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ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VA) FIRST SCHOOL

November Newsletter

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Dear Parents/Carers

We have been hit with the weather this week so we've all had to wrap up for winter. November was a busy month in school and I can't believe it is December already!

School Update

Baby News

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Law, who is currently on maternity leave, has had a baby girl. Cora was born on 21 November weighing 8lb 3oz. We are told that her older sister is enjoying helping to look after the new arrival!

School Meals

Mrs Battista and the kitchen team would like to thank the children for their ideas for National Schools Meal week. The kitchen staff thoroughly enjoyed the week and would like to thank the parents for supporting it. We received many kind comments from parents about the special lunches. A couple of parents did raise that their children did not have a choice so we have decided to alternate termly the first lunch sitting between Key Stage 1 and 2.

The school Christmas Lunch will be held on Wednesday 13 December 2017. Staff and governors will also be invited to have lunch with the children. If your child does not normally have a school meal on Wednesdays and would like to join the Christmas Lunch, please inform the school office on Monday so that Mrs Battista can ensure that enough food is ordered.

Nursery children are invited to join for lunch that day and be collected at 11.50am. Please let Mrs Hinsche know on Monday if your child will be joining us. In the New Year, Mrs Battista would like to offer lunch to the Nursery children. If you would be interested in your child having a school lunch, please advise Mrs Hinsche so we can establish if it is feasible. Children would be collected at 12pm.

Visits and Visitors

Key Stage 2 enjoyed a trip to Beamish earlier this month to inspire their "Childhood in the Past" topic. They visited the 1920s Hall and undertook the duties of servants, had a strict lesson in the Victorian classroom and experienced life as an evacuee on a farm during World War 2.

Mr "O" has been delivering Ipad Music workshops to Key Stages 1 and 2 on Fridays which the children have been thoroughly enjoying.

Two Community Police Officers, Shaun and Alistair, visited school yesterday to promote Road Safety Week. They spoke to each class about finding safe places to cross roads, the STOP LOOK LISTEN THINK rule, holding hands with grown-ups and stopping at the side of the kerb. They also talked about the importance of being in special seats in cars and keeping seat belts fastened until a grown-up tells you to unfasten it.

Clubs

All existing clubs will continue next term but Tennis (Tuesday before school) and Chinese (Thursday after school) will be offered to Key Stage 1. The Year 4 Awards Club will work towards the Navigator Award next term. Letters will follow with further details of all clubs before the end of term.

Friday Celebration Worship

We are enjoying this special end of the week gathering and I would like to thank you for helping your child to share their home achievements. They are so proud when they come to the front and a pleasure to see.

Home School Partnership

PTFA

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Thank you to the PTFA who are kindly organising a variety of fundraising events. I am sure the children will thoroughly enjoy them. They have been busy arranging Christmas cards and tea towels featuring the children's artwork. The tea towels have been distributed and the Christmas cards are due to be delivered on or before 7th December. I am told that preparations for the Christmas Fair are well underway and the PTFA wish to thank you for all your donations today for the Bottle Hoopla and Tombola stalls. Volunteers to assist on stalls are still needed so if you can spare even half an hour during the fair, please contact a PTFA Committee member or let the school office know. Thank you for your continued support.

Parent Support Advisor

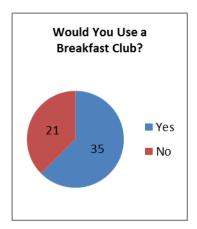
On 21st November, Claire Scott, our Parent Support Advisor, held a coffee afternoon for parents of Reception children with a particular focus on toilet training. She invited the school nurse, Leanne Parker into school and Leanne spoke to parents about how she can support with toilet training and other health problems. She left a lot of helpful leaflets and information in school. If you would like the information, please contact the school office and Claire will put together a pack of information for you.

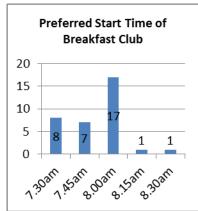
Parent Teacher Consultations

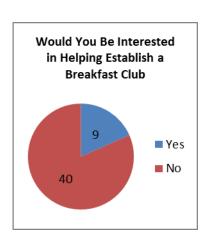
Nursery have their Parent Teacher Consultations on Monday 11th December 2017. Please speak to Mrs Hinsche to arrange a time.

Before School Care/Nursery Provision

Thank you to all 51 families who completed and returned the questionnaire from which we obtained the information below about a breakfast club. We are currently using the information to consider options available to us.







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We are still looking at the options available for the provision of 30 hours free childcare. In the meantime, we are admitting children to Nursery in January if they are 3 years old now or will turn 3 before the start of next term (9 January 2018). Information about starting Nursery in January will be sent to those families soon.

If you have not already advised school that you wish your child to start Nursery in January, please contact the school office. If you know of any other families who would be interested in a Nursery place in January or in the Summer term (if they turn 3 years old next term), we would be grateful if you could put them in touch with school.

Charitable Causes

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The school have done a huge amount for charity this half term. The children raised an amazing £519.20 for NSPCC who visited school again during a Celebration Worship to announce the amount raised and thank the children. The collection for Children in Need raised £210.80 and 40 boxes of gifts were donated to the Samaritan's Purse for Operation Christmas Child. A fantastic effort!

Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you to all the volunteers who manned the Book Fair last month. We raised £259.66 and await confirmation of the vouchers earned for school to buy books and resources.

Illness and Absence

The colder weather has inevitably caused more illness in our children. If your child is unwell and unable to come to school, Mrs McCloud would be grateful if you could call school before 9am or leave a voicemail message. You can also e-mail the school office. A resource called The Little Orange Book produced by the NHS is on the school website with advice for parents and carers if your child is unwell.

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School Office

Thank you to the increasing number of parents who are returning forms and payments to school in book bags. This is much appreciated as it is helping to lessen the number of visitors to the office in the morning. In order to support the younger children, there will be a box in the Nursery and Reception classes for you, or your child if you wish, to put any forms/envelopes into and this will be taken to the office each morning.

The children in Years 1- 4 know where to put anything from home in their classroom and we would like them to do so to encourage responsibility and independence. To encourage and enable the children to do this, please check their book bags on a daily basis and remove correspondence sent by school. If you have any other office queries, you can e-mail Mrs McCloud (admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk) or ring 0191 285 2663. Thank you for your support.

Please send payments to school in sealed envelopes, by cheque rather than cash if possible, or pay through ParentMail.

Topic Funds

Thank you for the contributions to date towards topic funds. This is greatly appreciated. If you are able to contribute and have not done so, we request £5 per family per term which can be paid termly or in full for the year.

Ofsted Update

This half term we have continued to access training and support from lead schools and Maths hubs, as well as having Local Authority and Diocesan monitoring and support visits, to address the Ofsted identified areas (shown below in italics) for development:

- •Plans to improve the school include precise and ambitious targets to secure improvements in pupils' outcomes. Improve pupils' achievement so that pupils routinely reach age-related expectations and increasing proportions We have now implemented a new assessment system, and input the baseline assessments for each child. Pupil progress meetings have been held and ambitious targets set. The developments in the teaching, learning and assessment aim to achieve the targets and improve pupils' achievement see below.
- •Checks on teaching are undertaken with the required urgency to bring about improvements and feedback to teachers focuses on the impact of teachers' actions to maximise learning Further lesson observations, a book scrutiny and monitoring of planning have taken place as part of monitoring and support visits by the Local Authority and Diocese. These are used to identify training and support. We have continued to work with other schools and local Maths Hubs. Progress across the school has been recognized through the monitoring visits.

•Subject leaders receive the support needed to take a more strategic view of the impact of the actions on improving pupils' outcomes - Alongside the target setting, the school Teaching and Learning team have devised progression skills for mathematics to support the planning and assessment. They are in the process of doing so for reading and writing. They are going to work with subject leaders in other schools as part of their development. Mrs. Massey is leading the Team and it is great to see the work they are doing together.

- Governors fulfil their statutory duty in holding leaders to account Our Chair of Governors, Sarah Hawkins, attended the Local Authority monitoring visit this term and organised a review of governance next week, as recommended in the Ofsted report. The governors hold two full governing body meetings per term, one focuses upon monitoring progress in the school.
- •Improving the quality of teaching, learning and assessment particularly in mathematics We have accessed whole staff training through a local National Support School and local mathematics hub. We continue to reflect upon the training, and adapt the teaching and learning strategies in school, focusing upon challenge, problem solving and reasoning. We are now looking at feedback and marking and presentation.

Dates for the Diary

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Friday 8 th December	2.15pm – 2.30pm	PTFA Refreshments before Carols
	2.30pm – 3pm	Years 1-4 Carol Singing
	3.15pm – 4.30pm	PTFA Christmas Fair
Wednesday 13 th December	School Christmas Lunch – children can wear own "Christmas"	
	clothes/accessories!	
Tuesday 19 th December	9.15am – 9.45pm	Early Years Nativity Performance
	1.30pm – 2pm	KS1 Nativity Performance
	2.15pm – 2.45pm	KS2 Nativity Performance
Wednesday 20 th December	9.15am – 9.45am	KS1 Nativity Performance
	10am -10.30am	KS2 Nativity Performance
	6pm – 6.30pm	KS1 Nativity Performance
	6.45pm - 7.15pm	KS2 Nativity Performance
Thursday 21 st December	PTFA Christmas Disco (after school)	
Friday 22 nd December	Carol Service at St Nicholas Church (2pm) – children attend and families	
	welcome to join us	
Friday 22 nd December	School closes for Christmas holidays	

All Newsletters are posted on the school website for reference and a ParentMail will be sent when I update the Headteacher's Message Board on the website.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to rest of this special term in school.

School closes re-opens

Yours sincerely

Monday 9th December

Mrs D. Henry

Headteacher