



## Archbishop Runcie Church of England (VA) First School

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**Headteacher:** Mrs KE Massey

# Welcome to Year 4 Newsletter!

4<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a fantastic summer. I am really looking forward to working with your children during the upcoming year.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the Welcome Meeting last term to meet me and hear about expectations for the year. Please find attached a copy of the PowerPoint that was shared.

### Staffing

This year, myself, Mrs Conner, Mrs Norman, Miss Halliday and Miss Cairns will be working in our class across the week.

As you will all be aware, I joined the school in June and spent the last half term of the academic year getting to know your children and therefore we are all in a great position to have a fantastic year as a team.

Mrs Norman is our KS2 Medicines Lead and First Aider. If your child requires medicine during school, please contact her via email address – [lynne.norman@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:lynne.norman@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk). You will need to meet with her before school begins to ensure medication forms are completed.

### Drop off and collection

Unless children are attending breakfast club, doors will be open from 8:35-8:45am and the **register will be taken at 8:45am**. Children should enter through the Year 4 cloakroom door where Mrs Norman, Miss Halliday and Miss Cairns will be waiting to meet them.

Any messages for teaching staff can be given to TAs or teachers can be available after 3:20pm.

### Learning

This term, our first Geography topic is all about climate change. You can help your child at home by discussing what they may already know about climate change and the impact that this may have on their future. This topic is covered in the news quite often and provides many opportunities for discussion at home.

In Science, we will be learning about digestion and food. You can help your child at home by discussing the different types of food that we eat and which organs are used to aid digestion. We will also be looking at teeth during this unit, a great opportunity for a visit to the dentist perhaps!

In RE we will be learning about Hindus. You can help your child at home by discussing the different religions that are followed within the United Kingdom and how we celebrate diversity.

Each half term, I will send home a topic web so you know what your child is learning at school.

Please remember to follow the school on X (@Runcieof) to see what we are up to each week.

## **Music**

Year 4 will, once again, have the opportunity to have drumming lessons every Monday afternoon, starting next week. There will also be opportunities for the children to join Gosforth Voices choir and have guitar lessons. Gosforth Voices is based at Grange First School on Wednesday 3:45-4:45pm and children can sign up using the link below.

<https://musicpartnershipnorthnewcastle.co.uk/gosforth-voices>

A member of staff from ARFS will be available to walk the children to choir each week but children must be collected from Grange First School.

Guitar lessons are organised through the Music Partnership North Newcastle team and will take place in school on Thursdays.

## **PE**

PE will be taught on a Thursday afternoon. Please could all children come to school in their PE kit on this day. It would be very helpful if any child with long hair (boys as well as girls) has their hair tied up on this day and that children can fasten their own shoes (e.g. only wear lace up shoes if they can fasten them themselves!).

Please note that children will not be able to take part in PE lessons if they are wearing jewellery of any kind (including stud earrings).

This term we are doing invasion games (hockey) and the children will be taught how to use running, jumping, throwing and catching in isolation and in combination and to play competitive games and apply basic principles suitable for attacking and defending.

Each afternoon the children will be partaking in the active mile around the field/yard. With this in mind, please ensure that your child is wearing appropriate footwear. Children are able to wear black trainers for school as long as they do not have colourful designs/logos.

## **Jewellery**

Please can I ask that children do not wear any jewellery on any day for school. Thank you. Children wearing jewellery will be asked to remove it and bring it home. We cannot be held responsible if it goes missing.

## **Snacks and water**

All children should bring a named water bottle each day, please. This will be brought home each evening to wash in preparation for the next day. In Years 3 & 4, children can bring in a fruit or vegetable snack to school. Please do not send fruit winders or other processed fruit or vegetables.

## **Reading**

Reading is the most important skill children will learn at First School. We will continue to use book bags to bring books in and out of school.

Children will take a short comprehension quiz in their first week which will help them pick the right level of book from the library. As ever, we strongly encourage daily reading at home with an adult. Please ensure that you, or your child, writes a comment in their reading record highlighting what they have read and any issues that arise.

Children will have the opportunity to change their books at least once a week, as your child is now in Year 4, we do encourage them to choose longer texts and novels to support their fluency and

comprehension. Please note that books must be returned before another is issued. This will be checked against their home reading record.

### **Statutory Tests**

In Year 4, children will undertake the multiplication tables check in June. The multiplication tables check (MTC) is statutory for all year 4 pupils registered at state-funded maintained schools, special schools or academies, including free schools, in England.

The purpose of the MTC is to determine whether pupils can recall their times tables fluently, which is essential for future success in mathematics. It will help schools to identify pupils who have not yet mastered their times tables, so that additional support can be provided at middle school. In school, we will have a strong focus on times tables – both recall and application but it will also be beneficial for your child to practice at home on apps such as Times Tables Rock Stars.

I would like to invite you to a parent information evening concerning the multiplication check on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> of April at 4:30pm.**

### **Other belongings needed**

Please ensure that all belongings (coats, jumpers, cardigans etc.) are labelled and that any additional items, such as hats, scarves or gloves, are brought in within a drawstring bag.

### **Visits & Visitors**

This year, visits out of school and visitors into school will be linked to our learning each term. In Year 4, this takes place across the region. Year 4 will also have the opportunity to attend a residential at Dukes House Wood in Hexham – this will take place in the first half of the Summer term and you will be invited to a parent meeting once we have confirmation of the dates.

In Year 4, our classroom learning will be enriched through educational visits and having visitors come into school. Below you will find our initial visits for the Autumn term.

	<b>Area/Learning</b>	<b>Visitors</b>	<b>Visits</b>
<b>Autumn Term</b>	Geography - Climate Change		Walking tour of Morpeh to look at environmental changes – Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October
	History - Ancient Greece	Durham University - Ancient Greece Day - Tuesday 19th November	

If you have a particular knowledge of any of our curriculum areas we would welcome your expertise!

### **Homework**

Homework stickers will be given out every Thursday and will be stuck in the children's reading records, starting next week. These will consist of an English and Maths IXL objective that should be completed by the following Tuesday, please. These objectives will consolidate the learning that has taken place in class during the week. Also, spellings will be sent home on a Thursday in your child's spelling book. This follows the 'Look – Say – Cover – Write – Check' method that will be explicitly taught in school to aid children in learning their spellings, which will inevitably support their writing. Spelling quizzes will also take place every Thursday and will consist of 5 words that match a spelling pattern and 3 common exception words.

Logins can be found inside Reading Records. These may be updated during the year.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to email me at the below address.

I'm really looking forward to the year ahead and helping your children to thrive during their last year at Archbishop Runcie First School.

Yours sincerely,

*Mrs Ellwood*

margery.ellwood@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk

<b>Autumn Term Dates</b>	
Beginning of school year	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September
Staff training day	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October
Quiz night (Adults only)	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November
Year 3/4 nativity performance (afternoon)	Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December
Year 3/4 nativity performance (evening)	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December
Year 3/4 nativity performance (morning)	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December
<b>Spring Term Dates</b>	
Multiplication check parental meeting	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April – 4:30pm

Please also check the newsletter for new, upcoming dates or any changes. Thank you!

**Be courageous; be strong.**

**Do everything in love.**

1 Corinthians 16:13-14