



March 2020 – Newsletter Weeks 23 & 24

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Whole School (excluding Nursery)
Week 23	90%	95%	97%	99%	97%	99%	97%
Week 24	92%	95%	97%	98%	98%	98%	97%

Our school target for attendance is 97%.

PTFA NEWS

archbishopruncieptfa@gmail.com

A reminder that we continue to recycle used printer ink cartridges in school. The PTFA receive £1 for every recycled cartridge. Envelopes have been sent home in book bags this week or you can drop them at the school admin office. Thank you!



BOOK WEEK

Book Week, last week, was a huge success with children and staff celebrating World Book Day, visiting Gosforth Library and many children returning for "Bedtime stories" on Thursday. Thank you for such positive feedback about these events, it is always great to receive such positive emails and messages from children and parents. Thank you to Miss Orr for organising the Bedtime Story event!



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Further to a meeting with all GST Headteachers this morning, please find attached a letter regarding our current position and future plans regarding the Corona Virus Pandemic.

Although we recognise that school age children are not in the high-risk group, we do have vulnerable children and adults in school and therefore we have made the decision to **cancel all visitors to school and visits out of school until Easter**. We appreciate your support and cooperation with this and hope, as parents, you will trust that we will make decisions based on keeping risk to a minimum for individuals or groups within our school community.

The Department for Education (DfE) have advised that no school should close in response to a suspected (or confirmed) COVID-19 case unless advised to do by Public Health England. We are taking measures to prevent the spread of the virus seriously. The school continues to follow Public Health England advice and are receiving daily updates from the Department for Education.

Precautionary measures in school

- PSHE sessions on the importance of regular and correct hand washing and the "catch it, bin it, kill it" approach to coughs and sneezes (and ongoing reminders!)

- Handwashing posters around school
- Hand washing/sanitising on entry to school
- Regular hand washing throughout the day
- Any children displaying symptoms at school will be sent home
- Children reminded not to share water bottles.

From Monday 16th March

- No unnecessary visitors into school, or visits out of school (these will hopefully be re-scheduled in due course)
- No whole school events e.g. worship will be class based
- Children sitting at tables rather than on carpets where possible
- PSHE sessions to help children understand the facts of Coronavirus and manage their concerns around this

Preparation in case of future disruption to school

- We will follow all government advice and consult with other schools and the local authority.
- We are currently putting together ideas of activities that parents can undertake with children, in the event of school closure. These will sent out via ParentMail if we are instructed to close the school.

Information gathering and monitoring

- We monitor and respond to government advice on a daily basis
- We are monitoring pupil absences and have a specific code for absence due to Corona Virus and self isolation
- We understand the action to take in the case of a suspected/actual case
- Stay at home guidance circulated to parents (link below)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

We would be grateful if parents and carers could

- Continue to encourage children to wash their hands carefully and regularly for 20 seconds with soap and water or sanitiser, avoid touching their mouth, nose or face as much as possible and to sneeze or cough into disposable tissues
- If your child or a family member has returned from a category one area do not send your child to school.
- If your child becomes ill and you believe you have been exposed to the Coronavirus, please follow national guidance
- Read the stay at home guidance attached
- Ensure children wash their hands on arrival at home
- Wash water bottles thoroughly and ensure bottles are clearly labelled
- Ensure children do not share water bottles

You may also like to consider whether your child should come into contact with elderly or vulnerable relatives and change their clothing when they arrive home. Thank you to parents and carers who have offered to send hand wash and sanitiser into school. At the moment, we have a good stock but we will let you know if we begin to run low!

The helpline available to schools is also available to parents as follows: Phone 08000468687 or email dfc.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

The Department for Education has launched a helpline to answer questions about COVID-19 related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows:



Phone: 0800 046 868

Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday)

Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation.

ONLINE & HOME LEARNING

Login details for online resources should already be in pupils' Reading Records. If you need support accessing these resources, please contact your child's class teacher. Year 2 children now have access to TimesTable Rockstars (login details in Reading Records). Please encourage your child to access this at home at least three times each week.

Please could children in Reception bring their Phonics Bags to school each day so that Miss Wilkinson can add new sounds as children learn them? Thank you.

ACCELERATED READER



Thank you to all the parents who helped sort the books into much narrower bands. This has allowed us to identify "gaps" in our current book selection which we (with the help of our PTFA) will now seek to fill and, in turn, will help us ensure that books better match the abilities of individuals. In the mean time we would

appreciate your patience. Thank you.

Next steps

- Miss Orr will be continuing her Accelerated Reader quest over the next few weeks.
- Children will be assessed on their reading ability in school and given a book which matches their reading age and comprehension skills.
- When children have finished reading each book they will complete an online comprehension task which will help us check how well they have understood what they have read.

PARKING

You will have read my previous requests in Newsletters for parents and carers to drive and park considerably around school, as well as the need to observe parking restrictions in order to keep our children safe.

In order to increase awareness and empower our children to have a voice on these issues, the Parent Council are organising a "Teddy Bear Protest". They were inspired to do this by Chillingham Road Primary School in Heaton – do look at the online news reports of their event. Our event will take place on Friday 20th March at 8.20am. Weather permitting, the plan is to gather behind the railings, on Christon Road, at the front of school. Children can either sit and hold their teddy bears on top of the railings or place them on the floor at the foot of the railing – dust sheets/rugs will be brought for the teddy bears to sit on! Do encourage your children to make their own posters/placards to hold up highlighting the dangers of driving and parking considerably around school and the effects of pollution from cars. Children will come into school as normal from 8.40am. Please do come and support the Parent Council at this event if you are able to.

MOBILE PHONES

As you can imagine, children are eager to see their parents or carers at the end of the school day to have a cuddle and explain what they have been up to. We recognise that the overwhelming majority of parents do greet their children as they are dismissed from school but unfortunately this is not the case for all of our children. We have, sadly, noticed an



increasing number of parents who do not greet their child as they come out of their classrooms because they are too busy on their mobile phones. We would therefore like to discourage parents from using mobile phones on the school yard at the end of the school day and encourage parents to take the opportunity to talk to their child about their day or even just to give them a smile and a hug! We hope you understand that we have the emotional wellbeing of our children at heart and that you will welcome the opportunity of a mobile free moment within your day. Thank you for your support.

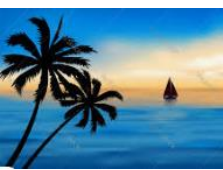


WORSHIP

Over the past couple of weeks we have thought about Lent and the impact that this season can have on believers lives.

FUNDAMENTAL BRITISH VALUES

Worship has provided us with the opportunity to reinforce the values of mutual respect and tolerance of others.



POSTCARDS

As you already know, we always love to receive a postcard if you travel anywhere (near or far) for our class displays. Postcards provide a really good talking point for Geography so children can develop a secure sense of place. We would be really grateful if you could pick up a postcard next time you are on a day out, weekend away or family holiday and bring it into school when you get back. Thank you!

RESOURCE REQUESTS

Breakfast Club are seeking donations of Lego please. Thank you!



Y3 & Y4 GOSFORTH VOICES



The Gosforth Voices choir tour, today, was a huge success. It was fabulous to see five faces from Archbishop Runcie CE First School in the choir this year. The choir visited all nine first schools in GST to perform their wonderful repertoire. Thank you to Mrs Armstrong for accompanying the children.

At this time, Gosforth Voices and Gosforth Band rehearsals after school have not been cancelled. Please contact Georgina Biddle for further information.

SCHOOL CLUBS

As you know, Choir was due to resume on Tuesday 17th March, on Mrs Lavin's return, however as already outlined, we have taken the decision to limit visitors into school during the pandemic. We are currently in discussions with other club providers and music teachers about whether after school clubs and other tuition can go ahead elsewhere. Please speak directly to club providers about arrangements. Thank you.



QUICKSTICKS

Our Quicksticks team did us proud last week. They made it to the quarter finals and Miss Nattress reported that they demonstrated superb sportsmanship and team skills. Well done to Miss Nattress and her team!

SAFEGUARDING

Mrs Massey and Mr Booth are our schools Designated Safeguarding Leaders. If you have concerns about a child please come directly to speak with 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>

STEM WEEK

Each class has, this week, taken part in a range of STEM activities. Thank you to all the parents, carers and friends of our school who led sessions for our children and those of you who have accompanied classes on school visits. It has been a very exciting week which hopefully the children will remember for a long time to come. Thank you to Miss Young for organising the week!



SKIPPING

Skipping ropes for Year 2 and Year 4 Skipping School events can now be purchased in school. Please contact Miss Orr.

SWIMMING GALA

Children in Years 3 and 4 took place in swimming trials this week. Unfortunately we have taken the decision to withdraw our team from the Gala next week.



MELVA

Year 4 visited Gosforth Civic Theatre last week to watch "Melva". It was great to see how they approached the topic of childhood anxiety and how we can deal with this effectively. We learned about sharing our worries with someone we trust, ways to relax and that laughing is a fabulous antidote! Year 4 were fabulously behaved and really engaged by the event. As part of the project there will also be follow up work in school.

GOSFORTH CIVIC THEATRE

Gosforth Civic Theatre have alerted us to the following performances, which may be of interest to you.

Lullaboogaloo's Easter Extravaganza (May Half Term)

Come and finish off the Easter holidays with some music and silliness! After the success of her gig at GCT last September, Claire Tustin and her band Lullaboogaloo return for another gig for little children and their grown-ups.

Expect catchy songs celebrating spring, animals, insects and playing outside, some excellent dancing choreographed by the children and interesting instruments including marimbas, glockenspiel, fiddle and more.

Aimed at small children, their families and anyone who likes to boogie pretending to be an animal! Rabbit ears, insect wings and animal outfits all encouraged.

£6 adults, £4 children <https://www.gosforthcivictheatre.co.uk/lullaboogaloo-easter-extravaganza>



Your Toys Sunday 24 May, 11.30am & 2.30pm

Your Toys is a heart-warming story about friends pulling together. Funny, with original live music, beautiful puppets and lots of surprises - it sends audiences home with huge smiles on their faces.

An anthem to creative play and silliness, adults and children alike – bring your toys to the theatre and watch them join in the rumpus on stage in front of you.

£10 adult, £7 children <https://www.gosforthcivictheatre.co.uk/your-toys>

TWITTER



Please follow us on Twitter @RuncieOf to find out what we've been up to!

With my very best wishes,

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
March 2020			
Tuesday 17 th March	CANCELLED E-safety sessions in school	All day	
	CANCELLED Nursery & Rec Animal Story session	pm	Please pay on ParentMail
	CANCELLED After school Choir Club begins	3.15-4.00pm	No cost. Please email Mrs Pygall if your child will be attending.
Wednesday 18 th March	Gosforth Voices (at the moment this is still going ahead)	3.45pm	3:45-4:45pm at Grange First School
Thursday 19 th March	Year 3 Forest School	pm	In school
	CANCELLED Year 1 Dental Health Survey	9.30am	
	Year 3 & Year 4 Swimming Gala <i>Team withdrawn</i>	9.30am	Selected children only
Friday 20 th March	Persian New Year	All day	Activities in school
	<i>Teddy Bear Protest</i>	8:20am	Organised by our Parent Council
	CANCELLED Year 1-4 Mothers' Day Service	9.00am	One member of each family invited to attend
	CANCELLED Visit from a local poet for Y1-Y4	All day	Please pay on ParentMail
	CANCELLED EYFS Mothers' Day Service	2.30pm	One member of each family invited to attend
	Closing date for Nursery applications for Sept 2020	Noon	
Monday 23 rd March	World Water Day	All day	
Tuesday 24 th March	CANCELLED Y3 & Y4 visit to Durham University	All day	More info to follow
Wednesday 25 th March	Full Governing Body Meeting	5.30pm	
	Year 1 Forest School	pm	In school
	Gosforth Band	3.45-4.45pm	at Archibald First School
Thursday 26 th March	CANCELLED Nursery visit to Walker	1.00-2.45pm	Children may be slightly late

	Dome		returning to school
Friday 27 th March	CANCELLED SATs Meeting for Year 2 Parents	9.00	Slides will be sent out electronically
	Nursery & Reception Forest School Year 2 Forest School	am (N&R) pm (Y2)	In school
Monday 30 th March	CANCELLED Year 2 visit to Alnwick Castle	All Day	Please pay on ParentMail
	No French lunchtime club	-	
Tuesday 31 st March	CANCELLED Y3 & Y4 X Country	1.30pm	Selected children only
	New Nursery Parents Meeting, for children starting after Easter	5.00pm	
	Last Day for reduced price entry for Children's Cancer Run		Remember to register with our school!
April 2020			
Wednesday 1 st April	CANCELLED Nursery Stay & Play	2.00pm	Nursery Parents invited
Thursday 2 nd April	CANCELLED Pre School Easter Egg Hunt	9.00am	For children who do not currently attend school
Friday 30 th April	French lunchtime club	Lunchtime	
Thursday 2 nd April	Autism Awareness Day	All day	Activities in school
	Years 3 & 4 visiting St Nicholas' Church- Easter Storytelling	10:00 - 2:00	Children will need a packed lunch
Friday 3 rd April	CANCELLED Easter Service All Saints' Church	1.30pm	All welcome
Monday 6 th April-Friday 17 th April	Easter Holidays		School closed
Monday 20 th April	Children back	8:50am	
Thursday 23 rd April	Shakespeare Day	All day	Activities in school
	NSPCC in school	1:30pm KS1 2:00pm KS2	
Friday 24 th April	Deadline to accept Nursery places in school	Noon	
	Year 3 & Year 4 swimming lessons begin (weekly until end of term)	pm	More info to follow
Thursday 30 th April	GST Boys Football competition at BEFS	1:15-3:00pm	
May 2020			
May 2020	SATs for Year 2 children	All month	Year 2 children must be in school please
Wednesday 6 th May	Staff & Governor Training- Valuing All God's Children	4:00pm	
Thursday 7 th May	Wesak (Buddhist)	All day	Activities in school
	Dinnington First School official opening	TBC	
Friday 8 th May	Bank Holiday		School Closed
Monday 11 th May	Christian Aid Worship, led by Year 2	9:00am	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
	Reception Stay & Play	2:00pm	Reception Parents invited
Friday 15 th May	Phonics Screen Workshop for Year 1 Parents	9:00am	
Sunday 17 th May	Children's Cancer Run	TBC	
Tuesday 19 th May	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.
	Y4 Times Table test Parent Workshop	9:00am	
	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	
Wednesday 30 th September- Thursday 1 st October	Y4 Residential	TBC	More info to follow

“Love to learn, learn to love”

1 Corinthians 16:14

