



Newsletter 6

21st November 2025

Headteacher Message



This past fortnight, our school community has paused to reflect on the importance of Remembrance Day. Annually observed on November 11th, this day commemorates the end of hostilities in the First World War and honours all those who have lost their lives in conflicts since,

fighting for the freedoms we enjoy today. Year 4 led a mature and respectful act of worship last week and the whole school took part in a silence at 11:00am on Armistice Day.

We have also marked our commitment to anti-bullying through taking part in several workshops, acts of worship and lessons. We strive to ensure every single child feels safe, valued and happy in school so they can flourish here. We have talked to children about being 'upstanders', not bystanders, and encouraged them to report any concerns immediately to a trusted adult (either at home or at school).

The season of Advent is nearly upon us, beginning this year on Sunday, 30th November. This special time of year marks the start of the Christian liturgical calendar and is a period of reflection, anticipation, and preparation for the celebration of Christmas. You are all welcome to join us for collective worship, led by Year 3, on Monday 1st December at 9:00am.

Advent is a season of waiting and hoping. It is a time for us to prepare our hearts and minds for the arrival of Jesus. In school, we will be focusing on the key themes of this season: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Through our collective worship, lessons and interactions, we will encourage the children to think about what advent means to them. We will light our school Advent wreath week by week; a symbol of God's endless love and the increasing light in the world as we approach Christmas.

A detailed calendar of all Christmas events is included in this newsletter so settle in with a drink! We have lots of exciting news to share too, so it's a little longer than usual...

Best wishes,

Kate Massey

Attendance



Did you know ...?

WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

- Good attendance at school is essential for children to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing and wider life chances.
 - Nurseries and first schools play a vital role in embedding good attendance habits.
 - Even at first school, children with the highest attendance have higher rates of attainment.
 - National data shows us that children not meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths.
 - For the most vulnerable pupils, regular attendance is also an important protective factor and the best opportunity for children's needs to be identified and support provided. Research has shown there are clear links between regular absence from school and harm to children.
- 95% attendance = two weeks absence

- 90% attendance = 4 weeks absence
- 85% attendance = 6 weeks absence
- 80% attendance = more than half a term of absence
- 75% attendance = more than 9 weeks of absence

Please remember that I am unable to authorise absences during term time for family holidays. We would be grateful if parents/carers could also inform grandparents, family and friends, who may be looking to book birthday or Christmas trips away, that these do not fall under exceptional circumstances and will not be authorised.

If you need any support regarding attendance, please do not hesitate to come and speak to us as we can help you access support from the school nurse, attendance officer or other appropriate services.

We recognise that children may sometimes have a legitimate reason to be absent from school, and we are also aware that some families face difficulties which may impact on their child's education, therefore, the traffic light system has been put in place to support families by highlighting concerns at an early stage.

We hope that you will continue to support our school by promoting school attendance and by informing us if you feel there are any issues that are preventing your child from attending school regularly.

Our full school Attendance Policy can be found on our website.

"Improving school attendance is everyone's business." Please support us in promoting the benefits of good attendance with your child - not only for their education but, also, to support their wellbeing and future life chances.



1 - Mrs Jan Gurkin

If you would like to discuss this further, please get in touch with our attendance officer Jan Gurkin (jan.gurkin@clennelleducationsolutions.org).

Attendance Headlines

Whole school attendance:

- w/c 10/11/2025 - 96%
- w/c 17/11/2025 - 95%

Highest class attendance:

- w/c 10/11/2025 - Year 4 99%
- w/c 17/11/2025 - Year 1 98%

Absence Headlines

During this fortnight, 170 mins of learning time have been missed in school due to lateness. Please try to arrive on time at school, between 8:35am – 8:45am. Thank you. Our first lesson of the day is reading so children arriving late miss vital learning.

For children who arrive late, more than once in a week, we run a Friday lunchtime catch-up session with class teachers.

Whole school absence:

- w/c 10/11/2025 - 4%
- w/c 17/11/2025 - 5%

Absence caused by holidays:

- w/c 10/11/2025 - 1%
- w/c 17/11/2025 - 1%

Other absences:

- w/c - 10/11/2025 - 3%
- w/c - 17/11/2025 - 4%

School Celebrations!



Demonstrating Love

Nursery

- Ivy
- Seb

Reception

- Henry
- Aga

Year 1

- Charlie
- Grace

Year 2

- Annabelle
- Penny

Year 3

- Ethan
- Dipti

Year 4

- Indi
- Max Cr

Staff

- Mrs Norman
- Miss Lawton



Demonstrating Determination

Nursery

- Ayra
- Lottie

Reception

- Muhammad
- Ayo

Year 1

- Hugo
- Josiah

Year 2

- Penny
- Urwah

Year 3

- Dipti
- Anneloise

Year 4

- Jesse
- Elli

Staff

- Mr Brown
- Mrs Ellwood



TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS

By the end of Year 4, children are expected to know all their multiplication tables up to 12 x 12 and Year 4 children undertake their statutory Multiplication Tables Check in the summer term.

TTRS - Highest engagement

Year 2- Yashika

Year 3 - Lyla

Year 4 - Max Cr.

TTRS - Highest accuracy

Year 2- Anidunnu

Year 3 - Lyla

Year 4 - Max Cr.

Current Rank amongst nearby schools: 12

Mean studio speed (seconds per question): 3.53



Year 3 are rocking their TTRS costumes today!



HANDWRITING HEROES

As a school, we continue to have a real drive to improve handwriting, letter formation and presentation of work. Each week, class teachers will choose someone who has worked hard to improve their presentation or who consistently demonstrates exemplary standards of presentation. Well done and thank you to the following children:

Year 1

- Charlie
- Jad

Year 2

- Arthur
- Billie

Year 3

- Maliha
- Ava

Year 4

- Nuh
- Harmony

Social Action Groups





2 - Green Team



3 - Energy Champions



4 - Play Leaders



5 - Library Champions



6 - Worship Council



7 - School Council



School Council have taken part in a festive art project which will be displayed in Gosforth shopping centre. They designed different shapes in the style of gingerbread biscuits. Their artwork looks amazing and we can't wait to see it displayed in the shopping centre. You will be able to identify our beautiful artwork by looking for our school badge on each piece created by ARFS School Council.



PLAY LEADERS

This fortnight has brought an influx of wintry weather to Gosforth and our Play Leaders have been working hard to ensure everyone is having fun and safe whether inside or out! They have thought creatively about activities and games that can be played in challenging circumstances!



GREEN TEAM

This week, Green Team led worship all about the impact of food waste on our planet. They explained to the rest of the school about the impact of food waste in landfill - leaking toxic liquids into our soil and water, as well as causing methane to escape into our air. We couldn't believe that food waste is responsible for 10% of greenhouse gases or that methane causes global warming 25 to happen times faster than carbon dioxide! We learned that food waste can be put to good use, to create energy and fertiliser, if it goes in the right bin!

Our wonderful Green Team have volunteered to help the other children make sure that only food waste goes in the food waste bin so that it can be composted and does not end up in landfill.













YOUNG LEADERS

We have continued to discuss Leadership roles within our local community and, this week, our Young Leaders have been given challenges that they can complete at home and they will feedback in our next meeting. They continue to impress us with their mature attitudes and keen sense of responsibility.



LIBRARY CHAMPIONS

This week we have put up a wonderful display in the library which lets all the children in school know who our library champions are and who to see if they need help or advice!



Charitable giving is an important for Christians as it is a direct reflection of God's love and a practical way to live out the teachings of Jesus, who emphasized compassion, generosity and caring for the poor and marginalised. Our work on charitable giving reflects our school's values: love is demonstrated through selfless acts that meet the needs of others, while determination is shown in the persistent effort to make a positive difference in the world, actively working against injustice and hardship.





REMEMBRANCE

Our Year 4 children led a sombre and thought-provoking Remembrance act of worship last week. They read poems, sang beautifully and shared reasons of the importance of the silence at 11 am on the 11th day of the 11th month. We were extremely proud of how they approached this somewhat difficult subject matter with such maturity and respect. Well done Year four!

Thank you to everyone who supported the British Legion by buying a poppy or other merchandise.



CHILDREN IN NEED

The children looked spectacular in spots last Friday and there were lots of smiling faces whilst each class completed their challenges!





Sponsor forms and money raised (cash only please) can be handed in to the school office. Mrs Lowe will be sending all the funds we have raised to Children in Need on Monday next week.

Collectively we raised in excess of £800 for such a brilliant charity. **Well done everyone!**



Share the joy: Help make Christmas magical for Newcastle's young people

We have been invited to join Newcastle City Council's Christmas gift appeal and help bring festive joy to Care Leavers and children in need across our city.

Last year, over 1,800 gifts reached more than 700 young people, thanks to the incredible generosity of our community and they want to do even more this year. The season can be a challenging time, and every gift makes a huge difference. Items like cosy hats, gloves, pyjamas, and fitness watches were handpicked by the young people themselves.

Please select "Every Christmas 2025" as the delivery address to ensure each gift reaches us directly. Let's make this Christmas brighter for every child Find out more via the links below:

Amazon wish

list: https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/VAXK3M60FVX2%3Fref=wl_dp_view_your_list

ore information: <https://new.newcastle.gov.uk/news/2025/share-joy-help-make-christmas-magical-newcastles-young-people>

Clubs for Autumn Term 2 (November & December)



We are delighted to be able to offer a range of extra-curricular activities for our children.

- Choir with Charlotte from Music Partnership North - Monday 12:30pm email: admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk
- All Stars Bible Club (run by a group of parents and church volunteers) - Tuesdays (fortnightly) 12:30pm email: beckymcbride90@gmail.com
- Years 3 & 4 Football with Lee Sterry - Tuesdays 3:15pm <https://www.ls-sc.co.uk/schools/>
- Rec, Year 1 and Year 2 Multiskills with Andrew Cartwright - Monday 3:15pm <https://goteamup.com/p/7576178-andrew-cartwright-football/courses/118755/>
- Years 3 & 4 Football with Andrew Cartwright - Monday 3:15pm <https://goteamup.com/p/7576178-andrew-cartwright-football/courses/118756/>
- Violin - Monday after school with Charlotte from Music Partnership North <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=wLSfsgQnN0q0YsEpSx4bR6HhZ8onp51DiB-iHdtAkHdUNzg1S08yUTdTR0hGRzJSMkQySU5PVUJFVi4u&route=shorturl>
- Guitar with Jack from Music Partnership North - Tuesdays after school <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=wLSfsgQnN0q0YsEpSx4bR6HhZ8onp51DiB-iHdtAkHdUNzg1S08yUTdTR0hGRzJSMkQySU5PVUJFVi4u&route=shorturl>
- Rugby Minis - Thursdays 3:15pm <https://www.rugbyminis.co.uk/archbishoppruncie>

- Gosforth Voices (Years 3 & 4) run by Music Partnership North on behalf of Gosforth Schools Trust <https://www.newcastlemusicservice.co.uk/ensembles>
- Gosforth Band run by Music Partnership North on behalf of Gosforth Schools Trust (Years 3 & 4) <https://www.newcastlemusicservice.co.uk/ensembles>



8 - Breakfast Club runs daily, 7:45am - 8:45am

We are pleased to offer our own Breakfast Club (7.45am - 8.45am) and After School Club (3.15pm - 5.30pm) in our school hall. If you have any queries regarding menus or activities, please email wraparound@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk

Breakfast Club sessions cost £6.00 and include a breakfast of cereal/toast and milk/orange juice. Children must arrive before 8.15am if they require breakfast. Afterschool Club, until 4:15pm is £6.00 and, until 5:30pm, is £12.50 per session and includes a snack and drink.

Bookings for Wraparound Care are managed by Childcare Bookings for Schools. You can pay using either a debit/credit card or using childcare vouchers.

The URL to access the booking system is **<https://archbishop-runcie.cbfs.uk/>**

Contact email address: archbishopruncie@childcarebookingsforschools.co.uk

Contact phone number: 01444 523335

Collective Worship

Collective Worship over the last fortnight has focused on climate change and the actions that we can take to help slow this down. Linked to our climate action plan, we have reflected on our school vision, values and culture linked to being stewardship of God's creation. We have

considered waste, transport, green skills and careers, saving water, saving energy and the importance of supporting and encouraging biodiversity.



Church Links



ALL SAINTS' CHRISTMAS CARD

We are delighted that Mia in Year 4 won the annual All Saints' Christmas card competition with her wonderful nativity scene. This has been published and sent to over 5000 homes in the Gosforth area! Well done Mia!



9 - Designed by Mia (Year 4)

ALL SAINTS' CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Advent Sunday 30th November -

3pm Advent Messy Church in the Centre

6.30pm Advent Carols and Illumination of Angels followed by mulled wine

Saturday 6th December 11.00-1.00pm

Christmas Fair in the All Saints Centre

Tuesday 9th December 6.00pm

Parish Carol Singing from Church

Sunday 14th December 3.30pm

Christingle service followed by refreshments

Christmas Eve

2.00pm Children's Service

4.00pm Carol Service

6.30pm Carol Service

11.30pm Midnight Eucharist of Christmas

Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Christmas Communion

Sunday 4th January

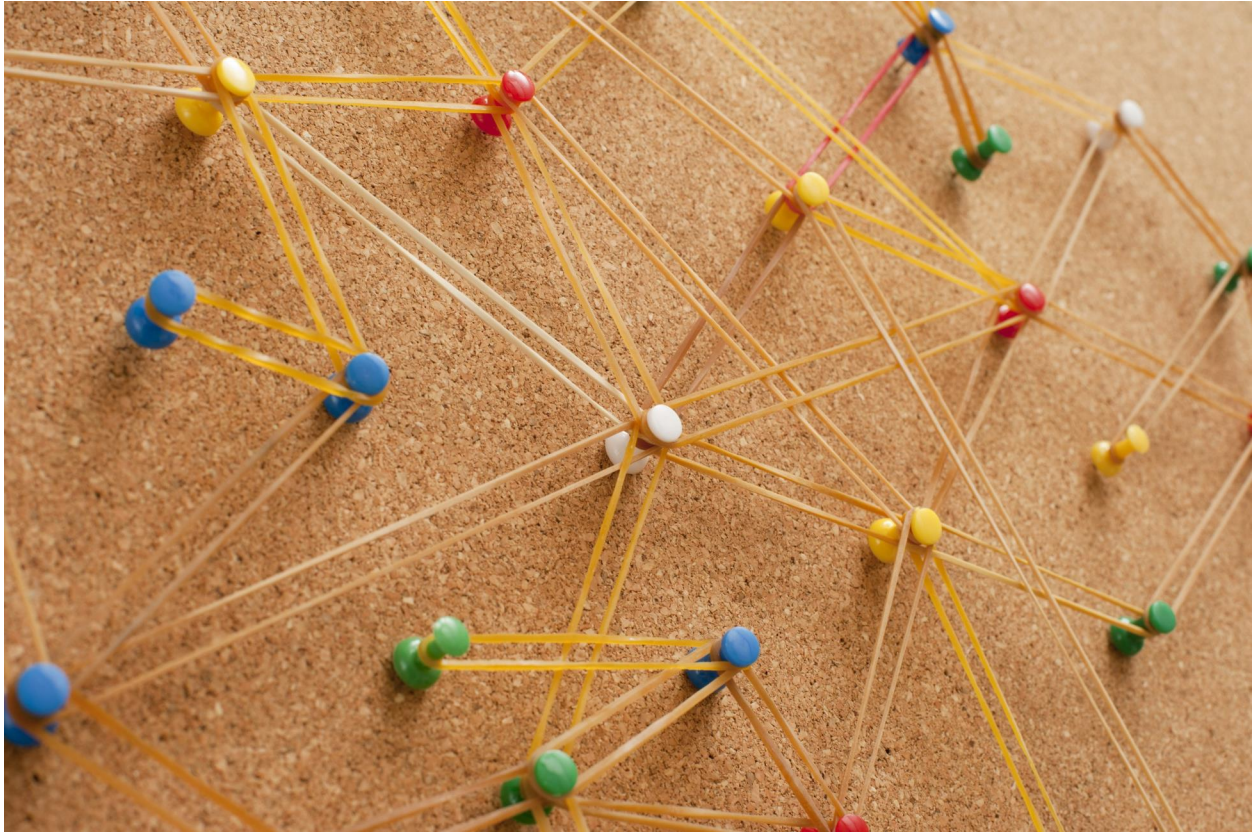
9.30am Epiphany Service



**Sunday 30th November
at 3.00pm**

in the
All Saints Centre
West Avenue, NE3 4ES
Tel 0191 2130450 for more details

School News



thank you

THANK YOU!

This year, we have had an overwhelming number of request from prospective parents wanting to come and look around school. Whilst speaking to visitors, the majority have been recommended by our current parents and carers which is amazing! Thank you to everyone who has recommended our school to another parent or carer - we really appreciate it and we are delighted you all enjoy being part of our school family enough to suggest others join it too!



WINTER WEATHER

As the colder, wetter weather has now arrived, we kindly ask for your cooperation in ensuring your child is appropriately equipped for outdoor play and classroom comfort. With the potential for rain and snow, the school grounds can become very muddy and wet.

To keep your child comfortable throughout the school day, we ask that they bring a **named** pair of wellies (or alternative waterproof boots) to wear during outdoor playtimes and activities. These can either be taken home each night or left in school.

In addition to wellies, please ensure your child brings their usual black school shoes (or black trainers) to change into when they come inside. This helps us keep classrooms clean and dry for everyone and prevents slipping hazards on indoor floors. You might also like to send a spare pair of socks too. We had lots of wet socks before school even began on Thursday!

Key requests:

- **Wellies:** To be worn outdoors during wet/snowy conditions. They can be left at school if you wish. **Please label them clearly.**
- **Usual black school shoes or black trainers** for wearing inside the classroom.

Please label all footwear clearly with your child's name to ensure items are not misplaced.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us provide a safe and enjoyable experience for all children, both inside and outside the classroom.

When it is wet/snowy, please ensure children also come to school with suitable named outdoor clothing (e.g. waterproof coats, leggings, hats, gloves etc). It is really important that every item is clearly named so it can be returned to your child(ren) if misplaced. A change of clothes (socks in particular!) is also a good idea at this time of year! We really do not want anyone to be sitting in wet, cold clothing for the rest of the day so please ensure they are suitably prepared! Thank you.

We would like to remind you that when it is icy or snowy, parents/carers are responsible for:

- adhering to the designated, gritted pathways in school.
- collecting children during the day should conditions worsen.
- ensuring that the school has up-to-date telephone numbers in order for text messages/telephone calls to be received.
- wearing suitable footwear for the conditions when bringing and collecting children from school.
- ensuring that your child is wearing sensible footwear and warm coats appropriate to the conditions.
- supervising your child before and after school and ensuring that children do not play on any ungritted areas outside of the school day (before 8.45am and after 3.15pm).



BABY EGDELL

We are delighted to announce the arrival of Lily Edgell. Lily was born on 11th November, weighing 6lb 11oz. Mummy and baby are both doing well.





RELATIONSHIP SUPPORT

Arguments are a normal part of family life, but when we constantly argue it can be a sign that disagreements are not being solved in the best way and can be harmful to children.

- Do you feel that you argue all the time?
- Do you struggle to talk about how you feel?
- Do you find it difficult to listen to the views of your partner or co-parent?

Relationships Matter North East can offer FREE support, a space to talk about your relationship and how family disagreements can impact on your child/ren. You are eligible for support if:

- you or your co-parent live or use services in the North East region
- you are expecting your first child, or you have a child aged 0-18 years
- you are committed to making changes in the relationship with your child's other parent
- you can spare 1-2 hours per week for a programme that could really make a difference

Find out more here: www.relate.org.uk/relationships-matter Or email us: rpcenquiries@relate.org.uk

REDUCING PARENTAL CONFLICT

There is strong evidence that conflict between parents – whether together or separated – can have a significant negative impact on children's mental health and long-term life-chances. Not all conflict is damaging, but where this is frequent, intense and poorly resolved it can harm children's outcomes.

Parental conflict describes arguments that are frequent, intense and poorly resolved and can impact on child outcomes. Support for Parents All of the support outlined below is suitable for co-parents who are experiencing parental conflict.

- **Co-Parenting Everyday delivered by Relate at Family Action** - 7 sessions which are structured around improving communication, thinking about the experiences of each other and the children, attachment styles and how to resolve differences. Practitioners work alongside parents to understand and empower them to make changes in their lives which are sustainable and improve not only the outcomes of the parents, but also those of their children. Referrals can be made via initial discussion with Paula Davies to assess suitability. please contact Paula Davies paula.davies@newcastle.gov.uk 07500997363
- **Parenting When Separated** - Parenting When Separated course for parents who are separated and are struggling to communicate amicably—issues often over contact and parenting. Parents must be willing to engage in the sessions but will be in separate groups. A one hour, six-week course which will take place over Teams. Referral made via initial discussion with Paula Davies to assess suitability, please contact Paula Davies paula.davies@newcastle.gov.uk 07500997363
- **One Plus One digital resources** - These resources are free for parents in Newcastle. Parents can sign up for an account via <https://www.oneplusone.org.uk/parents>
- **Solihull online resource Understanding your relationships** - <https://inourplace.heiapply.com/online-learning/course/53> Relationships can be difficult, complicated, fun, satisfying, exciting, annoying, bring out the best in us, bring out the worst in us. We are often in one, but we don't often spend much time on them. An introduction to key themes around emotional wellbeing, communicating feelings, and managing conflict or anger with activities to support the relationships that mean the most to you.

Free Digital Support:

- Between Us App (betweenus-app.com) - Digital App for phone
<https://youtu.be/y6H39CYi4fs> - video about app for phone. For more information on any of the apps please contact Paula Davies paula.davies@newcastle.gov.uk 07500997363
- <https://www.seeitdifferently.org/> - this is a great website for practitioners, but also for parents and practitioners can work through it with them.
- Click (clickrelationships.org) – website that parents can use they set up a personal account and work through together or separately.

- <https://www.relate.org.uk/reducing-parental-conflict/in-the-middle-bot> - The 'in the middle' bot is a chatbot that helps you understand how your child sees your relationship. With a small amount of information and zero judgement, you can learn how your child might be feeling.
- <https://www.relate.org.uk/reducing-parental-conflict/sounding-board-bot> Made for parents who are having disagreements, this tool helps you write emails, text messages, or get ready to talk with your partner or co-parent. Relate's "sounding board" bot is here to help you keep your messages clear, polite and positive.



We are always arguing and shouting about money and who does the housework.

He is always sulking, giving me the silent treatment and walking away from our arguments.



Help is available from Relationships Matter North East now – they can:

- listen to you and discuss your needs
- match you to one of four support pathways best suited to your situation
- pay for childcare, travel and interpreting costs where required
- loan a device to access any online learning as part of your chosen programme if you need it

For more information, you can also visit <https://foundations.org.uk/reducing-parental-conflict-hub/>

These programmes do not aim to address domestic abuse. If your relationship makes you feel fear or unsafe in any way, you should contact your local domestic abuse service or speak with professionals already working with your family on how to access advice and support.

Women can call the 24-7 National Domestic Violence Helpline on 0808 200 0247.

Men's Advice Line (Mon – Fri, 9am – 5pm) 0808 801 0327.

Always call 999 in emergency situations.



RECEPTION APPLICATIONS - Key dates

For families with a child who will turn 4, on or before the 31st August 2026, you can now apply for a Reception place.

Applications open: 1 September 2025

Applications close: 15 January 2026

National offer day: 16 April 2026

There are several opportunities for prospective parents and carers to come and visit ARFS - please contact Mrs Coates to book a tour (admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk).

What you need to do

- [Check if you can apply and which address to use](#)
- Read the rules each school uses to decide who gets a place (called oversubscription criteria)
- Use all four school preferences
- Put your favourite school first – read the equal preference information below
- Apply on time – if you apply late there is less chance of being offered one of the schools you apply to



For further information please visit <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/apply-school-place/applying-reception-places>



PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

As part of our parents evenings, we received some feedback about homework and screen time. As a result, we would like to gather wider opinions around our current homework offer so we can make informed decisions going forwards.

Mrs Coates will be sending a questionnaire to all parents and carers early next week and we would value your feedback. Thank you.



SWITCH OFF FORTNIGHT

As part of our Climate Action Plan, we have taken part in 'Switch Off Fortnight' in school. During worship we have reflected on the importance of saving energy by switching devices and lights off when they are not in use.

Some children have shown a really keen interest in this and have been nominated as our "Energy champions". These children are:

Year 1 - Sanjhbati & Oliver Y

Year 2 - Aaidah & Mehr

Year 3 - Lyla & Benjamin D

Year 4- Elli & Max



AMAZON WISHLIST

Whilst there is absolutely no pressure to do so, several parents have suggested we set up an Amazon Wishlist to enable friends of our school to make a donation. You can find a list of items we are wishing for here: <https://amzn.eu/1E02d6C>

Our wish list includes:

- craft materials e.g. Christmas crafts
- forest school resources and consumables e.g. marshmallow
- sreading books
- first aid resources

If you have a suggestion of something that we might benefit from, we'd love to hear from you!

Please make sure you get items delivered directly to school! Thank you



PTFA AGM

Our PTFA will be holding their AGM on **Thursday 27th November at 9:30am** in school. We would love as many parents and carers to come along as possible.

Each class has a parent representative who is the main channel of communication for the class. We currently have vacancies for class reps in Nursery, Reception, Year 2 and Year 3. If you would like to become a class rep or would like further information about what this would entail, please email the PTFA who will be happy to help (archbishopprunceptfa@gmail.com). Thank you

N - VACANT

R - VACANT

Y1 - Shela Close

Y2 - VACANT

Y3 - VACANT

Y4 - Sarah McRea

Chair- Angela Nicholson

Secretary- VACANT

Treasurer - VACANT



NEW UNIFORM PROVIDER

We are delighted to let you know that Ekita will be sourcing ARFS uniform in addition to Tots to Teams at Kingston Park.

In line with our school ethos and values, Etika Uniforms believe that what children wear to school should reflect fairness, sustainability and compassion. By choosing ethically made uniforms, we set a powerful example and give parents an ethical choice. Ekita garments are made under fair working conditions, with environmentally friendly materials, and designed to last, supporting workers' rights, reducing environmental impact and turning uniforms into a true symbol of integrity and kindness.

A portion of each Etika school uniform sale directly funds educational initiatives in vulnerable communities in the UK and India.

From providing bicycles that aid children in travelling to school to supplying essential items such as shoes, stationery and uniforms, Ekita are dedicated to breaking down barriers to education and creating real opportunities for learning and growth.

To place an order, you can select ARFS at <https://etikauniforms.co.uk/schools-page/>

Christmas is coming!



NATIVITIES

Nursery & Reception: Born in Bethlehem

- 10.12.25 at 9:30am
- 11.12.25 at 1:30pm

Years 1 & 2: The Sleepy Shepherd

- 11.12.25 at 9:30am
- 12.12.25 at 1:30pm

Years 3 & 4: The Apprentice

- 12.12.25 at 9:30am
- 15.12.25 at 1:30pm

Parents and carers of each child in school will be issued with two seats per child, per key stage, so they can choose which performance they would like to attend. Mrs Coates will be taking bookings either by phone or by email from Monday 24th November until Tuesday 2nd December. Extra seats may be released from Thursday 4th December, if capacity allows. Physical tickets will not be issued; Mrs Coates will check attendance at each performance against the bookings list.

As you will know, we recently asked parents of children in Years 1 - 4 to indicate whether their child was able to return to school for an after school performance of the nativity story.

Unfortunately, the majority of children are unable to return to school, therefore, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the evening performances. We understand this will be disappointing but I am sure you will appreciate that we need a certain number of children to be able to perform the nativities and certain characters are essential! We will still perform a morning and afternoon nativity so there is still ample opportunity to watch your child(ren) perform. Thank you for your understanding.



CHOIR EVENTS

Choir have been invited to sing at Grainger Market, 12:00-1:00pm, on Monday 1st December. This is such a wonderful opportunity for our children so please do pop along and see us singing if you are free!



CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Christmas parties are taking place in the final week of term. Please send children to school in party wear that is appropriate for school (flat shoes - no open toes, appropriate length skirts/shorts and no midriffs on show!). Children will still be taking part in curriculum activities and therefore should not wear jewellery. Thank you.

We would be grateful if each child could bring a small contribution to share. Nearer the time, each class will have a paper list up outside classrooms so parents/carers can sign up to contribute. For those parents who are not on the school yard at drop off/pick up, please email Mrs Coates and she can sign you up. Thank you.

All foods must be individually wrapped with ingredients clearly listed on packaging please.

Thank you for your understanding.

Class party dates are as follows:

- Nursery & Reception – Tuesday 16th December
- Years 1 & 2 - Thursday 18th December
- Years 3 & 4 - Tuesday 16th December



CAROL SERVICE

There is a Carol Service planned for the final afternoon (Friday 19th December) at St Nicholas' Church for children in Years 1 - 4. The service will begin at 1:45pm and finish at 2:15pm. Children will be dismissed from church, if their parents/carers are in attendance. Please see permission form on ParentMail.

Children should not bring book bags / anything extra on the last day so they don't have to carry their belongings to church. Nursery and Reception children are invited to attend if they are accompanied by a parent/carer. They can be collected from school at 1:00pm. Please indicate on the ParentMail form if your Nursery or Reception child will be attending, accompanied by a parent or carer.

It would be amazing if parents and carers of children in Years 1 - 4 could meet us at school at 1:00pm and walk to church with us and sit amongst the children during the service please.

At the end of the service, each class will be taken to a separate corner of the church. Children must be signed out and only collected by the person indicated on the ParentMail form, please. Any children without a parent/carer at church will return to school and can be collected at 3:15pm as usual (or attend After School Club).



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Christmas lunch will be served to staff, governors and children on Wednesday 17th December. This is a lovely festive event in school and one of the highlights of the school year!

To order a school lunch for your child, please complete the ParentMail form, which Mrs Coates will send early next week, no later than Friday 5th December. The usual lunch charge of £3.00 will apply for children in Nursery, Years 3 & 4.

*****There will be no Playgroup running in school on Wed 17th December*****



PTFA FILM NIGHT

The PTFA will be holding a Christmas themed film night on Thursday 4th December. This will take place from 3:15 - 5:00pm in classrooms at a cost of £5 per child. The price of the ticket will include, popcorn, Haribo's and biscuits. Films that will be shown are listed below.

If you would like to book your child on to film night, please email the PTFA directly at **archbishoppruncieptfa@gmail.com**

Once you have booked your child's place, cash payments can be handed in to the school office or to a member of the PTFA. Payment should be placed in a sealed named envelope with details of any dietary requirements. Bookings must be made no later than Monday 1st December.

If you have any questions please email the PTFA who will be happy to help!

- Nursery - Mickey's Once Upon a Christmas (U)
- Reception - Arthur Christmas (U)
- Year 1 - Santa Paws (U)
- Year 2 - Nativity (PG)
- Year 3 - The Grinch (PG)
- Year 4 - The Polar Express (U)

After school club will not be running on this date. Any children already booked into after school club will attend their class film night.



CHRISTMAS STORIES

On Thursday 18th December, Nursery and Reception children will be visiting Gosforth Civic Theatre for 'Stories with Santa' and Years 1 - 4 will have a festive storytelling session with Chris Bostock in school followed by hot chocolate round the fire. Payments can be made via ParentMail. Thank you.



CHRISTMAS JUMPERS

Children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper every Friday in December:

- Fri 5th Dec - please bring a donation towards the tombola
- Fri 12th Dec - donations for Save the Children can be made via ParentMail
- Fri 19th Dec - just for fun!

PRE-LOVED CHRISTMAS JUMPERS

Each year, the PTFA request donations of pre-loved Christmas jumpers and tops. These can be sent into school with children or dropped off at the school office before school. Thank you.

There is a growing collection of pre-loved jumpers and tops in the main entrance which are available to buy. We would be grateful of any further donations to the office, please. Thank you in advance.



PTFA CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

On Friday 28th November, children are invited to come to school in non-uniform in exchange for a colour themed Christmas hamper donation. We are kindly requesting themed donations from each class to create hampers which will be prizes in the PTFA Christmas raffle during the nativity performances. Each class will have a colour theme to stick to (if possible!).

We are also looking for wicker boxes to put goodies in too if anyone has anything suitable at home. If you know any local businesses that may be able to support us with goods, we would be really grateful. Thank you!

Nursery- Red

Reception - Green

Year 1 - Gold

Year 2 - Blue

Year 3 - Purple

Year 4 - Silver

Items can include festive drinks, snacks and treats, pamper goodies, candles, decorations, jams and preserves, crackers, chutneys, cheeses, chocolates and sweets etc (or anything else you can think of!) of the allocated colour (where possible). Thank you!



CHRISTMAS CARDS

We often receive a number of requests at this time of year from parents asking for class lists so their child can send Christmas cards to their classmates.

We will be giving out, upon request, class lists with first names only for data protection reasons (unless two children have the same name – in this case, we will give the least amount of letters of their surname to identify them). If you do not wish for your child's name to be included on these lists, please contact the school office. Thank you.

Christmas cards can be handed out at the beginning or end of the school day (not in class!). Thank you!

As a staff team we decided, several years ago, that in lieu of exchanging individual Christmas cards we would take part in the St Oswalds' "Share a card" campaign - children could do this too, if they wish.

Volunteer with us!



We are always looking for people to come and help in school! If you are interested in helping in school, please contact Mrs Lowe in the school office (admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk). All volunteers will require DBS clearance, and will need to provide references in line with our commitment to Safer Recruitment.

Please note that volunteers must not use their mobile phones during school visits and they must maintain confidentiality at all times. All volunteers will need enhanced DBS checks for this role.



EDUCATIONAL VISITS

We often need helpers to support us on educational visits out of school. Visits may be full or part days and may be with any class in school. Helping on educational visits will include supporting a small group to achieve the intended learning outcome, promoting high quality discussions, supporting positive behaviour and respectful attitudes of a group of pupils and ensuring the risk assessment is adhered to.

Please note that volunteers must not use their mobile phones during school visits and they must maintain confidentiality at all times.

If you think you might be able to help, please let Class Teachers know. Thank you!



LIBRARIAN / VOLUNTEER

Mrs Crozier and the Library Champions are in the process of giving the library a revamp and they are looking for a helping hand from a "Library Volunteer". This will involve tidying books shelves, checking and replacing labels, revamping displays, categorising new books and generally helping to promote the school library and class libraries. If you are interested in helping on a weekly or fortnightly basis, please contact Mrs Crozier (Emily.Crozier@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk).

Please note that volunteers must not use their mobile phones during school visits and they must maintain confidentiality at all times. All volunteers will need DBS clearance.



READING BUDDIES

Could you or a grandparent spare 20 - 30 minutes once or twice a week to help children with reading? We operate a successful reading buddy scheme with parents, grandparents and friends of the school, sharing books with children in Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. If you could spare an hour or two a week (ideally in the afternoons!), please contact the school office. You will require enhanced DBS checks through the school - please contact Mrs Coates.

Please note that volunteers must not use their mobile phones during school visits and they must maintain confidentiality at all times.



PLAYGROUP VOLUNTEER

Mrs Francis is looking for a couple of warm and friendly faces to support in our pre-school playgroup every Wednesday afternoon. This would involve setting up games and activities for our young visitors, welcoming families to school and interacting with pre-schoolers before helping to tidy up the hall. If you think you might be interested, or would like to know more, please contact Mrs Francis (Kathleen.Francis@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk).

Please note that volunteers must not use their mobile phones during school visits and they must maintain confidentiality at all times. All volunteers will need enhanced DBS checks for this role.

Dates for your diaries



Please see diary dates attached - this term is a busy one so please check you have added everything to your calendar! Dates can also be viewed on the school calendar at <https://archbishop-runcie.eschools.co.uk/web/calendar>

Mrs Coates regularly puts reminders of events on Facebook and Instagram to prompt parents too - please follow us to keep up with what's happening in school! She will also be sending out a helpful Christmas timetable next week which will help you plan ahead!



Safeguarding



WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD?

Mrs Massey, Mrs Francis, Mrs Crozier and Mrs Ellwood are our school's Designated Safeguarding Leaders (DSLs). Mr Brown is DSL for Wraparound care. Children are regularly reminded who they can talk to if they are worried about something in school.

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:

If you have a non-emergency concern about a child contact:

- Initial Response Service – 0191 277 2500
- Emergency Duty Team – 0191 278 7878 (out of hours)

- 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>

All concerns that a child or young person is suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm must be referred directly to the Initial Response Service of Children's Social Care in accordance with the Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board Procedures. Please refer to the Newcastle Safeguarding Children Partnership website for safeguarding policies and procedures. For more information, you can read our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy on our school website.



E-SAFETY UPDATE FROM ALAN MACKENZIE (ONLINE SAFETY SPECIALIST)

For Parents - Should I use screentime as a reward?

It's such a difficult one for parents, we're living in a time where screen use starts at a very early age. But should we use screen time to support positive behaviours or even take away screens as a punishment? The answer is that there is no single answer, it very much depends on individual circumstances, but it was a question posed to some experts on Internet Matters which will hopefully give parents some food for thought.

You can read the article from the Internet Matters website [HERE](#).

Community Notices



SEND PARENTS & CARERS SUPPORT GROUP

Does your child have a special educational need or disability? Would you like to talk to other parents/carers or get advice from professionals? Whether your child has a formal diagnosis or not, you are invited to drop in to the SEND Support Group for an informal place to chat and get advice.

These sessions run every Friday 10:00am-11:30am and Tuesdays 4:00-5:30pm at Gosforth Civic Theatre. No need to book - just turn up!

COMMUNITY HUB NORTH

Children & Families Newcastle is part of a community network providing activities and services across four localities in the city for babies, children, young people and families. We are part of the North Community Hub. Community hubs link to other buildings in the locality to create a network of venues that offer activities and services.

The community hubs also offer a range of services including – health visiting, family support, community midwifery, mental health support, children’s therapies, youth provision, training opportunities, childcare and employability services. To find out what is available near you, telephone your local Community Hub at Fawdon Children’s Centre, Cairns Way, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 2SN. Telephone 0191 2115773 Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm.

<https://www.newcastlesupportdirectory.org.uk/north>



10 - For family support, please scan.



11 - To see what is happening in the city, please scan.

SEND Support Hub 2025 Autumn Event 26.11.25

SEND Support Hub 2025 Autumn Event



26th November 2025

10am to 1pm

Galafield Family Hub,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 1LZ



Come along to our FREE event. Find out about **education, health and social care services** available to children and young people with additional needs and/or disabilities. Chat with services to find out what they can offer. Plus there will be a free soft play for little ones.



Arrive anytime. No need to book!

Scan the QR code to register your interest

localoffer@newcastle.gov.uk

Contact Us



Archbishop Runcie CE First School

Christon Road

Gosforth

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE31US

Visit us on the web at <https://archbishop-runcie.eschools.co.uk/web>

Tel: 0191 285 2663

email: admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk