



April 2020

Weeks 26 & 27 Newsletter

Dear parents and carers,

Firstly, I hope this email finds you and your families fit and well. I would like to **thank you all** so much for your support and understanding over the last couple of weeks. It has taken quite a bit of adjusting to and we have really appreciated the undisputed positivity from our parents and carers.

This *should be* our end of spring term newsletter where we would usually reflect on all the events and achievements since Christmas and celebrate Easter... however that was not to be!

Instead, I write to you with several updates and information which I hope will be of some help to you.



We are missing our children's smiling faces and want to support you all as best we can in the circumstances. We are trying our very best to accommodate and balance the wide range of needs of our children and parents. The communication via Twitter and ParentMail (and Tapestry for Nursery and Reception) is working well and all staff have been asked to respond directly to messages from parents of children in their class around home learning issues. I am dealing with any messages around provision and safeguarding and Mrs Pygall is dealing with finance and general enquiries. Teaching staff have also been asked to keep their class pages, on the school website, updated regularly with home learning opportunities.

Please continue to make sure that your safety and that of your families remains your absolute top priority!! Stay safe, brave and positive!

ONLINE & HOME LEARNING

Thank you to all of you for trying so hard to continue some learning at home for the children last week and this week. It has been great to see some of the children's work via Twitter and email. Please remember, we are only giving you some guidance and ideas, we absolutely don't expect you to home school your children or to replace the curriculum, and we really want you to be as relaxed as you can be during this period. The well-being of your whole family is the most important thing for you and us.



As you already know, the expectation from us as a school is for you all to just do what you can. Children are learning all the time just by engaging in activities and meaningful conversations alongside adults. However, after many anxious conversations with parents this week, I feel the need to reiterate to you all that the **formal curriculum is suspended** and there is no expectation that you should be tackling teaching this as parents.

That is unmanageable and unrealistic, particularly when many of you are also trying to work from home alongside this or go to work as a key worker!

As you know, we have sent home learning packs out (for those of you who have the time and energy to sit with your children to complete tasks). Please be reassured this is not an expectation for all children to complete these - particularly not for those of you who are working from home or if you are going out to work. Although education is important, our priority at this time must be the well-being of our children and their families. Being contained in the house with small children can be somewhat demanding (I speak from personal experience!) and we want you to know that we would much rather you enjoyed this time as a family and reassured our children in the current circumstances. **If you do want more to keep your child(ren) busy, please see the class pages on the school website.**

We acknowledge that, as a result of missed schooling, there will be gaps in children's learning but please be reassured that staff will address this when children return to school and that this is the situation for every school across the country.

It is really important to us that you feel supported by your child's class teacher in relation to home learning, that the expectations are clear and that the demands on you as parents are not too great. We are mindful of the mental health of all; you as parents, the children and staff! If we can do anything to support you, please do not hesitate to get in touch. If you wish to give feedback you can email me or class teachers and we will do our best to help resolve any issues. If any parents of children with SEND need some additional support or reassurance, please contact Mr Booth via email (jonathan.booth@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk)

There are several online "lessons" which you can access (and don't require parents to be involved!) at various times of the day e.g.

9:00am Joe Wicks **PE** [youtube.com/thebodycoach](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYAX2W09jk)

9:30am **Phonics** (again at 12:30pm) for Rec/Y1 chn
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uYAX2W09jk>

10:00am White Rose **Maths** Party (select which year group)
<https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/>
This is the maths scheme we use in school so we would really recommend this!

10:00am Mylene Klass **Music** [youtube/mylenesmusicclass](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvZPOFUAlcw)

10:00am **Phonics** (again at 1:00pm) for Rec/Y1 chn
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvZPOFUAlcw>

10:30am **Phonics** (again at 1:30pm) for Y1 chn <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1eOwoMy72c>

11:00am Maddie Moate Science [youtube.com/maddiemoate](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1eOwoMy72c)

11:30am Oti Mabuse Dance [youtube.com/otimabuseofficial](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1eOwoMy72c)

1:00pm Carol Vorderman **Maths** [themathsfactor.com](https://www.themathsfactor.com)

2:00pm Dan Snow **History** [tv.historyhit.com](https://www.tv.historyhit.com)

3:00 pm David Walliams **English** [worldofdavidwalliams.com](https://www.worldofdavidwalliams.com)

5:30pm Jamie Oliver **Food Technology** [channel4.com.keepcookingandcarryon](https://www.channel4.com/keepcookingandcarryon)

A nice idea, over the next few weeks, might be to write a diary of what children are up to, take pictures and collect letters to create a scrap book or time capsule of living through "COVID-19". In years to come we want children to look back on this time with as much positivity as possible.

If you find any other ideas or resources which look useful, please let us know via Twitter or email! Thank you.

ONLINE SAFETY

I am sure you are supervising your children as they use the internet and, if you are signing up to any additional sites or online tutorials, that you have checked sites are reputable. However, just to support you in keeping



our children safe I have listed some sites that provide support for parents and carers around online safety which you can search for and may find useful.

- Internet Matters
- London Grid for learning
- Net-aware
- Parent info
- Thinkuknow
- UK Safer Internet Centre



Please also remember to talk to your child regularly about online safety. Thank you!

I have been asked by the Northumbria Police PREVENT Team to also remind parents to carefully monitor their child's online activity especially during this period of school closure to protect them from the threat of terrorism, radicalisation and other forms of grooming.



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE & SCHOOL CLOSURE

Guidance for parents and carers: keeping children safe online

The DfE have updated their information for parents and carers to include a section on keeping children safe online. It provides links to online resources that will help support parents and carers in keeping their children safe online.

Full details can be found in section 6.3 of the guidance for parents and carers on the closure of educational settings:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Updated guidance for schools about temporarily closing

The DfE have updated their guidance on the temporary closure of schools to include more information on areas including social distancing, vulnerable children and working with other schools.

You can read the guidance at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-school-closures>

HELPING YOUR CHILD UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENING

It is impossible to turn on the TV or radio without hearing worrying news and feeling anxious. If you're using social media, you will know that the stories and information really feed anxieties and can lead to lots of worrying. It would be best if children were not exposed to this "grown up" information.



On Twitter, it is possible to mute certain words (in settings) and it may make your experience more positive – not hiding from the world, but focusing on the better bits of news! Try to find your way to make it bearable and please make sure you try to have some relaxation time too!

I am sure you have already done this, in part, but please remember to continue to explain to your child(ren) what is happening and to be as honest as possible about COVID-19, without worrying them. If children are not told anything, it is likely to be scarier and more traumatic because they won't know what the truth is (and what it's not).

After reading several articles about this, I have summarised some key points below. I hope they are helpful.

- **Be reassuring but be honest** - children need to know that they will be OK and their parents or carers are going to be OK- the truth is most people do get better from this.
- **Explain it's not like a usual school holiday** - we can't have play dates with friends and we might have to postpone parties and other events until we understand better what is happening.

- **Explain that the grown-ups are handling it** - we don't have all the answers but there are very clever people working together to make sure we get through this.
- **Don't avoid the subject** - children will pick up on conversations that you are having and this might mean they develop misconceptions which need demystifying.
- **Address misconceptions** and explain vocabulary e.g. What is coronavirus? It's like a cold or a flu that's been around for a long time but now there is a new virus and that's why everyone is talking about it.
- **Be transparent**- it is more comforting to children to know what's going on (at an appropriate level) than not mentioning anything about why things are changing.
- **Less can be more** - listen to their concerns first, perhaps during play or drawing activities, then say how pleased you are that they are asking questions and sharing their worries, after all a problem shared is a problem halved! If they ask a question answer it as simply as you can. It's OK to say you don't know (and it's better than giving false information) or say "I bet lots of people are asking that question all over the world". Follow up with "I'll try and find out" or "we can look it up"
- **Stay calm!** Our stress and anxiety levels affect significantly how our children will handle and process information at this time.
- **Tell them how they can help** - Explain our way to protect others is to stay at home and wash our hands. Try to make it fun and play "fighting the virus" with toys or read stories such as "Stay At Home Superheroes" or 'Belle and Billy Stay at Home'.

As a school, we're looking at ways to discuss bereavement and are working on a bereavement policy which we will share with families via the school website when this is completed.

EASTER HOLIDAYS

During the Easter holiday period (starting Monday 5th April for two weeks), we won't be setting work or calling families. If you want to keep some learning and some structure going, it would be a good idea to look at the resources on the school website and to see what we have already shared on Twitter. We will keep posting links and ideas on the school Twitter account, as I come across them, so it is still worth checking in. I will also keep an eye out for any ideas about well-being and, if I see any, I will share them. Teachers' phone calls will resume after the holiday period.



Today would have been the day we were breaking up for the Easter Holidays so let's see how many people can record a Happy Easter/holiday message for their friends and everyone in our school family. Tweet it, mentioning @RuncieOf, so that we can all share this special ending to the term, not quite as good as a hug but at least we can all see each other smiling! I think this will make many people very happy!

Thanks to all the people who have posted some decorated Easter eggs/egg shaped stones on Twitter this week— they are brilliant! If you haven't done yours yet, it's not too late!

IN SCHOOL CHILDCARE ARRANGEMENTS

School remains open for a small number of key workers and vulnerable children. We will keep school open for these families over the Easter holiday (including bank holidays). Thank you to the staff who have been so generous with their time and have planned lots of activities to keep the children busy. This week they have done Easter crafts, April Fools Day pranks and beautiful artwork!



The school kitchen will be closed during the Easter Holidays so **all children will need to provide their own packed lunch** from home. Breakfast Club will continue as normal (we can make toast in the Nursery!).

If you have changed your mind, and no longer need childcare during the holidays, please let us know as soon as possible! Thank you.

We have been very fortunate that our children who are currently in school are able to access Gosforth Park Out Of School Club (an external provider) during this time of partial closure. They are open until 6:00pm and the cost is approx. £11.00 per session. If you are a key worker and this is something that you are interested in, you can register your child via their website <https://www.gosforthparkoutofschoolclub.co.uk> or call Jo on 01207 233167, for more information.

Please let us know the days that your child will be attending Gosforth Park Out Of School Club as we will need to make arrangements to transport your child from ARFS to GPFS at 3:15pm.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS (FSM)

For the last fortnight, families entitled to benefits related FSM have been able to collect a packed lunch from school (or have it delivered by staff if they were isolating). Today was the final day of collections and deliveries as the DfE will begin a FSM e-voucher scheme for pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium funding **from Monday 20th April 2020**.

The Government have developed this national scheme to provide supermarket vouchers via the Edenred online portal. **This will be managed by the DfE, not individual schools.**

E- vouchers will be made available to an adult with caring responsibility for each child eligible and currently in receipt of benefits-related free school meals (but **not those who are entitled to free meals under universal infant free school meals**) via email from Monday 20th April (after the Easter holiday).



A single e-voucher to the value of £15 each week will be provided for every child eligible for benefits-related free school meals **who is not attending school**. Parent or carers of the pupils(s) eligible for free school meals will be sent an 'eCode' directly from Edenred. This will be eligible for Sainsbury's, Tesco, Asda, Morrisons, Waitrose and M&S and must be used within 4 weeks.

The school sent out Free School Meal entitlement forms to all families in October and January so if you have filled this out before and have not had confirmation that you are entitled to Free School Meals, you will not be receiving any vouchers. If you did not fill out the form or you believe that you will now be entitled to Free School Meals, please **apply directly to the local authority**. For further information on eligibility, please see <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

In order to issue these FSM e-vouchers we must have correct, up to date email addresses. Please contact Mrs Pygall if you have changed your contact details recently. Thank you.

Universal Free Meals: The universal free school initiative (wherein **all** pupils from Reception to Y2 receive a hot, nutritiously balanced meal each day) will not receive a meal during the school closure.

Free School Meals: If you are in receipt of Child Tax Credit, with no Working Tax Credit (income below £16,190), Income Support, Income Based Jobseekers Allowance, Income Based Employment and Support Allowance, Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit or fall under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 you may be entitled to qualify for free school meals. Just call 0845 6006400 to apply immediately over the phone. Alternatively you can log on to <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>.

We would encourage anyone who is unsure whether they qualify to apply anyway.

You may have seen the emergency plea from St Oswald's hospice as it struggles without any charitable income in the current circumstances. The hospice has been in touch with GST regarding a sponsored teddy bear hunt around Gosforth. There will be more details to follow, from GST, but in the meantime please pop your teddy bears in your windows for people to spot, be sponsored and donate to the charity. Thank you!



TWITTER

Please follow us on Twitter [**@RuncieOf**](#) to find out what we've been up to! It is easy to join Twitter or, if you prefer, you can see our Twitter feed on the home page of our school website. This is not a private page because we use it to promote our school and it is used by prospective parents, Ofsted and our wider school community.



If you prefer not to use social media, you can always let Class Teachers know what children have been up to via email. If children want to email Class Teachers they are also welcome to do so! We will also be updating class news pages on the school website with children's work as we receive it.



We have received lots of positive messages about the phonecalls and postcards that families have received. Thank you! Staff have really enjoyed keeping in touch with the children!

Places have now been offered to families wanting their child to start Nursery in September 2020. We have only a few remaining places. Please contact Mrs Pygall for an application form if you have a child who will be 3 before September and would like them to begin their Nursery education with us. We offer 15 hour places to all families (2.5 days) and 30 hours to families who qualify (you will need to provide your 30 hour code).



Headlice have been reported by some of our families. Although many of you are not in direct contact with people at the moment, it we advise you to look particularly closely at your child's hair to look for lice or eggs. Eggs look like shiny, white oval specks stuck to the hair close to the scalp and cannot be easily brushed off like dandruff. They tend to be laid at the nape of the neck, behind the ears or on top of the head. It is advisable that **all members of the family are inspected.**

If lice or eggs (nits) are found they can be treated in two ways: you can either buy a preparation from the chemist; or wash the hair and apply conditioner and comb through thoroughly – this needs to be repeated every 3-4 days for two weeks. If you would like further help or advice, please contact the school nurse at Gosforth Clinic (tel: 210 6620).

Mrs Massey and Mr Booth are our schools 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:



- 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>

THANK YOU!

Thank you

Thank you to staff for their ongoing support of the work of the school and for living out the ethos of our school in such challenging circumstances.

We have really enjoyed seeing the group of children who continue to attend and we are, of course, thinking of those of you who are at home. We miss you all very much!

I would also like to thank you all for your patience and understanding and a huge thank you to all the other key workers, particularly to NHS workers as well as the many of you doing crucial jobs, from those in shops to carers and those who are working in schools. I've had many conversations over the past two weeks with our parents and carers who are working on the frontline, mostly NHS and Police, and their positivity and acceptance is humbling. Well done to everyone working to make us safer, keep up the hard work and please know that you are appreciated and held in our prayers.

Please try to enjoy some family time over the Easter holiday. Class teachers will be in touch with home learning resource ideas after the Easter break, for those of you who wish to use them.

Please do keep in touch with us over the coming weeks; class teachers will be checking emails on a daily basis, during term time, where possible (if in doubt or in the event of no response, please email admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk). If in the holidays, you need to contact school urgently or you have concerns with which you think we can help, please do so via the admin email. But please still follow the rules and stay home to stay safe and to protect the NHS and our communities.

We will be thinking of you all in the coming weeks and please stay safe and well – we will hopefully see you all again very soon!

With my very best wishes, love and prayers,

Mrs KE Massey

Headteacher



“Love to learn, learn to love”

1 Corinthians 16:14

Dates for your Diary

New dates are in red, for your information.

Date	Event	Time	Additional Notes
April 2020			
Monday 6 th April-Friday 17 th April	Easter Holidays		
Thursday 23 rd April	Shakespeare Day & St Georges Day	All day	Activities in school
	CANCELLED NSPCC in school	1:30pm KS1 2:00pm KS2	
Friday 24 th April	Deadline to accept Nursery places in school	Noon	
	CANCELLED Year 3 & Year 4 swimming lessons begin (weekly until end of term)	pm	More info to follow
Thursday 30 th April	CANCELLED GST Boys Football competition at BEFS	1:15-3:00pm	
May 2020			
May 2020	CANCELLED SATs for Year 2 children	All month	Year 2 children must be in school please
Wednesday 6 th May	CANCELLED Staff & Governor Training- Valuing All God's Children	4:00pm	
Thursday 7 th May	Wesak (Buddhist)	All day	Activities in school
	CANCELLED Dinnington First School official opening	TBC	
Friday 8 th May	Bank Holiday		School Closed
Monday 11 th May	CANCELLED Christian Aid Worship, led by Year 2	9:00am	All welcome!
Thursday 14 th May	CANCELLED Y3 Team Games festival at Walker Dome	1:00-2:45pm	Children may be slightly late returning to school
	CANCELLED Reception Stay & Play	2:00pm	Reception Parents invited
Friday 15 th May	CANCELLED Phonics Screen Workshop for Year 1 Parents	9:00am	
Sunday 17 th May	POSTPONED Children's Cancer Run	TBC	
Monday 18 th May	CANCELLED DAAB planting	10:30-11:30	Selected Year 1 children
Tuesday 19 th May	CANCELLED GST Teach Meet	3:45pm	Staff only
	Class Photos	TBC	
Thursday 21 st May	GST Y3 & Y4 Benchball competition at Brunton	TBC	Selected children only
	Ascension Day Worship, led by Year 3	9:00am	All welcome!
	World Day for Cultural Diversity	All day	Activities in school
	Children's choice lunch	12:00	
Friday 22 nd May	GST Daft Day	All day	Children invited to wear something "daft". Suggested donation £1.
	CANCELLED Y4 Times Table test	9:00am	
	Parent Workshop		
	Eid activities in school.	All day	
Monday 2 th May-Friday 29 th May	Half Term		
June 2020			
Monday 1 st June	GST Staff Training Day	All day	School closed to children
1-5 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screen assessment	All week	Year 1 children must be in school please
Tuesday 2 nd June	Pentecost Worship, led by Year 4	2:30pm	
	Year 3 & Year 4- All Saints' Moses Activities	TBC	
Wednesday 3 rd June	Gosforth Voices	3:45-4:45pm	at Grange First School

Thursday 4 th June	GST Y3 & Y4 Tag Rugby at RFFS	TBC	Selected children only
	GST Inclusion Fair	1:00pm	More info to follow
Friday 5 th June	Roy Lawson visiting Years 3 & 4	TBC	More info to follow
Monday 8 th June	Year 2 visit to St Mary's Lighthouse	All day	Children will need to bring or order a packed lunch please
	No French	-	
Tuesday 9 th June	New Nursery Parents Meeting for children starting Nursery in September 2020	5:00pm	
Wednesday 10 th June	New Reception Parents Meeting for children starting Reception class in September 2020	5:00pm	
	Gosforth Band	3:45-4:45pm	at Archibald First School
11 th June	Year 3 School Nurse feelings & relationships session	1:30pm	
15-19 th June	Y4 statutory Times Tables test	All week	
Tuesday 16 th June	Year 3 & Year 4 playing at the Big Gig (out of school all day)	Performance at 1:30pm	Northumbria Sports Central- Y3 & Y4 parents invited.
Wednesday 17 th June	Gosforth Voices	3:45-4:45pm	at Grange First School
Thursday 25 th June	Year 4 Diocesan Leavers Service	10:45am	St George's Church, Cullercoats. Staff and children only due to space restrictions.
Friday 26 th June	Y4 visit to Vindolanda	All day	Children will need to bring or order a packed lunch please
30 th June	Pyramid Concert (Gosforth Voices & Gosforth Band)	4:00pm Rehearsal 6:15pm at Trinity Church	
July 2020			
Wednesday 1 st July	pm Y4 Skipping Event- GJA	TBC nearer the time	
	Nursery Stay & Play	2:00pm	Nursery parents invited
Thursday 2 nd July	GST Y4 Netball at Grange	TBC	Selected children only
	GST Transition Day	TBC	
Friday 3 rd July	Reports out		
	Y4 Bikeability all day	All day	All children in Year 4 need to bring a bike to school.
Saturday 4 th July	PTFA Summer Fair	TBC	
Monday 6 th July	KS1/2 Sports Day	1:30pm	Parents Invited
	PE Week (Mon- Fri)	All week	
	Drop in for parents	3:30-5:00pm	No need to book an appointment
Tuesday 7 th July	Drop in for parents	3:30-5:00pm	No need to book an appointment
Wednesday 8 th July	Y2 skipping at GJA	9:30-12:30	
	pm EYFS Sports Day	1:30pm	Parents invited
	Full Governing Body Meeting	5:30pm	
Thursday 9 th May	Y2 Team Games festival at Walker Dome	1:00-2:45pm	Children may be slightly late returning to school
Friday 17 th July	Year 4 Leavers' Service	9:00am	
	End of term picnic lunch for staff and children	Noon	Please pay via ParentMail
	Picnic in the Playground	3:15-4:15pm	
	School closes for Summer		
September 2020			
Monday 7 th September 2020	Staff Training Day	All day	
Tuesday 8 th September 2020	School reopens to pupils.	8:45am	
Sunday 20 th September	Children's Cancer Run	TBC	

Wednesday 30th
September- Thursday 1st
October

Y4 Residential

TBC

More info to follow

“Love to learn, learn to love”

1 Corinthians 16:14

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