



November 2019 – Newsletter 11

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Whole School (excluding Nursery)
88%	98.5%	84%	95%	97%	★ 100%	95%

Our school target for attendance is 97%.

PTFA NEWS

The disco on Thursday was a huge success- thank you to our fabulous PTFA for organising this for the children and to so many staff for attending.



Before you start your Christmas shopping, a reminder that our PTFA are registered with **AmazonSmile** which is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will **donate 0.5%** of the purchase price of eligible products **to our PTFA**, which is a registered charity. It is simple to use and costs you nothing! **Please follow this link** <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1040041-0> to get started and search for Archbishop Runcie PTFA as your chosen charity. Once registered, you can add the app to your homepage.

We also continue to be registered with **easyfundraising.org.uk** which is another way to generate free funds for the PTFA. Follow this link <http://efraising.org/dDQY2Djz> to set yourself up. All the pennies really do add up and we have already collectively raised £2,070 from people doing their online shopping via easyfundraising. However, we currently only have a very small number of people using these fundraising options. It would be great to see some new users, especially as online shopping is no doubt expected to increase in the next few weeks! Any member of the PTFA would be happy to assist with set up. There are nearly 3,000 retailers on board ready to make a donation to our school every time you shop online... and it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's really simple, all you have to do is:

- **Join-** <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/archbishoprunciefirstptfa/> and sign up for free.
- **Shop-** Every time you shop online, **go to easyfundraising first**, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.
- **Raise-** After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation the PTFA for no extra cost whatsoever!

Join, shop and raise here:
[easyfundraising.org.uk/archbishoprunciefirstptfa](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/archbishoprunciefirstptfa)



There are no catches or hidden charges and Archbishop Runcie CE First School PTFA will be really grateful for your donations.

GOSFORTH SCHOOLS TRUST

This term has been a busy one and so far, the GST Headteachers, Deputy Headteachers and subject leaders have met as well as having year group Teach Meets where colleagues in the same year group can share ideas and good practice.



“Gosforth Gets Going” has started with sporting events each month, hosted by each of the schools within our Trust, for a group of children from Reception- Year 4.

On Wednesday 27th November, a group of our Year 3 children will visit Dinnington First School to develop new computing skills while making friends and tackling the subject of bullying.

Please also see the invitation attached, from GEMS, for parents to attend the e-safety workshop on Monday.

CHARITABLE GIVING

This week, Mrs Armstrong has set up a “Donation Station” for West Newcastle Food Bank who are in desperate need of donations. We will be sharing a book with children, next week, called “It’s a No Money Day” by Kate Milner to help children explain why some people need food banks. Food Banks are used by families who attend our school and therefore it is important that our community understands how relevant this cause is to our school family.



THANK YOU

I'M SORRY

PLEASE

EXCUSE ME

TABLE MANNERS

This week we have been reminding children about the importance of table manners, in particular not talking with their mouths full or putting their elbows on the table. We would be really grateful if you could reinforce these expectations at home too. Thank you!

LUNCHTIME BIBLE CLUB

Several years ago, a group of parents and local church members ran a Christian Club, during lunchtimes, at school. We are looking for a group of parents, carers or community members to get this back up and running in the New Year. In the past, this has involved a Bible story and related craft activities. Please let me know if you would be interested in helping. Thank you!



WORSHIP

This week we have been continuing to think about Growth Mind-set and how to approach a problem. The children gave excellent examples of when they have applied this in their lives and were able to relate this to Jesus demonstrating these characteristics in times of trouble too.

FUNDAMENTAL BRITISH VALUES

This week we have, through Worship and Circle Time, talked about challenging stereotypes and changing things for the better by providing new ways of thinking and acting.



ATTENDANCE INCENTIVES

Following a discussion with our Attendance Officer, Mr Tolan, we are discussing offering incentives for children with 97%+ attendance at school. We would be interested to hear your thoughts on this please. Thank you!

HOLIDAY REQUESTS

We have noticed an increase in for requests for leave of absence from school. I am unable to authorise absence for school unless it is for exceptional circumstances. Family holidays do not qualify as exceptional

circumstances and will therefore be classed as unauthorised absence. We may make referrals to the Local Authority if we do not deem absences are caused by exceptional circumstances.

RESOURCE REQUESTS

Reception are looking to stock their 'Jolly Postman' card shop with a range of cards, gift tags, old Christmas cards or pre used gift bags, please.



Years 1 and 2 are looking for donations of old board games or colouring/other table top indoor activities please. Thank you!

EYFS DROP OFF



As you know, children can now be dropped off at school between 8:40am and 8:50am. We have previously asked that **Reception parents leave children at the door** to help develop children's independence. As Nursery children are younger, parents may still need to enter the cloakroom to help with hats, gloves etc. **Please do not take buggies into the cloakroom.**

It has been raised by a parent that the cloakroom can be busy at drop off time. If the cloakroom is busy please can we suggest you wait for parents to disperse before entering? Children will **not be marked late** if they arrive at school before 8:50am. Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

KS1 & 2 DROP OFF

As with Early Years, children can be dropped off between 8:40-8:50am. **If they arrive at 8:50am they are not late for school!** Please could parents **leave children at the cloakroom door** for safeguarding reasons and to ensure that we know exactly who is in the building at any time. Thank you for your ongoing support.

READING BOOKS

A polite reminder that children in Reception- Year 4 are expected to have their reading book and reading record in school **every day** please. Thank you!



PRESENTATION & SPELLING UPDATE

As you are aware, our Ofsted inspection in June 2019 identified that we needed to improve the presentation of children's work and their spelling of common words. As such, we have adapted our marking policy to help children understand how they are getting on with this. We have explained the new system to children and trialled it in Years 1-4 this week. Children will receive a P on their work for presentation and we will be introducing a S for spelling. If either of these are surrounded by a triangle this warns the child they need to improve. If a tick accompanies them it is satisfactory and if they are accompanied by a star it means presentation/ spelling are very good. Children will be rewarded for 3 consecutive starred pieces of work.

NATIVITIES

	Title	Performance 1	Performance 2
Nursery & Reception	Everyone loves a baby!	Tuesday 17 th December at 2:00pm	Wednesday 18 th December at 9:30am
Key Stage One	Hey Ewe!	Tuesday 17 th December at 5:30pm	Wednesday 18 th December at 2:00pm
Key Stage Two	The Apprentice	Monday 16 th December at 1:30pm	Tuesday 17 th December at 6:30pm



Due to fire regulations, we unfortunately have to restrict tickets to Nativity performances. We will initially **offer three tickets per family in total** (not per performance) to be booked in the "payments" section of ParentMail (available to book from 3:00pm on Friday 22nd November until 3:00pm on Friday 6th December). We will then give you an additional opportunity to book any spare tickets from 9:00am on Saturday 7th December. Hard copy tickets will not be issued but there will be a ticket list on the door which will be checked on entry to school.

We do not charge for tickets to school Nativities however school has to pay a license fee for each performance and we would therefore welcome voluntary donations towards the cost of this. Donations can be made via ParentMail, when booking, or in cash on the day.

Nativity roles are currently being allocated to children and costume requests will be sent home shortly. Please ensure you have completed the online form to let us know if your child is able to return to school for the evening performance (if applicable).

Prior to Key Stage 1 and 2 performances, I have asked Mrs Kohannejad to join us to speak to fellow parents and carers about being a parent of a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The most common Special Educational Need in school is ASD, and this is also the focus for the Newcastle LA SEND Review, so this is a very relevant topic for us as a school.

CHURCH LINKS

Congratulations to Daisy Bruce whose design has been chosen for the All Saints' Christmas cards this year. 2000 copies have been printed for the parishioners of All Saints' Church so everyone will see what a talented artist she is! Copies should have come home in children's bookbags this week.



YEAR 3 FISHKEEPER PROGRAMME



Our school has been accepted onto Maidenhead Aquatic's 'Fishkeeper Fry' programme, to begin in January 2020 for 8 weeks. As this programme is aimed at Year 3 pupils, Miss Nattress will be running this in school with her class.

As part of the programme, we will be provided with our very own aquarium and all the associated equipment, to enable us to look after our fish safely. We are all very excited to visit Year 3 in the Spring Term to observe the mini eco-system they create! To find out more about this programme and what the children will be learning, feel free to follow this link online: <https://www.fishkeeper.co.uk/>.

PROSPECTIVE PARENT VISITS

We have begun showing prospective parents around school in the run up to Nursery and Reception application deadlines. It has been a good opportunity for the staff to reflect on the strengths of our school and celebrate what makes our school distinctive. We have received fabulous feedback from the visitors so far about the passion of the staff and the "feel" of the school. It is wonderful that visitors can recognise these assets after a short visit.



Further visits will be held on:

- 25.2.20 & 9.3.20 (for Nursery prospective parents)
- 2.12.19 and 8.1.20 (for prospective Reception parents)

Please let Mrs Pygall, in the school office, know if you intend to come, as we will be restricting numbers to keep the groups small.

NURSERY- JANUARY 2020 INTAKE

After Christmas, we will be taking children into Nursery who have turned 3 this term. Therefore, if your child has turned 3 between September 2019 and December 2019 they will be eligible to start with us in January 2020. If you are interested in a Nursery place, or would like more information, please contact Mrs Francis.



Please remember parents will need to update details on the government website every 3 months to remain eligible for free Nursery 30 hour provision.

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

With my very best wishes,

Mrs KE Massey

Headteacher



“Love to learn, learn to love”

1 Corinthians 16:13

Dates for your Diary

New dates are in red, for your information.

Date	Event	Additional Notes
November 2019		
Monday 25 th November	7:00pm e-safety session for parents of all GST schools at GEMS	
Tuesday 26 th November	Full Governing Body Meeting	
Wednesday 27 th November	Gosforth Voices	3:45-4:45pm at Grange First School
	GST Anti-bullying IT Project at Dinnington	Selected children only
	No Outsiders PSHE sessions and staff training	
Thursday 28 th November	7:30pm PTFA Christmas Fair Planning Meeting	Venue TBC
Friday 29 th November	Advent Worship led by Year 2	All welcome!
	Christmas decorations up in school	We would love some help from parents please!
	SEND Consultation closes	
	Nativity costume requests sent home	
	3:15pm PTFA AGM	Please come along
December 2019		
Monday 2 nd December	Prospective Reception Parent visits 4:00pm	Please book a place via the school office
Wednesday 4 th	Gosforth Band	3:45-4:45pm at Archibald First School

December		
Thursday 5 th December	Operation Encompass Year 4 PSHE session and drop in session 3:00-4:00pm for parents, carers and community members	
	New vicar appointed at St Nicholas' Church	
Friday 6 th December	Parent Council Meeting 9:00am	
	PTFA Non-uniform day	The PTFA would be grateful of donations of a bottle or unwanted gift.
Tuesday 10 th December	5:00pm New Nursery Parents Meeting for January intake	
	Chris Bostock (storyteller) for Nursery and Reception children	Please pay via ParentMail
Wednesday 11 th December	Please bring nativity costumes to school	
	Christmas Lunch for children, staff and governors	Children who are usually packed lunch will be able to book a school meal via ParentMail
Thursday 12 th December	Y4 Multiskills festival at Walker Dome 1:00-2:45pm	Children may be slightly late returning to school
Friday 13 th December	Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day	Suggested donation of £1
	Years 1-4 will be attending "The Christmas Journey" at Trinity Church	If you are able to help walk the children there and back please contact Class Teachers directly. Thank you!
	Y1 & Y2- 9:30-10:30am	
	Y3 & Y4- 11:00-12:00	
	PTFA Christmas Fair at School 3:15pm	
Monday 16 th December	1:30pm KS2 Nativity (1)	2 tickets per family will be able to be booked via ParentMail from November.
Tuesday 17 th December	2:00pm EYFS Nativity (1)	
	5:30pm KS1 Nativity (1)	
	6:30pm KS2 Nativity (2)	
Wednesday 18 th December	9:30am EYFS Nativity (2)	Children only- please sign up to bring food
	2:00pm KS1 Nativity (2)	
	EYFS Party	
Tuesday 17 th December	No Taekwondo	
Thursday 19 th December	KS1 & KS2 Christmas Party	Children only- please sign up to bring food
	EYFS Polar Express Day	Children in Nursery and Reception invited to wear PJs to school!
Friday 20 th December	10:00-12:00 Pantomime for Nursery- Year 4 at The Exchange	£8 per child (including bus). Children will return to school for lunch before the Carol Service
	Carol Service at St Nicholas' Church	Years 1-4 attending. Children will be dismissed from Church after the service if parents are in attendance.
January 2020		
Monday 6 th January	Staff Training Day	School closed to children
Wednesday 8 th January	Prospective Reception Parent visits 4:00pm	Please book a place via the school office
15 th January	Y3/4 Computing with GEM Education	
	Gosforth Voices	3:45-4:45pm at Grange First School
	KS2 Micro Bit lessons in school	
	Midday deadline for Reception class applications for September 2020	www.newcastle.gov.uk/schooladmissions
Thursday 16 th January	Children's Choice Lunch	We are hoping for 100% school lunch uptake!
	Year 2 Newcastle Castle Visit	
	PTFA Film Night	
Thursday 23 rd January	Road Safety sessions for Nursery, Reception and Year 1	
	EYFS Opposites Day	
Friday 24 th January	Chinese New Year celebrations in school	
Wednesday 29 th January	Gosforth Voices	3:45-4:45pm at Grange First School

22 nd January	Gosforth Band	3:45-4:45pm at Archibald First School
Thursday 30 th January	5:00pm Managing children's behaviour workshop for parents	
Friday 31 st January	9:00am Managing children's behaviour workshop for parents	
February 2020		
Wednesday 5 th February	2:00pm Reception "Stay & Play"	Reception parents invited
Tuesday 4 th March	Y3 & Y4 visit to Durham	More info to follow
Wednesday 5 th February	Gosforth Band	3:45-4:45pm at Archibald First School
Thursday 6 th February	Reception visit to Walker Dome 1:00-2:45pm	Children may be slightly late returning to school
Monday 10 th February	Parents Evening	
Tuesday 11 th February	Safer Internet Day	Activities in school
	Parents Evening	
12 th February	Gosforth Voices	3:45-4:45pm at Grange First School
Friday 14 th February	Love is... Worship, led by Year 1	
Monday 24 th February	International World Thinking Day	Cubs, Beavers, Brownies, Rainbows invited to wear uniforms.
Tuesday 25 th February	Lent Worship, led by Year 4	
	Prospective Nursery Parent visits 4:00pm	Please book a place via the school office
26 th February	Gosforth Band	3:45-4:45pm at Archibald First School
March 2020		
2-6 th March	Book Week in school	
4 th March	Gosforth Voices	3:45-4:45pm at Grange First School
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day	Children invited to dress as a book character
Friday 6 th March	Class visits to Gosforth Library	
9-13 March	British Science Week	We would welcome any parents/visitors to school linked to Science please.
Monday 9 th March	Purim	Activities in school
	Prospective Nursery Parent visits 4:00pm	Please book a place via the school office
11 th March	Gosforth Band	3:45-4:45pm at Archibald First School
18 th March	Gosforth Voices	3:45-4:45pm at Grange First School
Friday 20 th March	Persian New Year	Activities in school
	9:00am Year 1-4 Mothers' Day Service	One member of each family invited to attend
	Visit from a local poet for Y1-Y4 TBC	
	2:30pm EYFS Mothers' Day Service	One member of each family invited to attend
	Closing date for Nursery applications for Sept 2020	
	Gosforth Voices Tour	Performance in all GST school
Monday 23 rd March	World Water Day	
Wednesday 25 th March	Full Governing Body Meeting	
	Gosforth Band	3:45-4:45pm at Archibald First School
Thursday 26 th March	Nursery visit to Walker Dome 1:00-2:45pm	Children may be slightly late returning to school
Friday 27 th March	9:00 SATs Meeting for Year 2 Parents	
Tuesday 31 st March	5:00pm New Nursery Parents Meeting, for children starting after Easter	
April 2020		
Wednesday 1 st April	2:00pm Nursery Stay & Play	Nursery Parents invited
Thursday 2 nd April	Autism Awareness Day	Activities in school
Friday 3 rd April	Easter Service 1:30pm All Saints' Church	
Monday 6 th April- Friday 17 th April	Easter Holidays	
Thursday 23 rd April	Shakespeare Day	Activities in school
Friday 24 th April	Deadline to accept Nursery places in school	

May 2020		
May 2020	SATs for Year 2 children	Year 2 children must be in school please
Thursday 7 th May	Wesak (Buddhist)	Activities in school
	Dinnington First School official opening	
Friday 8 th May	Bank Holiday	
Monday 11 th May	Christian Aid Worship, led by Year 2	All welcome!
Thursday 14 th May	Y3 Team Games festival at Walker Dome 1:00-2:45pm	Children may be slightly late returning to school
Friday 15 th May	2:00pm Reception Stay & Play	Reception Parents invited
	Phonics Screen Workshop for Year 1 Parents 9:00am	
Tuesday 19 th May	GST Teach Meet	Staff only
Thursday 21 st May	Ascension Day Worship, led by Year 3	All welcome!
	World Day for Cultural Diversity	Activities in school
Friday 22 nd May	Children's choice lunch	
	GST Daft Day	Children invited to wear something "daft". Suggested donation £1.
	9:00 Y4 Times Table test Parent Workshop	
Monday 2 th May- Friday 29 th May	Eid activities in school.	
	Half Term	
June 2020		
Monday 1 st June	GST Staff Training Day	School closed to children
Tuesday 2 nd June	2:30pm Pentecost Worship, led by Year 4	
	Year 1 Phonics Screen assessment	Year 1 children must be in school please
	All Saints' Schools Week	
Wednesday 3 rd June	Gosforth Voices	3:45-4:45pm at Grange First School
Thursday 4 th June	Roy Lawson visiting Years 3 & 4	More info to follow
Monday 8 th June	Year 2 visit to St Mary's Lighthouse	
Tuesday 9 th June	New Nursery Parents Meeting for children starting Nursery in September 2020	
Wednesday 10 th June	New Reception Parents Meeting for children starting Reception class in September 2020	
Wednesday 10 th June	Gosforth Band	3:45-4:45pm at Archibald First School
	Y4 statutory Times Tables test	
Tuesday 16 th June	Big Gig all day (Gosforth Voices & Gosforth Band) Best of British theme	Northumbria Sports Central
Wednesday 17 th June	Gosforth Voices	3:45-4:45pm at Grange First School
Friday 26 th June	Y4 visit to Vindolanda	More info to follow
30 th June	Pyramid Concert (Gosforth Voices & Gosforth Band)	4:00pm Rehearsal 6:15pm at Trinity Church
July 2020		
Wednesday 1 st July	2:00pm Nursery Stay & Play	Nursery parents invited
Thursday 2 nd July	Y4 Bikeability all day	
Friday 3 rd July	Reports out	
Saturday 4 th July	PTFA Summer Fair	
Monday 6 th July	KS1/2 Sports Day	Parents Invited
	PE Week (Mon- Fri)	
	Drop in for parents	No need to book an appointment
Tuesday 7 th July	Drop in for parents	No need to book an appointment
Wednesday 8 th July	pm EYFS Sports Day	Parents invited
	Full Governing Body Meeting	
Thursday 9 th May	Y2 Team Games festival at Walker Dome 1:00-2:45pm	Children may be slightly late returning to school
Friday 10 th July	Cakes in the Courtyard	All helpers and volunteers invited!
Friday 17 th July	9:00 Year 4 Leavers' Service	
	End of term picnic lunch for staff and	Please pay via ParentMail

	children	
	Picnic in the Playground	3:15-4:15pm
	School closes for Summer	
September 2020		
Monday 7 th September 2020	Staff Training Day	
Tuesday 8 th September 2020	School reopens to pupils.	

“Love to learn, learn to love”

Colossians 3:23-24



Mr Mason and All Saints' Church
would like to invite your Child/ren to:



EVOLUTION KIDS' GROUP

This group is for children of school years 3 to 6. It only costs £1 a week and includes lots of fun activities, such as: crafts, games, songs and stories. This is a great opportunity for your child/ren to make new friends, develop new skills and learn about the Christian faith.

Tuesdays 6pm to 7pm at All Saints' Centre,

Linden Road, Gosforth, NE3 4ES

For more information email andrew.mason@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk

Gosforth East Middle School

Headteacher: T J Stout

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Email: admin@gosfortheast.newcastle.sch.uk



20th November 2019

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Re - E-Safety Evening: Gosforth East Middle School, Monday 25th November 2019 – 7:00pm

You will be aware the Internet hosts many exciting opportunities for education. The online world is a wonderful place for young people to explore, with unprecedented opportunities for learning and creativity, but just like the real world, there are risks and dangers they should be aware of and which we should all act to protect them from. As a school, we encourage the use of technology as an important part of our students' development but always want them to spend their time online safely. As a parent/carer, you can play a significant part in ensuring this.

We would like to invite you to our E-Safety evening where you can find out more and learn how to keep your child safe online. The session will be led by Clennell Solutions: the Trust's safeguarding consultants.

The session will cover areas such as using parental controls effectively and helping to ensure that children are equipped to ensure their own online safety. Please come along and find out more about this important issue.

This letter has been sent to parents of pupils at Gosforth East Middle School along with Gosforth Central Middle, Gosforth Junior Academy and Gosforth Academy in addition to our Trust First Schools who are also invited along. All are welcome to attend so if you know someone who is interested in finding out more, please bring them along.

We look forward to seeing you on Monday 25th November.

Yours sincerely,

Mr N. Salkeld
Head of Computing
Gosforth East Middle School