



May 2025

Newsletter 16 – 16.5.25

SECTION 1: ATTENDANCE

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.

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. Thank you.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

	Whole School Attendance (excluding Nursery)	Highest class attendance!	Second place	Third place
Wb 6.5.26	97%	Year 3 (99%)	Reception (98%)	Year 2 (96%)
Wb 12.5.25	97%	Year 4 (99%)	Year 2 (97.3%)	Year 3 (97.2%)

Did you know ...?

- 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.

ATTENDANCE

Why is it important?

Attendance	Days absent	Weeks absent	Lessons missed	Impact
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons	89% or below Drastic effect on academic achievement
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons	96% - 90% Cause for Concern
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons	
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons	
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons	100% - 97% Excellent!
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons	

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.

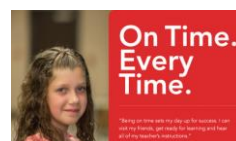


We hope that you will continue to support our school by promoting school attendance and by informing us if you feel there are any issues that are preventing your child from attending school regularly.

If you would like to discuss this further, please get in touch (grant.short@clennelleducationsolutions.org).

MINUTES MISSED

During this fortnight, 2 hours 25 minutes 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.

PUPIL ABSENCES

	Whole School absence (excluding Nursery)	Absence caused by holidays	Other absences
Wb 6.5.25	3%	0.5%	2.5%
Wb 12.5.25	3%	1%	2%

SECTION 2: SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS!



SCHOOL VALUES

As you know, our school values are love and determination, based on the Bible passage: Be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love (1 Corinthians 16:13-14). The following children have been nominated by staff and/or peers for showing these values in school. Well done everyone!



	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Staff
Demonstrating Love	Grace J Ollie	Phoenix Isla	Annabelle Penny	Arash Benji	Elvis Alicia	Elif Livie	Miss Cairns Mrs Richardson
Demonstrating Determination	Harper Sara	Ivan Hadi	Billie Ada	Aadriti Ethan	Rio Hadin	Daniel Rosa	Mrs Nelms Miss Dodds

TIMES TABLE 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.





As we move ever closer to the Year 4 multiplication check, we have introduced 'Gone Green' certificates for children in Year 4. These certificates are awarded when children can recall all of the multiplication facts up to 12x12 in under 4 seconds.

Mrs Ellwood has been extremely impressed with the Year 4 pupils and how determined they are to receive their Gone Green certificates. In the fortnight since the last newsletter, we have had a further child who has gone green – Well done Charvitha!

The following children have engaged highly with TTRS in the past fortnight. Well done everyone!

	Children Need to Learn	Highest engagement this fortnight	Highest accuracy this fortnight
Year 1	x 2, x 5, x 10 (and corresponding division facts)	Carter Arthur Ani	Carter Yaskika Ani
Year 2	x 2, x 5, x 10, x 3 (and corresponding division facts)	Mika Lyla Sacha	Mika Lyla Sacha
Year 3	x 2, x 5, x 10, x 3, x 4, x 8, x 6 (and corresponding division facts)	Harmony Henry Elvis	Henry Elvis Teddy
Year 4	All tables to 12 x 12 (and corresponding division facts)	Theo Rehan Omar	Theo Rehan Percy

Current rank of ARFS among nearby schools	1	Mean studio speed (seconds per question)	2.42
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Wow!!! Well done everyone!!

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:



Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Oliver G Hugo	Rosa Oliver B	Ayesha Amaya	Samuel Esim	Bella Percy

SECTION 3: SOCIAL ACTION

WORSHIP COUNCIL

Worship Council met with Canon Shipton this week to plan our upcoming Ascension Day Service.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

School council have been discussing the upcoming visit of our MP, Catherine McKinnell. We are busy discussing all of our past events to share with her and celebrate the success of our school council, in particular our campaign for safer roads around our school.

PLAY LEADERS



Whilst on the residential, our play leaders were fantastic at encouraging everyone to get involved in the beach games on Monday evening. Back in school, they have worked hard to involve all year groups in play at break time and lunchtime.

YOUNG LEADERS

Young Leaders will be restarting on Monday 19th May. The group have been given a research task to complete before we reconvene at the end of the half term.



GREEN TEAM

Green Team had a wonderful walk in the park yesterday – there was lots of litter down the lane from Christon Road. Mr Hunter has, this week, contacted Newcastle City Council, who have agreed to give us some litter pickers as ours are showing their age! They were very grateful for our ongoing support in the community.



LIBRARY CHAMPIONS

This week, our library champions have worked hard with pupils from across the school and supported them to change their reading books and return them to the correct category. Well done girls!

SECTION 4: SCHOOL NEWS!



CHILDREN'S CANCER RUN

A reminder that the Children's Cancer Run is this Sunday – we hope to see lots of you there.



Online registrations are open until Midnight on 14th May but runners can go along tomorrow or Sunday and still take part.

- Please arrive at Newcastle Racecourse, Gosforth Park by 9:15am
- Meet by our school banner (next to the finish line) between **9:15am-9:30am** or the **school meeting point from 9:30am**
- We will be taking part in a warm up a few minutes before our start time so please come along to join in.
- Please remember to pin your run number to the front of your t-shirt (completing the details on the reverse) with safety pins and our school logo to the back.
- **Our school will be running at 9:50am.** Our allocated carpark is carpark A.
- Bring a small bottle of water to drink on the way around.
- Please remember any inhalers or other medication for you or your child.
- Please bring sun cream and a sun hat if required.
- Once you have finished the run, please meet at our camp (next to the finish line), to enjoy your snack pack with the rest of the school team.

BIKEABILITY

Year 4 children will be taking part in Level 1 Bikeability training (either morning or afternoon session) on Thursday 22nd May on our school yard. Mrs Coates has sent further information via ParentMail. You can also find further information [here](#).

Bikes can be brought to school anytime next week and left in the courtyard until they are needed on Thursday. Children must have a well-fitting bike in good working order. We have been asked not to allow children to borrow bikes from each other. They must also have a well-fitting bike helmet to wear on the day. Please watch the [Check Your Cycle](#) video online. Bikeability staff reserve the right to withdraw children if they do not have the correct equipment.





E-SAFETY

Revealing Reality have released results of their investigation called 'A Digital Playground - The Real Guide to Roblox'. As part of this investigation the researchers created multiple accounts pretending to be persons aged 5, 9, 10, 13 and 40+ in order to explore the safety settings and the user experience which included:

- Adults and children can easily interact.
- Easy access to highly suggestive environments, including participation in adult-themed conversations.

Roblox announced some new tools which will allow parents a greater degree of control over their child's Roblox experience. These tools include:

- Limiting who their child can connect with.
- See which experiences (games) their child plays the most.
- Limit experiences their child can access.

There's a lot more, all summarised in an article from Roblox [here](#).



PLAYGROUP

Mrs Francis and Mrs Armstrong have welcomed some more new faces to the ARFS family this week in our pre-school playgroup session. This run's every Wednesday from 1:30pm - 3:00pm during term time. Please help us spread the word.

VIOLIN LESSONS

A small number of after school violin lessons have become available with Music Partnership North. Children will be taught how to read sheet music and how to play the violin with others. Learning an instrument can improve memory and attention and learning the violin uses the brain in a different way improving cognitive function.



If your child is interested in having violin tuition, please register [here](#).

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 please contact the school office. You will require DBS clearance through the school - please contact Mrs Coates.



GOSFORTH LIBRARY

Drop into Gosforth Library on Tuesday 27th May for fun farmyard crafts. 1 hour free craft session at 2:00pm, suitable for all the family.

Meet Newcastle children's author Naomi Barley on Saturday 14th June at 11:00am. Naomi will be reading her book The Zig Zags, followed by a 'make your own aliens' activity.

Lego Club (term time only) every Tuesday 3:30-5:00pm.

Under 5s story and rhyme time runs every Tuesday at 11:00am. Enjoy a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere, explore what the library has to offer, make friends and listen to stories that will encourage young children to develop a life-long love of books from an early age.

ASCENSION SERVICE

Next Friday is our Ascension Day Service at All Saints' Church for children in Reception –Year 4. As this is Reception's first church visit, we have planned to begin at 1:45pm to allow more time for little legs to walk!

- If you have not done so already, please complete the collection form on ParentMail so we know who is being collected from church at 2:15pm and who is returning to school for usual collection.
- Please do not send bookbags to school on Friday.
- We will be leaving school promptly at 1:00pm. If there are any parents/grandparents who are able to walk with us, your help would be greatly appreciated. Please meet at the main entrance to school at 12:55pm.
- Nursery children are welcome to attend if they are accompanied by a parent/carer. Nursery children can be collected between 12:45-1:00pm.



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

In worship this week, we have begun learning about the disciples; what they did and were like before they were chosen by Jesus. We have reflected on how Jesus chose people who could be changed by God's love and how he then sent them out to share God's love with others.

YEAR 4 RESIDENTIAL

Our Year 4 children had a wonderful residential in Seahouses on Monday and Tuesday this week. They visited Alnwick Gardens, played crazy golf and games on the beach, completed orienteering, coasteering and surfing as well as having their own silent disco. Huge thanks to Mrs Norman and Mrs Ellwood who accompanied the children and to Mrs Lowe for arranging this after the cancellation of our Dukeshouse Wood booking.



UNIFORM LIBRARY & EXCHANGE

As we near the end of the school year, I wanted to remind you that donations of outgrown uniform can be made at the school office. Please ensure items are clean and name labels are removed. Thank you!

The clothing industry significantly impacts climate change due to its high greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption and waste generation. It is responsible for a substantial portion of global CO2 emissions and estimated to be responsible for about 20% of global clean water pollution.

Extending the lifespan and recycling uniform can help reduce waste and minimize the environmental impact.

As you know, we have a well established pre-loved "Uniform Library" in the main entrance for anyone who needs to borrow, exchange or replace any uniform items. Please come along and help yourselves. Cash donations can be made to the PTFA at the school office. Thank you.



CAKE SALE

The next cake sale will be hosted by Year 1 on Thursday 22nd May. A polite reminder that all ingredients must be displayed in case of allergies, thank you. Please only send cakes and biscuits – not sweets. If you would like to make a purchase, please bring cash along on the day. Thank you.

WONDE VOUCHERS

Wonde vouchers, for children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding, will be issued on Monday 26th May.



The school is given Pupil Premium funding, per eligible child, in order to further strengthen our offer to families. We do this by ensuring these children get additional support in school to ensure all children in school have access to equal opportunities. We would encourage all families to check their eligibility for this funding [here](#). Thank you.

SAFEGUARDING

Mrs Massey, Mrs Francis, Mrs Crozier and Mrs Ellwood are our school's Designated Safeguarding Leaders (DSL). 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.

With my very best wishes,

Kate Massey

Headteacher





DIARY DATES

New dates are in red, for your information

May 2025			
Sunday 18 th May	Children's Cancer Run at Newcastle Racecourse	TBC	Please save the date! There is still time to sign up!
Monday 19 th May	Year 3 Forest School	pm	Children should wear uniform tops with joggers and bring wellies and waterproofs to put on later in the day. Please make donations via ParentMail.
Wednesday 21 st May	Year 2 Geography fieldwork – Whitley Bay	Morning only	Please see ParentMail
	Mini Athletics	3:15 – 4:15pm	For Reception to Year 2
	Gosforth Band	3:45 – 4:45pm	Archibald First School
Thursday 22 nd May	English & Maths activities at GCMS (for selected Year 4 children transferring to GCMS)	am	Children who have been selected will be informed via ParentMail
	Year 4 Bikeability	am or pm session	See info in newsletter 15
	Year 1 cake sale	3:15pm	Please could the parents/carers of Year 1 children send donations of cakes with ingredients displayed Thank you.
	Rugby Minis	3:15 – 4:15pm	For Reception to Year 2
	Big Gig rehearsal for choir members taking part	3:15 – 4:00pm	Please see info on ParentMail
Friday 23 rd May	GST Daft as a Brush Day	All day	Children invited to wear something "daft" and make a donation via ParentMail.
	Ascension Day Service – All Saints' for children in Reception – Year 4	1:45pm	
	No "Freeze Friday" today		
Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th May	Half term holiday	-	School closed to children
June 2025			
Monday 2 nd June	Staff training day	All day	School closed to children
Tuesday 3 rd June	GCMS Parent Information at ARFS	5:15pm	For parents of children at ARFS and Archibald First School who have Year 4 children transferring to GCMS in September.
Wednesday 4 th June	Gosforth Voices	3:45 – 4:45pm	Grange First School
	Mini Athletics	3:15 – 4:15pm	For Reception to Year 2
Thursday 5 th June	Big Gig rehearsal for choir members taking part	3:15 – 4:00pm	Please see info on ParentMail
	Rugby Minis	3:15 – 4:15pm	For Reception to Year 2
Friday 6 th June	Pentecost Service at St Nicholas' Church for children in Reception – Year 4	1:30pm	Parents/carers welcome to attend.
	PTFA "Freeze Friday"	3:15pm	

Wb 9 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screen Check statutory assessment	All week	Places can be booked via ParentMail
	Year 2 Forest School	pm	Children should wear uniform tops with joggers and bring wellies and waterproofs to put on later in the day. Please make donations via ParentMail.
Wednesday 11 th June	Gosforth Band	3:45 – 4:45pm	Archibald First School
	Mini Athletics	3:15 – 4:15pm	For Reception to Year 2
Thursday 12 th June	GCMS staff visiting ARFS	11:00	
	Big Gig rehearsal for choir members taking part	3:15 – 4:00pm	Please see info on ParentMail
	Rugby Minis	3:15 – 4:15pm	For Reception to Year 2
Friday 13 th June	PTFA “Freeze Friday”	3:15pm	
Wb 16 th June	School Sports Week	All week	If any parents/carers have any connections to sports coaches/providers, please let Mrs Francis know.
Monday 16th June	Nursery Forest School	pm	
Monday 16 th June	Year 4 Sports Day	2:00pm	Children should wear PE kit for school, please. All children will need to bring a water bottle to school and have sun cream applied before school. Children will not be able to take part if they are wearing jewellery.
Tuesday 17 th June	Year 2 Sports Day	2:00pm	
Wednesday 18 th June	Nursery Sports Day	9:15am	
	Year 3 Sports Day	2:00pm	Playground gates will be opened at 1:45pm and closed before children come outside at 2:00pm.
Thursday 19 th June	Year 1 Sports Day	2:00pm	
Friday 20 th June	Reception Sports Day	2:00pm	
Thursday 19 th June	Big Gig rehearsal for choir members taking part	3:15 – 4:00pm	Please see info on ParentMail
Tuesday 17 th June	Year 4 Leavers Service at Newcastle Cathedral	am	More info to follow via ParentMail
Wednesday 18 th June	Mini Athletics	3:15 -4:15pm	For Reception to Year 2
Thursday 19 th June	Reception class cake sale	3:15pm	Please could the parents/carers of Reception children send donations of cakes with ingredients displayed? Thank you.
	Rugby Minis	3:15 – 4:15pm	For Reception to Year 2
Friday 20 th June	Big Gig (Choir)	All day	More info to follow
	PTFA “Freeze Friday”	3:15pm	
Monday 23 rd June	Year 2 visit to Grace Darling Museum	All day	More info to follow
	Year 1 Forest School	pm	Children should wear uniform tops with joggers and bring wellies and waterproofs to put on later in the day. Please make donations via ParentMail.
Wednesday 25th June	Year 1 – 4 Music Concert at All Saints’ Church.	pm	More info to follow
	Mini Athletics	3:15 – 4:15pm	For Reception to Year 2
Thursday 26 th June	Rugby Minis	3:15 – 4:15pm	For Reception to Year 2
Friday 27 th June	PTFA “Freeze Friday”	3:15pm	
Thursday 26 th June	Year 3 sleepover at school	All day	More info to follow
Monday 30 th June	Nursery & Reception Forest School	pm	Children should wear uniform tops with joggers and bring wellies and waterproofs to put on later in the day. Please make donations via ParentMail.

July 2024			
Wednesday 2 nd and Thursday 3 rd July	Transition Days	All day	More info to follow
Wednesday 2 nd July	Mini Athletics	3:15 – 4:15pm	For Reception to Year 2
Thursday 3 rd July	Rugby Minis	3:15 – 4:15pm	For Reception to Year 2
Friday 4 th July	PTFA “Freeze Friday”	3:15pm	
Tuesday 8 th July	Year 4 visit to Vindolanda & Roman Army Museum	All day	More info to follow via ParentMail
Wednesday 9 th July	Mini Athletics (final session)	3:15 – 4:15pm	For Reception to Year 2
Thursday 10 th July	Reception visit to Discovery Museum	All day	More info to follow via ParentMail
	Rugby Minis (final session)	3:15 – 4:15pm	For Reception to Year 2
	Nursery class cake sale	3:15pm	Please could the parents/carers of Nursery children send donations of cakes with ingredients displayed Thank you.
Friday 11 th July	Years 1 – 4 Music concert	1:45pm	To be held at All Saints’ Church
	No “Freeze Friday” today		
Tuesday 15 th July	Whole school trip to Tynemouth	All day	More info to follow via ParentMail
Friday 18 th July	Year 4 Leavers’ Service (at school)	9:15am	Please save the date
	PTFA “Freeze Friday”	3:15pm	
Monday 21 st July – Friday 29 th August	Summer holiday	-	School closed to children

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

NURSERY 30 HOUR PLACES

Childcare Choices Applying for 30 hours free childcare through the childcare service

1. Apply through the childcare service: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>. You will need to confirm your identity.
2. If successful you will receive an eligibility code – '50xxxxxxx'.
3. Take this code to your childcare provider with your NI number, child's date of birth and complete a Parent Declaration form.
4. Your childcare provider checks the code is valid – and if valid - confirms when you can start and reminds you to **reconfirm – every 3 months**.
5. Every three months, reconfirm your eligibility through the childcare service (helpline below).

Your 30-hour eligibility code has a validity end date. If you fail to reconfirm or become ineligible, you will stop receiving the extra hours. If you are unsure discuss with your provider immediately. This is your responsibility.

For support call Customer Interaction Centre on **0300 123 4097**

Newcastle City Council

HEALTHIER TOGETHER

The Healthier Together website (<https://www.nenc-healthierttogether.nhs.uk>) provides accurate and trusted healthcare advice for parents/carers, young people and professionals in the North East and North Cumbria. You can find parental advice on illnesses, allergies, vaccines, child development as well as many other topics. You can also download the Healthier Together app.

The Healthier Together website also includes the Little Orange Book which provides advice for babies and children when they are poorly.



WRAPAROUND BOOKINGS

Bookings for Wraparound Care are managed by Child Care Bookings for Schools. This will make managing and making bookings far easier for parents and carers. You can still 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



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>