



December 2023

Newsletter 8 – 22.12.23

SECTION 1: ATTENDANCE

HEALTHIER TOGETHER

The Healthier Together website (<https://www.nenc-healthiertogether.nhs.uk>) provides accurate and trusted healthcare advice for parents/carers, young people and professionals in the North East and North Cumbria. You can find parental advice on illnesses, allergies, vaccines, child development as well as many other topics. You can also download the Healthier Together app.

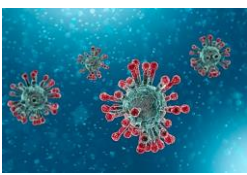
The Healthier Together website also includes the Little Orange Book which provides advice for babies and children when they are poorly.



ILLNESS

If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, it is recommended they remain absent for 48 hours after the last incidence in accordance with the Department of Health’s guidelines. In any other circumstance, please continue to advise school on a daily basis of the reason for continued absence. The Little Orange Book is on our website to support parents to make informed decisions about keeping children off school if they are unwell.

<https://nenc-northtyneside.icb.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Little-Orange-Book-NT-version-v2.pdf>



COVID

Government guidance no longer advises that we test for covid, even if we are symptomatic. In line with the latest guidance on school attendance, we would expect children to come to school with general cold symptoms such as a mild cough, runny nose or sore throat but children should not come to school with a temperature of 38 degrees or above. Further guidance can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/covid-19/covid-19-symptoms-and-what-to-do/>

WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

- Good attendance at school is essential for children to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing and wider life chances.
- Nurseries and First Schools play a vital role in embedding good attendance habits.
- Even at First School, children with the highest attainment have higher rates of attendance.
- National data shows us that children not meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths had an overall absence rate of 4.7% (so their overall attendance was 95.3%).
- The overall absence rate of children not meeting the expected standard was higher than among those meeting the higher standard (4.7% compared to 2.7%).
- For the most vulnerable pupils, regular attendance is also an important protective factor and the best opportunity for needs to be identified and support provided.

- Research has shown there are clear links between regular absence from school and harm for children (90% of young offenders have been persistently absent as young children) and serious violence (83% of knife possession offenders had been persistently absent for at least one year).



Improving school attendance is everyone's business. Please support us in promoting the benefits of good attendance with your child - not only for their education but, also, to support their wellbeing and future life chances. Thank you.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

| | Whole School Attendance (excluding Nursery) | Highest class attendance! | Second place | Third place |
|-------------|--|---------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Wb 11.12.23 | 95% | Year 4 (99%) | Year 2 (98%) | Nursery (95%) |
| Wb 18.12.23 | 95% | Year 1 (99%) | Year 2 (97%) | Year 4 (96%) |

Our school target for attendance is 97%.



Please let Mrs Coates know, via ParentMail, if your child will be absent by 9:00am at the latest. Thank you.

If your child is not in school when the register closes at 9.15am (even if this is for a medical or dental appointment), they are marked as absent for the whole morning session. Therefore, we would encourage parents to make medical appointments outside school time, wherever possible please. Thank you.

If you are experiencing any difficulties and need support with your child's attendance, please contact school as soon as possible. Mrs Gurkin can visit you at home or meet you in school to offer support and advice.

We will now be taking appropriate legal action for children who are deemed persistent absentees (under 90% attendance). Please see the attendance policy on our school website for further information.



MINUTES MISSED

During this fortnight, 185 (3 hours and 5 minutes) minutes of learning time have been missed in school due to lateness. Please try to arrive on time at school, between 8:35am – 8:45am. Thank you.

PUPIL ABSENCES

| | Whole School absence (excluding Nursery) | Absence caused by holidays | Other absences |
|-------------|---|----------------------------|----------------|
| Wb 11.12.23 | 5% | 2% | 3% |
| Wb 18.12.23 | 5% | 1% | 4% |

As you know, there is no entitlement in law to time off in term time. Children who are absent from school fall behind in their learning, they miss school events and many find it difficult to catch up. In addition, school staff have to divert their attention away from other children in order to support those that have fallen behind due to a holiday related absence.

For this reason, any request for leave of absence due to holidays in term time will not be authorised. In the case of all unauthorised leave of absences, incurring 8 or more unauthorised sessions (4 days), an application for a Fixed Penalty Notice will be made to the Local Authority.

SECTION 2: SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS!



SCHOOL VALUES

As you know, our school values are love and determination, based on the Bible passage: Be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love (1 Corinthians 16:13-14). The following children have been nominated by staff and/or peers for showing these values in school. Well done everyone!

Let's Celebrate!

| | Nursery | Reception | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| Demonstrating Love | Gabby Thomas | Rosa Oliver B | Rohan Sacha | Phoebe Millie | Bella Nialah | Cheuk Yin Darcey |
| Demonstrating Determination | Christopher Alistar | Penny Rudi | Fatima Dipti | Hayden Samuel | Thomas Leo | Emma Zain |

TIMES TABLE ROCKSTARS

By the end of Year 4 children are expected to know all their multiplication tables up to 12 x 12 and Year 4 children undertake their statutory Multiplication Tables Check in the summer term.



The following children have either earned a new TTRS title or engaged highly with TTRS during the last fortnight. Well done everyone!

| | Children Need to Learn | Highest accuracy this fortnight | Highest engagement this fortnight | Average Daily Minutes this fortnight |
|---|--|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Year 2 | x 2, x 5, x 10 (and corresponding division facts) | Henry Thanuja Max Cr | Henry Thanuja Max Cr | 2 |
| Year 3 | x 2, x 5, x 10, x 3, x 4, x 8 (and corresponding division facts) | Harry Lucas Lydia | Harry Lucas Thomas | 1 |
| Year 4 | All tables to 12 x 12 (and corresponding division facts) | Zain Zidan Alfie | Zain Zidan Alfie | 2 |
| Current rank of ARFS among nearby schools | | 11 | Mean studio speed (seconds per question) | 4.04 |

HANDWRITING HEROES

As a school, we continue to have a real drive in school to improve handwriting, presentation of work and spelling. Each week, class teachers will choose someone who has worked hard to improve their presentation or who consistently demonstrates exemplary standards of presentation. Well done and thank you to the following children:



| Reception | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Urwah | Jonah | Hadin | Harry | Mabel |

SECTION 3: SOCIAL ACTION

WORSHIP COUNCIL

Our Worship Council have been working hard to plan tomorrow's carol service at St Nicholas' church. Please join us if you're able to. We aim to leave school at 1:00pm. The service will begin at 1:30pm and children can go home straight from the service at 2:15pm, if parents/carers are in attendance.



We would love Nursery and Reception children to join us too – parents and carers will need to collect children from the main entrance at school, at 1:00pm, to bring them along. Thank you.



CHARITABLE GIVING

Thank you to all those who contributed to our Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. We raised £69.

AMAZON WISHLIST FOR CARE LEAVERS

If you are considering how you might be able to help at Christmas, a gift to a care leaver would be hugely appreciated.



Newcastle City Council are asking residents and businesses to help children and young people who have been in care have the "Best Christmas Ever". We know these children and young people can often find Christmas a difficult time, particularly with the additional challenges caused by the Cost-of-Living crisis. The ambition is for every Newcastle Care Leaver to wake up to a wrapped gift on Christmas morning. This means providing gifts for up to 300 young people.

For those who feel able to, we are inviting families to buy items from the online Amazon Wishlist for Care Leavers. Items picked by the young people include hats & gloves, pyjamas & slippers, Christmas gift sets and fitness watches. If you would like to buy an item from the Wishlist, it will be delivered directly to a council building and gifted to young people in time for Christmas. You can find the Wishlist for Care Leavers [here](#). Please select VI Christmas Collection address for delivery. Thank you!

SECTION 4: SCHOOL NEWS!

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Thank you to everyone who has supported us with our festive events over the last couple of weeks. I'm sure you will agree that the Nativities were fantastic – I am really grateful to the staff for organising these with their classes. It is no mean feat to achieve this at such a busy time of year when there are lots of pupil absences and everyone is so tired! Thank you to all the children who attended evening performances in particular – as a working parent, I know how valuable it is to be able to offer this to our families.



Hopefully, your children have told you about our special visitor to school on Monday for our "Family Day"! Children enjoyed board games, films, crafts and other festive activities. Sean Elliot, local photographer, dropped in to take pictures of individual children on Monday which can be purchased at Church tomorrow, using a QR code to make an online payment of £5.00 per image. Alternatively, you can bring £5.00 in cash to pay. Please bring the correct money as there will be no option to give change! Thank you.

Thank you also to everyone who made a donation towards the Christmas parties, Christmas hampers and all the other events in school. We really could not do it without you!

Please remember to join us for our Christmas Carol Service, tomorrow, at St Nicholas' Church (opposite South Gosforth Metro Station).

We hope you all have a safe and restful Christmas break and have an opportunity to recharge. We look forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday 8th January 2024.

Merry Christmas!

From Mrs Massey & all the staff at ARFS xx



FOOD HAMPERS

We wanted to let you all know there are a small number of food hampers, funded by HAF, that can be delivered to families in January 2024 (2nd - 5th Jan). Each box will contain enough dried food ingredients to feed a family of four for five days. Boxes nutrition content will be comparable to school meals and the boxes will also have recipe cards. If there are any families who are in receipt of Free School Meals, that would benefit from additional food at this time, please let Mrs Coates know. This will be treated in the strictest confidence.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Yesterday, we had a small number of children's Christmas gifts donated to school. If you are in need of anything for your child, please let Mrs Coates know. This will be treated in the strictest confidence. Gifts will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.



PTFA

Huge thanks to our PTFA for the fabulous festive events that they have put on over the last few weeks. The festive Film Night is a favourite with staff and the disco was incredibly well attended! They have also done a wonderful job of organising refreshments for nativities as well as hampers for the raffle. Thank you to all involved!

CHURCH LINKS

Please remember to come along to the Carol Service at St Nicholas' at 1:30pm tomorrow (opposite South Gosforth Metro station).



Thank you to Mrs Singh and the Year 4 children who were involved in creating our ARFS angel for All Saints' Festival of Angels.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Over the last fortnight, we have focussed on the meaning behind some festive traditions and symbols. We have continued to think about Advent as a time of preparation, the Nativity story as well as thinking about Saint Nicholas'.



RECEPTION

In January, children in Reception will be paired up with a Year 4 "buddy" who will take them for lunch, helping them to carry their tray and use their cutlery correctly, and then take them out to play on the big yard with the children in Years 1 - 4. I know our Reception children are keen to play with the older children and Year 4 will be fantastic buddies for their friends in Reception, showing love through the care they give.

CLUBS

We will be sending out details, in the first week back, regarding Spring 1 clubs for children in Reception – Year 4. Please keep your eyes peeled!



All stars will restart on Tuesday 16th January. This is a lunchtime club, run by parents. To add your child's name to the group, please email susan_abraham@hotmail.co.uk.



wonde

FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS

Wonde vouchers will be issued on 23.12.23 for families with children in receipt of income based free school meals.

If you think you may be entitled to free school meals, you can check your eligibility at <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/help-school-and-learning-costs/apply-free-school-meals>

CONGRATULATIONS

A belated congratulations to Miss Halliday who celebrated her, rather delayed, graduation in English Language & History. We are really proud of her and we're delighted she got to enjoy her special day at last!



ONLINE SAFETY



No doubt, a lot of children will get new technology for Christmas so this is an ideal time to remind parents about online safety. GEM Education have produced a short video to support parents to set up parental controls on new devices (which can set time limits, block spending, inappropriate content and contact among other features). The video is available to stream from YouTube: <https://youtu.be/5hJehQen6tM>

The key resource cited in the video is the website: internetmatters.org - attached is the latest parent's guide which lists this website and Little Digital Helps Toolkit on page 2.



WRAPAROUND BOOKINGS

Bookings for Wraparound Care are managed by Child Care Bookings for Schools. This will make managing and making bookings far easier for parents and carers. You can still pay using either a debit/credit card or using childcare vouchers.

The URL to access the booking system is <https://archbishop-runcie.cbfs.uk/>
Contact email address: archbishopruncie@childcarebookingsforschools.co.uk
Contact phone number: 01444 523335



Childcare Bookings for Schools

SAFEGUARDING

Mrs Massey, Mrs Ravel, Mrs Crozier and Mrs Francis are our school's Designated Safeguarding Leaders (DSL). Miss Wakefield is DSL for Wraparound care. 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>

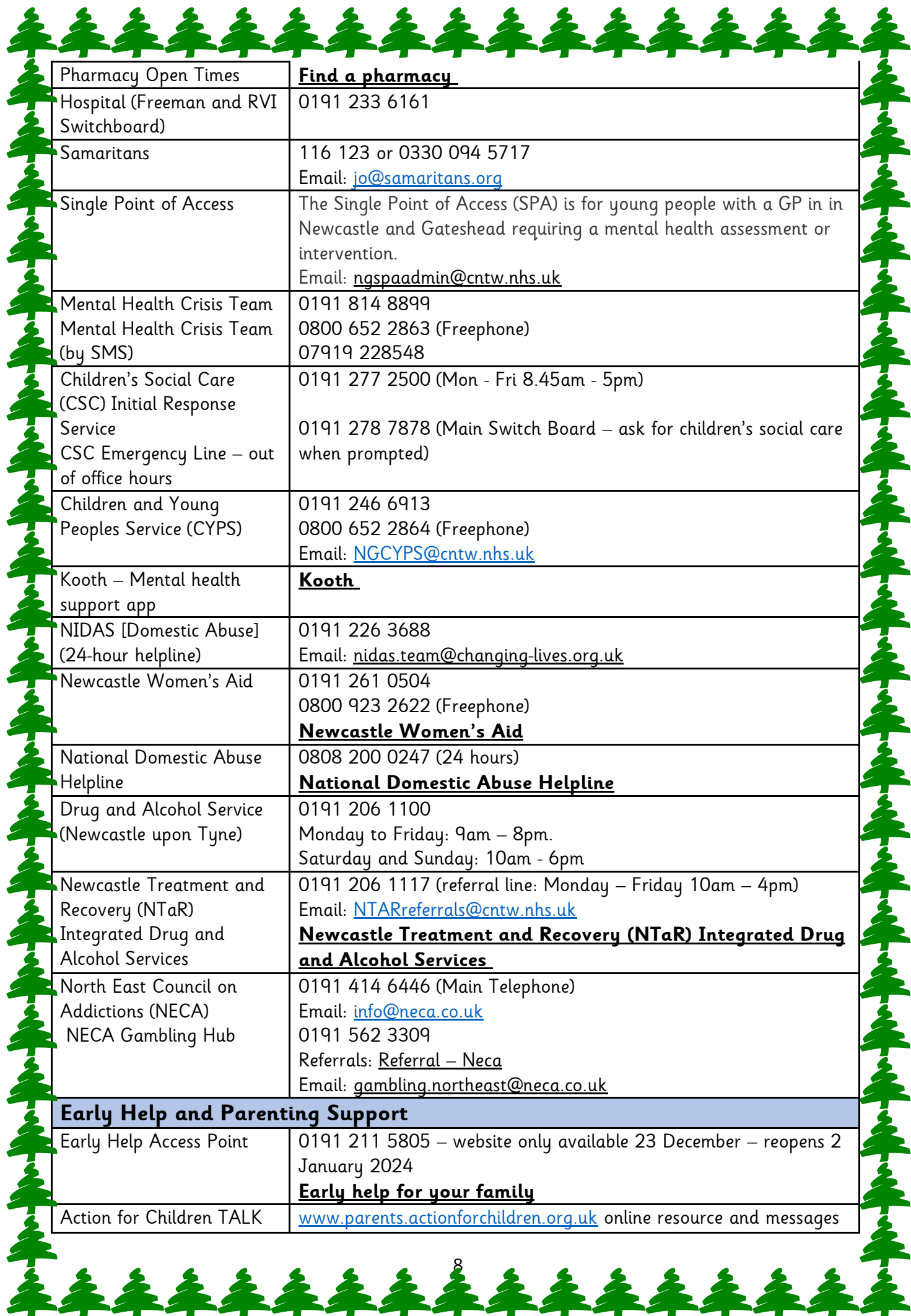
For more information, you can read our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy on our school website.

With my very best wishes,
Kate Massey
Headteacher

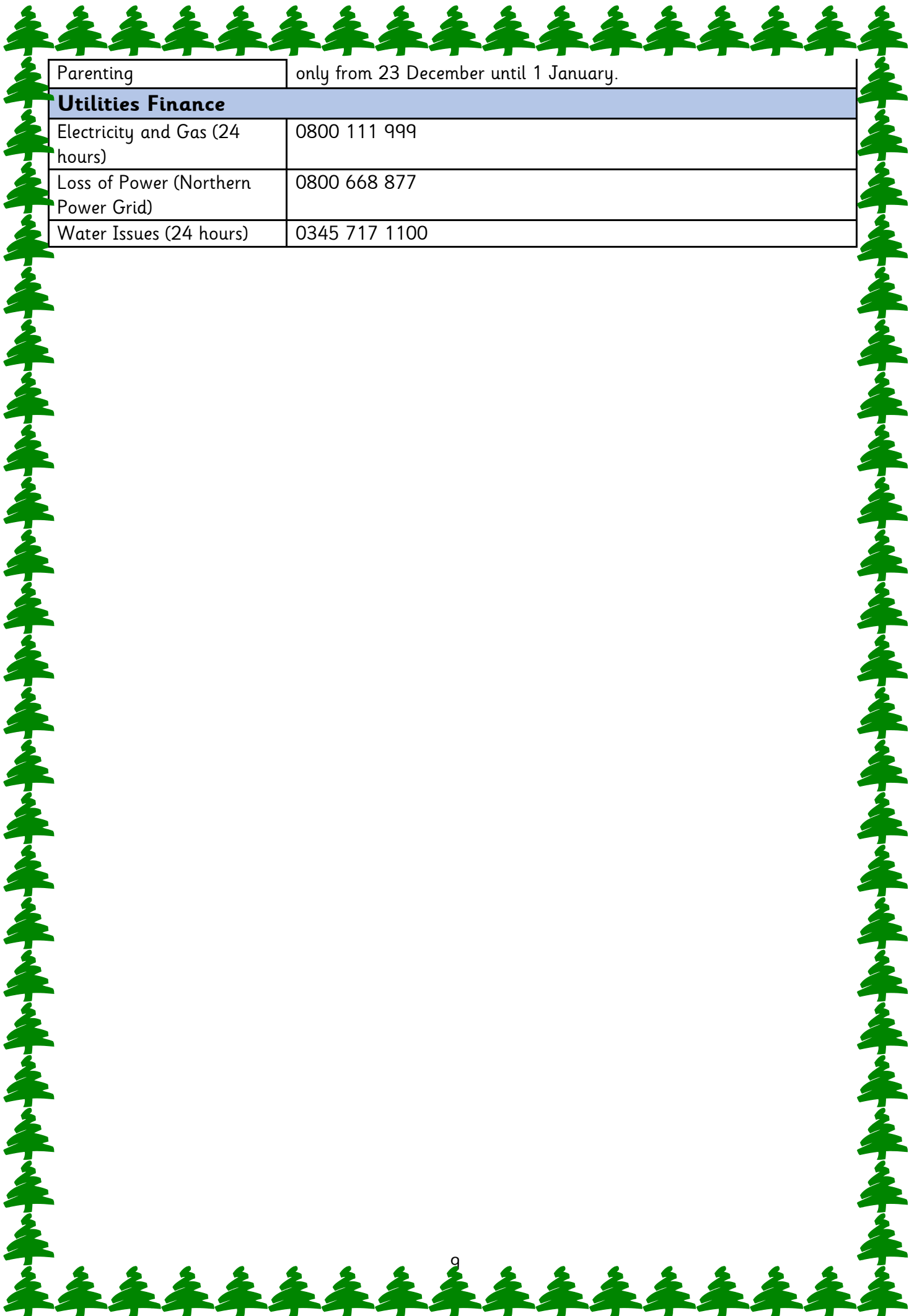
Be courageous; be strong.
Do everything in love.
1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Useful Contacts Christmas 2023

| Children & Families Newcastle | |
|--|---|
| North: Fawdon Family Hub, Cairns Way, Fawdon, NE3 2SN - 0191 2115773 Closed from 4pm on 22 December 2023, reopen 2 January 2024. | |
| Holiday Activities and Food | <u>Newcastle Best Holiday Ever</u> |
| Childcare Choices | For more information around childcare support, free childcare eligibility, and tax-free childcare <u>Childcare Choices</u> |
| Information Now | <u>Christmas opening times page</u> for more information about what's available. |
| Early Years Sector Support Team | <u>EarlyYears@newcastle.gov.uk</u> 0191 2774674, Closed from 4pm on 22 December 2023 – 8am on 2 January 2024. |
| Food Supplies Warm Spaces | |
| Foodbanks, food parcels and free meals in Newcastle | Most services will be closed on the bank holidays. The dates for 2023 to 2024 are: Christmas Day Monday 25 December Boxing Day Tuesday 26 December New Year's Day Monday 1 January 2024 Some services may also be closed on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve. Please contact the service to make sure they are open. <u>Food banks and free emergency food in Newcastle</u> |
| Wellbeing Hubs | 0191 200 4000 <u>Wellbeing Hubs information and Directory</u> |
| Cost of living Support | <u>Cost of living support Newcastle City Council</u> |
| Emergency Services / Health Support / Domestic Abuse | |
| Police non-emergency | 101 or 0166 187 2555 |
| Police non-emergency (by SMS) | 07786 200814 |
| Ponteland Road Medical Centre (walk-in) | 0191 271 9030 |
| NHS Direct | 111 |



| | |
|--|---|
| Pharmacy Open Times | <u>Find a pharmacy</u> |
| Hospital (Freeman and RVI Switchboard) | 0191 233 6161 |
| Samaritans | 116 123 or 0330 094 5717 Email: jo@samaritans.org |
| Single Point of Access | The Single Point of Access (SPA) is for young people with a GP in in Newcastle and Gateshead requiring a mental health assessment or intervention. Email: ngspaadmin@cntw.nhs.uk |
| Mental Health Crisis Team | 0191 814 8899 |
| Mental Health Crisis Team (by SMS) | 0800 652 2863 (Freephone) 07919 228548 |
| Children's Social Care (CSC) Initial Response Service | 0191 277 2500 (Mon - Fri 8.45am - 5pm) |
| CSC Emergency Line – out of office hours | 0191 278 7878 (Main Switch Board – ask for children's social care when prompted) |
| Children and Young Peoples Service (CYPS) | 0191 246 6913 0800 652 2864 (Freephone) Email: NGCYPS@cntw.nhs.uk |
| Kooth – Mental health support app | <u>Kooth</u> |
| NIDAS [Domestic Abuse] (24-hour helpline) | 0191 226 3688 Email: nidas.team@changing-lives.org.uk |
| Newcastle Women's Aid | 0191 261 0504 0800 923 2622 (Freephone) <u>Newcastle Women's Aid</u> |
| National Domestic Abuse Helpline | 0808 200 0247 (24 hours) <u>National Domestic Abuse Helpline</u> |
| Drug and Alcohol Service (Newcastle upon Tyne) | 0191 206 1100 Monday to Friday: 9am – 8pm. Saturday and Sunday: 10am - 6pm |
| Newcastle Treatment and Recovery (NTaR) Integrated Drug and Alcohol Services | 0191 206 1117 (referral line: Monday – Friday 10am – 4pm) Email: NTAReferrals@cntw.nhs.uk <u>Newcastle Treatment and Recovery (NTaR) Integrated Drug and Alcohol Services</u> |
| North East Council on Addictions (NECA) NECA Gambling Hub | 0191 414 6446 (Main Telephone) Email: info@neca.co.uk 0191 562 3309 Referrals: Referral – Neca Email: gambling.northeast@neca.co.uk |
| Early Help and Parenting Support | |
| Early Help Access Point | 0191 211 5805 – website only available 23 December – reopens 2 January 2024 <u>Early help for your family</u> |
| Action for Children TALK | www.parents.actionforchildren.org.uk online resource and messages |



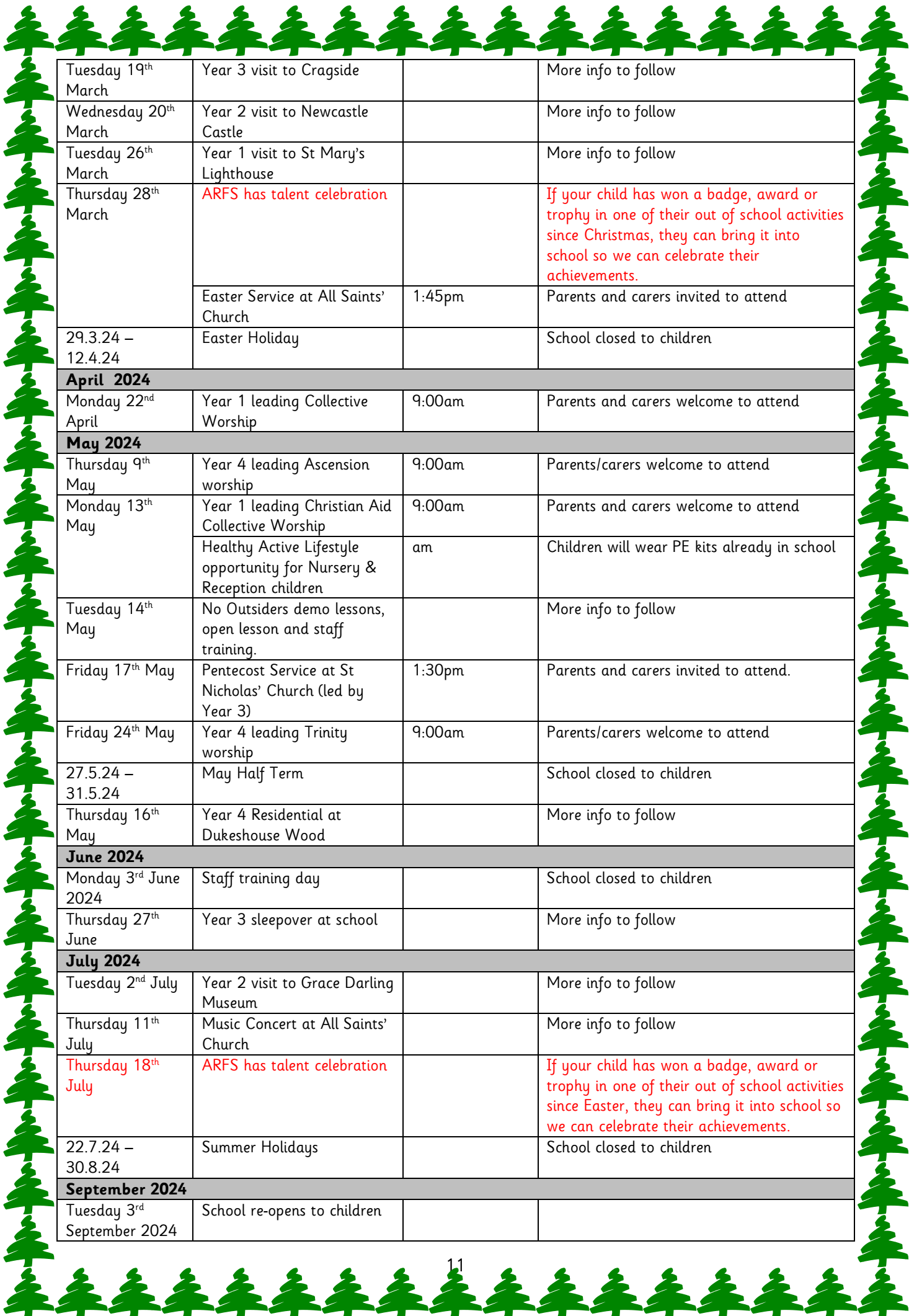
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|-------------------------------------|--|
| Parenting | only from 23 December until 1 January. |
| Utilities Finance | |
| Electricity and Gas (24 hours) | 0800 111 999 |
| Loss of Power (Northern Power Grid) | 0800 668 877 |
| Water Issues (24 hours) | 0345 717 1100 |



DIARY DATES

New dates are in red, for your information

| December 2023 | | | |
|--|--|-------------|--|
| Friday 22 nd December | Year 1 – 4 Carol Service at St Nicholas' (South Gosforth) | 1:30pm | |
| | Children invited to wear something festive to school! | | No PE today due to Carol Service |
| Sunday 24 th December | Christmas Eve Service at Newcastle Cathedral | 6:00pm | |
| 22.12.23 – 5.1.24 | Christmas Holiday | | School closed |
| January 2024 | | | |
| Monday 8 th January | School reopens | 8:35am | |
| Thursday 11 th January | Year 2 leading Collective Worship | 9:00am | Parents/carers welcome to attend |
| Wednesday 24 th January | The Children's Society Christingle Service at Newcastle Cathedral (Year 4 children only) | 1:30-2:30pm | |
| February 2024 | | | |
| Friday 2 nd February | Year 3 leading Candlemas worship | 9:00am | Parents/carers welcome to attend |
| 19.2.24 – 23.2.24 | February Half Term | | School closed to children |
| Monday 12 th February | Reception visit to Gibside | | More info to follow |
| Tuesday 13 th February | Year 4 Leading Shrove Tuesday Collective Worship | 9:00am | Parents/carers welcome to attend |
| Wednesday 14 th February | Year 1 Leading Collective Worship | 9:00am | Parents/carers welcome to attend |
| Thursday 15 th February | Year 3 leading Ash Wednesday Collective Worship | 9:00am | Parents/carers welcome to attend |
| March 2024 | | | |
| Friday 8 th March | Year 1 & Year 2 Mothering Sunday Service | 9:00am | Parents/carers welcome to attend. |
| | Year 3 & Year 4 Mothering Sunday Service | 2:45pm | Parents/carers welcome to attend. |
| Thursday 14 th March | Healthy Active Lifestyle opportunity for Year 1 & Year 2 (Multiskills) | am | Children should arrive at school in PE kit please. |

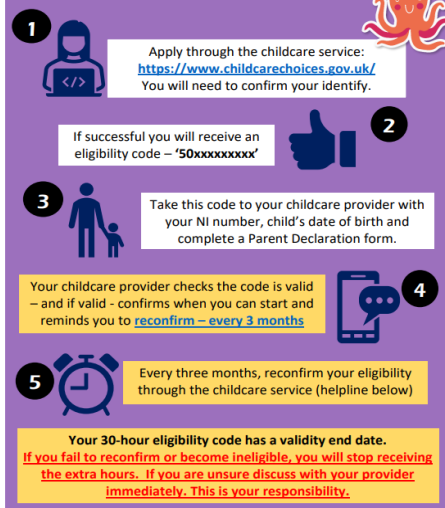







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|---|---|--------|--|
| Tuesday 19 th March | Year 3 visit to Cragside | | More info to follow |
| Wednesday 20 th March | Year 2 visit to Newcastle Castle | | More info to follow |
| Tuesday 26 th March | Year 1 visit to St Mary's Lighthouse | | More info to follow |
| Thursday 28 th March | ARFS has talent celebration | | If your child has won a badge, award or trophy in one of their out of school activities since Christmas, they can bring it into school so we can celebrate their achievements. |
| | Easter Service at All Saints' Church | 1:45pm | Parents and carers invited to attend |
| 29.3.24 – 12.4.24 | Easter Holiday | | School closed to children |
| April 2024 | | | |
| Monday 22 nd April | Year 1 leading Collective Worship | 9:00am | Parents and carers welcome to attend |
| May 2024 | | | |
| Thursday 9 th May | Year 4 leading Ascension worship | 9:00am | Parents/carers welcome to attend |
| Monday 13 th May | Year 1 leading Christian Aid Collective Worship | 9:00am | Parents and carers welcome to attend |
| | Healthy Active Lifestyle opportunity for Nursery & Reception children | am | Children will wear PE kits already in school |
| Tuesday 14 th May | No Outsiders demo lessons, open lesson and staff training. | | More info to follow |
| Friday 17 th May | Pentecost Service at St Nicholas' Church (led by Year 3) | 1:30pm | Parents and carers invited to attend. |
| Friday 24 th May | Year 4 leading Trinity worship | 9:00am | Parents/carers welcome to attend |
| 27.5.24 – 31.5.24 | May Half Term | | School closed to children |
| Thursday 16 th May | Year 4 Residential at Dukeshouse Wood | | More info to follow |
| June 2024 | | | |
| Monday 3 rd June 2024 | Staff training day | | School closed to children |
| Thursday 27 th June | Year 3 sleepover at school | | More info to follow |
| July 2024 | | | |
| Tuesday 2 nd July | Year 2 visit to Grace Darling Museum | | More info to follow |
| Thursday 11 th July | Music Concert at All Saints' Church | | More info to follow |
| Thursday 18 th July | ARFS has talent celebration | | If your child has won a badge, award or trophy in one of their out of school activities since Easter, they can bring it into school so we can celebrate their achievements. |
| 22.7.24 – 30.8.24 | Summer Holidays | | School closed to children |
| September 2024 | | | |
| Tuesday 3 rd September 2024 | School re-opens to children | | |

Be courageous; be strong.
Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Childcare Applying for 30 hours free childcare
Choices through the childcare service



-  Apply through the childcare service: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>
You will need to confirm your identity.
-  If successful you will receive an eligibility code – '50xxxxxxxx'
-  Take this code to your childcare provider with your NI number, child's date of birth and complete a Parent Declaration form.
-  Your childcare provider checks the code is valid – and if valid – confirms when you can start and reminds you to **reconfirm – every 3 months**
-  Every three months, reconfirm your eligibility through the childcare service (helpline below)

Your 30-hour eligibility code has a validity end date.
If you fail to reconfirm or become ineligible, you will stop receiving the extra hours. If you are unsure discuss with your provider immediately. This is your responsibility.

For support call Customer Interaction
Centre on **0300 123 4097**

