65 to the charity. Gosforth Schools Trust has adopted Daft as a Brush as their chosen charity and all the schools will be seeking ways of raising funds over the course of the year.

## ***Shakespeare Week***

Next week is Shakespeare Week and Key Stage 2 will be involved in some activities to learn more about and celebrate the work of William Shakespeare. You may like to ask your children about what they have been learning. See what they can tell you!



### ***School Travel Plan***



As part of our commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles we are in the process of renewing our School Travel Plan and are seeking to encourage as many families as can do to walk, cycle or scoot to school. We have a cycle shelter for bike storage and are shortly to receive a scooter parking 'pod'. Parking around school is always an issue and the fewer cars there are using Christon Road, in the mornings and at hometime, the safer it will be for our children. In the past we have had an agreement with ASDA that parents can park in their car park in the before school and at hometime and walk the rest of the way. Please consider doing this to help alleviate the difficulties with parking. You are respectfully reminded that the school car park is for staff use only and there should be no parking along the lane leading to school or on the yellow road markings at the entrance.

### ***Defibrillators in Schools***

The Department for Education (DfE) recommends that schools seriously consider having a defibrillator (a portable piece of equipment that can save lives by restarting the heart) for emergency use. It is believed that cardiac arrest kills more people in the UK each year than fires and children as well as adults can be victims. We are working with a company called Blue Tiger to provide a defibrillator and training for our school. Schools raise funds which they give to Blue Tiger and in return they are provided with a defibrillator and staff training. With the theme of healthy hearts in mind we are organizing a sponsored 'Glowercise' - the children will take part in 20 minutes of Zumba type exercise in the dark with glow sticks and disco lights! The event, led by Mrs Gray, will take place on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March and we ask you to look out for sponsor forms coming out later this week. Please seek sponsorship from friends and family and see if we can raise a substantial sum towards a defibrillator. If anyone has a disco ball they could lend us for the day, please let us know. Last time we did this we had lots and it made for a great atmosphere in the hall!



### ***Active Newcastle***

Why not join Active Newcastle to help celebrate their Sport Relief Festival on Saturday 12 March in Leazes Park (from 11am - 3pm)? There will be several activities taking place - including cycling, walking and running, and finally the 'Odd Mile'! For the latter, travel a mile in the most inventive way you can - whether it's via pogo stick, panto horse, conga line, hula hoop - or anything else you can dream up! Full details, timings and registration can be found online. In addition, throughout the day, you'll be able to enjoy a range of sporting activities and entertainment, such as a climbing wall, crazy golf, football target inflatables, and band and dance performances from community clubs. For more information, contact Duncan O'Farrell on 0191 278 3331 or visit [www.activenewcastle.co.uk](http://www.activenewcastle.co.uk).

### ***School Eucharist Service***

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March Revd Tom Birch (Curate at St Nicholas Church) and Revd Steve Dixon (Curate at All Saints Church) will lead a Eucharist Service in school at 2.00pm. Children from Key Stages 1 and 2 will attend the Service and parents and friends are invited to join with us.

### ***Parent Helpers***

Several parents have asked how they can help out in school. We value very much the support that additional adults can give and make the following suggestions as to activities you may like to become involved in:

- sticking work into children's books
- reading with small groups or individuals
- repairing library and reading books
- supporting small group work in the classroom

If you are able to commit to a regular "slot" and have DBS clearance through school we'd love to welcome you. Please talk to your child's class teacher. From time to time there are children who do not respond well to having their parent in the classroom and if this is the case we reserve the right to ask you to work elsewhere in the school.

### ***Easter Holiday***

School closes at 3.15pm on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March and reopens on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April.  
Dinner money for the half term will be £66 (£10 per week). Please pay on a Monday only,

### ***Dates for Your Diary***

Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Mar -       Nursery 2016 Applications closing date

Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Mar -       Gosforth Voices Tour

Mon 21<sup>st</sup> to Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> Mar - Book Fair 3.15 to 3.45 each day

Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar-       Sponsored 'Glowercise'

Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar-       2pm Eucharist Service in school

Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> Mar -       Nursery Offers posted

Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> Mar     -   School Closes for Easter Holiday - reopens Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April

ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE CHURCH of ENGLAND (VA) FIRST SCHOOL



2015 – 2016

# March Newsletter

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## *Disclaimer*

From time to time we send out leaflets and letters signposting parents to activities and organisations in the local area. These are purely for information and not necessarily endorsed by the school. The school cannot accept any responsibility for such activities.