



September 2020

Newsletter 5 – 2.10.20

COVID-19 UPDATES

Please do not send your child(ren) into school if you, or other members of your household, are awaiting coronavirus test results. Thank you.



In response to the rapid increase in Covid-19 cases in Newcastle and the changes in legislation, parents are asked to follow the law and guidance on mixing households and social distancing when coming to and from school please.

Cases of Covid infection have more than doubled in our city in the last week and we are seeing the effects in many local schools. We do not want to be alarmist and we are still convinced that the risk to our children at their age is very low, however, every one of us needs to play our role in helping to bring cases down and ensuring that there are not further lockdowns affecting our children.

We are making a direct appeal to all of you to support the measures we are taking to keep our community safe.

5 Things you can do to help us

- **Wear a mask:** we actively encourage as many parents and carers as are able, to wear a mask in and around the school site. Please do not approach school staff. Thank you.
- **Do not arrive, gather in or leave the school site in mixed households.** Legislation and guidance asks that households do not mix. The only exception to this is where childcare arrangements have been made.
- **Maintain social distancing.** Parents should not meet up to talk on the yard and everyone should keep a 2 metres distance from others. We understand this can be difficult at times on the yard and ask everyone to consider where they are standing. Thank you.
- **Keep tightly to pick up and drop off times.** Please, leave the site straight after dropping off do not wait for another parent.
- **Keep your children with you** on the school grounds and when entering or leaving school. Do not let them run ahead. Thank you.
- **And number 6!** Please pass these messages on to anyone else picking up your children and to as many of our community as you are able.

We know this is a very challenging time for everyone and wish we did not have to make this kind of plea. We can't wait until all of our families are able to mix and talk on the school yard. We believe that the more we follow the guidance above, the quicker that will be. Thank you for your support.

HOME LEARNING IN THE EVENT OF CLOSURE

A number of local schools have had to send groups or classes of children home due to a small number of positive Covid-19 tests among staff or pupils. We know that there is a chance that there will be positive cases among our school community in the months ahead and we are planning to ensure that we are able to try to limit the impact on the education and lives of our children and families.



Last week, we sent you out the advice sheet on the procedures to follow if you or your child have any symptoms or if you have close contact with anyone who has Covid-19. A copy is on the school website. Please ensure you read it carefully and ask if you have any questions.

Thank you everyone who has followed the guidance so closely and carefully since the start of term. We have asked some of you to pick up your child(ren) during the school day due to your child being symptomatic. Fortunately, so far all of our children have been able to return to school very quickly. You will appreciate that we must take this cautious approach in order to keep our community safe. Thank you for your understanding.

What happens if there is a confirmed case in school?

If a child or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 they and everyone in their household will be asked self-isolate. We will work closely with our Local Authority and Public Health to identify any children or adults who may have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive. Following their advice, the school will make careful decisions on which children will be asked to self-isolate. The rest of households do not need to isolate unless symptoms develop.

How will we be informed if there is a positive case in school?

We will contact directly any parents of children who are judged to have been close contacts of a confirmed case. Only they will be asked to self-isolate for 14 days, all other children should attend as normal. We have seen in some other schools how quickly rumours and misinformation can spread on social media. We will always be open and direct with you at home and ask that you raise any questions or concerns directly with us and rely on information that comes direct from the school. Thank you.

What happens if staff at school have to self-isolate?

This is a growing problem in all of our schools and many other workplaces. On most occasions, staff are having to wait for test results before returning to work and on some occasions are asked to self-isolate if they have been in close contact with a confirmed case. We will do all we can to keep every class open using every staffing resource we have. However, on rare occasions, if we cannot safely teach a class a partial closure may be necessary.

How will you support my child's education if they are self-isolating?

If a few children in a class are self-isolating, the class teacher will add work to their Tapestry accounts. We will be uploading some resources and activities that the children would have been covering in school and will direct you to the relevant area of **White Rose Maths** and resources on **Oak National Academy**, our national online teaching resource. Teachers will try to feedback on work uploaded to Tapestry, but please be aware that our staff will be juggling teaching the whole class as well as supporting a few at home, so please be patient with us! If your child is in school, we will not add work to their Tapestry account.

How will you support my child's education if the whole class or a 'bubble' are self-isolating?

In this scenario, it is likely that the class teacher will be self-isolating and will upload daily tasks on to Tapestry. The class teachers will upload resources to guide children through the day.

How can I ensure my child does a full day of learning if I am working from home or caring for a younger sibling?

We know that throughout lockdown this has been a real challenge for many of our parents. We also know you will do the best you can in the time you have and we will understand that on some days, children might not be able to complete every task or all finish at the same time. Please don't worry – all we ask is that you do your best!

How do I engage with online learning if I don't have devices or internet access at home?

It can be very hard especially if there are several children and a parent at home all sharing one tablet/laptop or phone to access work. We have managed to get a limited number of laptops to parents who were struggling at home and we will be seeking to get hold of some more if we can through local and national schemes.

If you find it impossible to access any of our home learning please phone our **Family Support Officer Dan Tolan** or the school directly and speak to Mr Booth.

Will my child get Free School Meals if they are self-isolating?

If you are registered for free school meals and your child is off school for 14 days or longer, the school will aim to get meals to your child (as we did at the start of the lockdown) if you have contacted the school to arrange this. There are no government vouchers at this time, so we will be using our school kitchen to produce packed lunch parcels. As families may be self-isolating, we will not have the pickup service that we had in March and April, but will try to drop the meals off at people's houses. Please contact school to arrange this.

What do I need to do now?

- Make sure you are registered for Tapestry and have activated your account
- Ensure you are registered for ParentMail and receive all of our communications
- If you or any of the family have any symptoms, follow the guidance and contact school.
- **Keep following national guidance to keep all of our community safe and our schools open!**

Thank you for all of your support and please talk to us if you have any concerns or questions.

Next week, we will be testing our system and sending a message to everyone and will ask you all to respond. Thank you!



HARVEST

Today we have celebrated Harvest. Thank you to everyone who made a donation for the People's Kitchen today. We have raised £266.70 which is amazing for our small school! Thank you all for your generosity!



FLU IMMUNISATIONS

The deadline for any remaining Flu Immunisations forms to be returned to school is Monday 5th October.

SUPPORT

Many of you will be aware of a serious incident that occurred at Gosforth Park First School, last Friday. We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to the family, friends, staff and pupils at this difficult time.

We acknowledge that families in our school community may have been affected by this incident. If any parent has any particular concerns, or your child needs additional support, please speak to me or your child's class teacher.



As you know, we work closely with all the schools in Gosforth Schools Trust and we will be providing support to Gosforth Park First School. Mrs Francis and Mr Booth have been supporting at Gosforth Park this week. They will be back towards the end of next week. Thank you for your understanding and prayers at this time.

We will, in due course, be fund raising for the Air Ambulance but, in the meantime, if you wish to donate you can do so directly or via the Facebook fundraising page. Thank you.

BREAKFAST CLUB & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Bookings for Breakfast Club and After School Club places in November can now be made via ParentMail. Parents will need to add the days required to your basket on ParentMail **before 15th October**.



CHILDCARE VOUCHERS

I understand some of you may be experiencing difficulties when opting to pay for breakfast and after school clubs, for November, using childcare vouchers via ParentMail. We have been working closely with ParentMail to resolve this issue and they have suggested the following:

- If you wish to pay using childcare vouchers you will need to add your required days to your basket
- Login into your childcare voucher provider and send over the **exact amount showing** in your basket to pay
- Once you have completed the above, contact admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk to let us know (state how much you are paying, for which child(ren) and sessions)
- School will then allocate your childcare voucher payment to your basket and book your place
- We are unable to carry childcare vouchers forward from month to month

We will be looking at options to streamline this process as we move forward so please bear with us. Thank you for your patience!



ITALIAN THEMED LUNCH

On Thursday, 85% of our school enjoyed a delicious Italian lunch prepared by Mrs Battista. Thank you to everyone who joined us and thank you for Mrs Battista for such a treat!

CHURCH LINKS

Attached is a poster regarding a service at Gosforth, All Saints on Sunday 4th October for their Harvest festival.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The annual collection of shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child will take place from November 8th to 16th. I have attached an information sheet showing how much the boxes are appreciated by the children receiving them. As part of extra safety measures, individual boxes can be placed in the carton, ready for collection, in order to reduce handling. Alternatively, local Drop Off points can be found on the website. Leaflets and boxes are available as usual from the website. samaritans-purse.org.uk/occ

DYSLEXIA AWARENESS

This month, children will learn about dyslexia and the advantages and disadvantages of having dyslexia. We will also learn about some famous people who have a diagnosis in order to celebrate neuro-diversity in or school and beyond.





DEFIBRILLATOR

For your information, our school has a defibrillator, located in the school office.

As always, if you have anything that you would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

NURSERY PLACES

We still have some places available in our Nursery Class. If you would like to find out more information, please contact Mrs Francis. We would love to meet your little ones!



SAFEGUARDING

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>

With my very best wishes,

Mrs KE Massey

Headteacher

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GST

Dear Families,



I am sure you are aware of the tragic incident at Gosforth Park First School. I know you will all join with me in sending our condolences and sympathy to the family and to the staff and children of the school. As with any family of schools, we share and feel deeply this loss. There are no words to express the sadness of losing a child and we can only begin to imagine the anguish that the family and the school must be going through. It will take time for all to come to terms with this and adjust to the changes. We stand as one in offering our support, care and love to all involved in the weeks and months ahead.

If you have any concerns about this incident please don't hesitate to contact me via your Head teacher.

Thank you

Karen Elliott











Chair of the Gosforth Schools' Trust



Welfare Checklist

Are you ready to self-isolate?
Check you have everything you need:



	Isolation	Check you understand how long to isolate for. Check gov.uk/coronavirus for the latest information.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Food and essentials	Check you have enough food and essentials. Ask friends and family to help.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Money	Check you have money to buy what you need Check you can pay your rent and bills. If not, call the companies and explain your situation.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Work	Ask your boss about sick pay. If you need an isolation note visit: 111.nhs.uk/isolation-note .	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Children	Contact the school to arrange for free school meals to be delivered home, and ask for school work.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Dependents	Ask friends or family to provide care for dependents. If they can't help, call the council on 0191 277 8000	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Mental Health	Be mindful of your mental health. Create a routine, keep busy, stay active, and speak to friends. Ask for help if you need it.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Physical Health	Think about how you can keep fit indoors. Change the dates of routine appointments.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Medication	Contact your GP or pharmacy to arrange for your prescription to be delivered or ask someone to collect it for you.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Animals	Check you have enough pet food and supplies. If required, ask someone else to care for your animal(s) while you are isolating.	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you need more support, please register for a call from our team:

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/welfare>

Or call 0191 277 8000



Issued 10 September 20

All Saints Gosforth
HARVEST!

It's a wonderful world!
.....

You are most welcome to our
Harvest Festival on Sunday 4th
October at 9.30am.
.....

All donations of food and
produce will go to 'The Walking
With Project' which cares for
refugees
.....





“Love to learn, learn to love”

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

October 2020			
Monday 5 th October	Dyslexia Awareness Week		Activities in school
	Deadline to return flu immunisation forms.		
7 th October	Gosforth Band (online)	3:45-4:30pm	Please register via link in Newsletter 3
Wednesday 7 th October and Thursday 8 th October	Parent/Teacher consultations via telephone	2:00-5:30pm	Booking forms to follow via ParentMail
14 th October	Gosforth Voices (online)	3:45-4:30pm	Please register via link in Newsletter 3
15 th October	Deadline for booking Breakfast Club and After School Club places for November.		
21 st October	Gosforth Band (online)	3:45-4:30pm	Please register via link in Newsletter 3
Friday 23 rd October	Staff Training Day	All day	School closed to children
Monday 26 th October- Friday 30 th October	Half term		School closed to children
31 st October 2020	Deadline for middle school applications	Noon	
November 2020			
4 th November	Gosforth Voices (online)	3:45-4:30pm	Please register via link in Newsletter 3
Friday 6 th November	Flu sniff vaccines administered in school		More info to follow
8 th -16 th November	Operation Christmas Child boxes can be dropped off at school		
Monday 9 th November	Anti-bullying Week		
Wednesday 11 th November	Remembrance Worship (all classes)		Children are invited to bring money to school for poppies/other merchandise from Monday 2 nd November
11 th November	Gosforth Band (online)	3:45-4:30pm	Please register via link in Newsletter 3
Friday 13 th November	Diwali activities in school		
18 th November	Gosforth Voices (online)	3:45-4:30pm	Please register via link in Newsletter 3
Thursday 24 th November	Governing Body Meeting	5:30pm	
25 th November	Gosforth Band (online)	3:45-4:30pm	Please register via link in Newsletter 3
Friday 27 th November	Advent Worship in school	9:15am	Children only
December 2020			
2 nd December	Gosforth Voices (online)	3:45-4:30pm	Please register via link in Newsletter 3
9 th December	Gosforth Band (online)	3:45-4:30pm	Please register via link in

			Newsletter 3
16 th December	Gosforth Voices & Gosforth Band Party	3:45-4:30pm	Please register via link in Newsletter 3
Friday 18 th December	School closes for Christmas holidays	3:20pm	
21 st Dec - 1 st January 2021	Christmas holidays		School closed to children
January 2021			
Monday 4 th January	School re-opens to children	8:40am	
15 th January 2021	Deadline for Reception applications for September 2021	noon	
February 2021			
15 -19 th February	Half Term		School closed to children
March 2021			
April 2021			
2-16 th April	Easter holidays		School closed to children
Monday 19 th April	Staff Training Day		School closed to children
Wednesday 21 st - Thursday 22 nd April 2021	Y4 Residential		
May 2021			
Monday 3 rd May	Bank holiday		
June 2021			
31 st May - 4 th June	Half term		
July 2021			
Friday 23 rd July	School closes for summer		

“Love to learn, learn to love”