



March 2021

Newsletter 17 – 12.3.21



WELCOME BACK!!

It has been wonderful to have all our children back in school this week. The bunting and balloons were out on Monday to mark the occasion. Thank you for all the lovely feedback we received - the staff were genuinely overjoyed to see the children and the vast majority of children skipped into school!! They have settled back amazingly and have worked their socks off this week.

We have had 100% attendance in Years 1-4 this week too - well done everyone!

COVID-19 UPDATES

Thank you in advance for your support in;

- Only one parent or carer dropping off and collecting children.
- All visitors to the site, including parents, wearing face coverings at all times.
- Arriving at the correct time (**please do not arrive early**).
- Tying up dogs well away from the school gates in order to avoid children congregating nearby.
- Not congregating on the yard or outside the school gates.
- Exiting the site as soon as your children have been collected. Please do not allow your child(ren) to play outside with equipment, as this is for particular class use only, or on the trim trail, as this is not cleaned daily.
- Leaving paths and walkways clear to allow people to walk around the site with plenty of space.
- Not approaching staff for face-to-face conversations. You are welcome to phone or email staff if you have questions or queries.
- Waiting well back from the building when collecting your child, maintaining a distance from other parents.
- Not bringing toys or other objects, such as Pokémon cards, in from home.



Particularly for children in Nursery and Reception, please remember to empty book bags daily so pictures and drawings do not go back and forth between home and school. Thank you!

Children in Years 3 and 4 need to bring their own snack to school please as these will not be provided by school.

For parents collecting from after school club, please wait outside the main door (not in the foyer) after you have rung the bell. Thank you!

School meals

This week, 22 extra children have claimed school meals that were not booked in for school lunches. Because these numbers were higher than expected, Mrs Battista has been unable to stick to the usual menu this week as she did not have the correct stock. A reminder that if your child requires a school meal, you must let Mrs Pygall know in advance. If you wish to change from packed lunch to school meals, or vice versa, the kitchen needs two weeks' notice to ensure we have sufficient stock. Thank you.



Lateral Flow Tests

As you know, we have been asked to share the following guidance with parents and carers regarding the testing for households and bubbles of school pupils. This explains how parents and carers (not children) can get a rapid flow test to take at home, twice weekly. These can be accessed through employers (if they offer testing), through collection from a local site (the link enables you to search for your nearest site), or through home delivery.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

Home Learning

We are asking that all children who have been learning at home during the latest lockdown return their home learning books in and then we will issue new ones in return. Thank you!

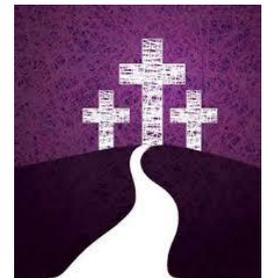


PARENTS' EVENING

Booking for Parent Teacher consultations will open at 5:00pm today (Friday 12th March) via ParentMail and will close at noon on 26th March. Children who are on the Special Educational Needs register are welcome to book appointments but do not need to, as they will either have already had their IEP review with their teacher or will be having their Spring review soon.

LENT

It's great to hear from the children about their many Lenten promises! As you will know, this year we are trying to put a 'positive spin' on life during Lent, asking all members of our community to think about something they may **do** or take up, rather than something to give up, so that we can be closer to God. From promises of playing with others to cuddles with mummy, to additional house duties (!), it is wonderful to hear of the many different things some of our children are doing. Our staff have been sharing their own promises too! These include some increasing their daily exercise, others choosing to eat more healthily and we have all pledged to refill the staffroom kettle when it is empty!!



SCIENCE WEEK

You will have seen on Twitter that, this week, children in each class has been focusing on the environment and what we can do to help save the planet. Nursery talked about how plastics were polluting the ocean and in the water area they discovered the animals were swimming in a contaminated ocean, they were brilliant at clearing it out! Year 1 read the story 'Clean up' about a little girl who helped clean up all the rubbish from the beach and then they created their own poster to encourage people to recycle. Year 3 experienced a polluted classroom to think about what all the plastic was doing to our oceans and looked at the 3R's; Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. All the children realised that no matter how big or small, they can make a big difference to the world!

RECEPTION AUDIO TESTS

Mrs Pygall has sent Audio Screening letters home to parents of Reception children. The screens will take place, in school, on 23rd March. Please return permission letters to school.



EARRINGS

A reminder that children should not wear any jewellery, including earrings, to school please.



WORSHIP

Year 3 will lead Mother's Day Worship for their friends in other classes this afternoon. On Monday 29th March, Year 2 will lead Palm Sunday Worship in the same way. Thank you to the staff and children for preparing and delivering these.

It has been lovely to welcome back Andrew Shipton and Beverley Davis from Gosforth, All Saints' to lead outdoor worship this week. We know that the children have really enjoyed it!

Usually, children in Years 1-4 visit Gosforth, All Saints' for an Easter service. This year we will hold this via Teams, for children and staff, on Thursday 1st April.

CHARITABLE GIVING

Thank you to everyone who has returned their "Trek to the North Pole" sponsor form and money to school. It is not too late to return any forms and money to school. We will pass these on to the PTFA so total miles and money can be calculated. Thank you to everyone who took part. Also, thank you for the additional Christingle candle boxes that have been returned to school for the Children's Society. It is not too late to return any further donations to Mrs Pygall.

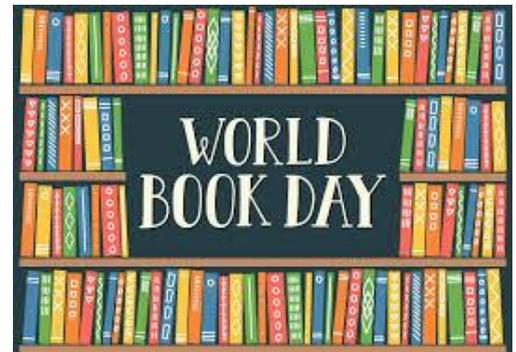


A reminder that it is Red Nose Day on Friday 19th March. Children are invited to wear something red for school.

WORLD BOOK DAY

Thank you to everyone who took part in the potato decorating competition at home. Winners were:

Nursery- Hannah
Reception- Danny
Year 1- Evie
Year 2- Maddison
Year 3- Connie
Year 4- Juliet



Well done to you all! It was great to see lots of children and staff dressed up on Friday too. Please make time to look at the pictures on Twitter! World Book Day vouchers came home with children, via book bags, on Monday 8th March. These are valid until 28th March.

PARKING AROUND SCHOOL



We have received a complaint from a local resident about the inconsiderate parking of some of our parents, before and after school, as well as the language used when the resident approached this with an individual. We would be grateful if you could please park considerately around school and do not park on double yellow lines, zig-zag lines or across entrances to roads or garages. Residents should not have to tolerate being unable to access their garage or house due to the parking of our school community. In addition, we would be grateful if parents associated with our school could be polite in the way they speak to residents. Thank you.

BUILDING WORK

Some of you may recall that we have plans to remodel our school entrance, over the summer, in order to make it more visible for visitors. This work will hopefully take place during the summer holidays although Mr Hunter and the ground maintenance team have already begun to undertake some preparatory work near the main entrance. I will keep you updated with plans and timescales when I know more!



SAFEGUARDING



Mrs Massey and Mr Booth are our school's Designated Safeguarding Leaders. We know how challenging a time it is right now as we have dealt with a number of safeguarding incidents since returning after half-term. Please ensure that you continue to note, read and understand this information so that we can all be prepared for situations, especially right now.

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>

Wishing you all a safe and happy weekend.

With my very best wishes,

Mrs KE Massey

Headteacher



Love to learn, learn to love”

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

March 2021			
19 th March	GST Deadline Applications for Nursery places for September 2021	Noon	
	Red Nose Day		Children invited to wear something red. Donations can be made via ParentMail.
Tuesday 23 rd March	Reception Audio Screens (in school)		Please return permission slips to school.
Friday 26 th March	All children in Reception and Years 1-4 to come to school in PE kits		
	GST Letters of offer for Nursery places		
Monday 29 th March	Y2 Leading Palm Sunday Worship for other classes (children only)		
29/30 th March	Parents' Evening (phone calls)	TBC	Families of children on the SEN register are welcome to make an appointment but do not need to.
April 2021			
Thursday 1 st April	Maundy Thursday Service hosted by Gosforth, All Saints (via Teams)		
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		Cancelled due to government restrictions. Refunds are currently being processed.
May 2021			
Monday 3 rd May	Bank holiday		
Sunday 23 rd May	Children's Cancer Run		Cancelled by organisation.
June 2021			
31 st May - 4 th June	Half term		
July 2021			
Friday 23 rd July	School closes for summer		



Newcastle Cathedral Online Chorister Experience

Saturday 20th March
10.30am until 11.30am

Fun songs and musical games for Years 2, 3, and 4, and a chance to find out more about the unique and valuable opportunity of singing as a Newcastle Cathedral Chorister. Free of charge.

**To register interest please contact
Emily Stolting on
music@newcastlecathedral.co.uk**

