



March 2023

Newsletter 12 – 10.3.23

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

	Whole School Attendance <small>(excluding Nursery)</small>	Highest class attendance!	Second place	Third place
Wb 27.2.23	95%	Year 1 - 98%	Year 3 – 95.3%	Reception – 95%
Wb 6.3.23	95%	Year 1 – 99%	Year 2 – 98%	Reception – 96%

Our school target for attendance is 97%.



Please let Mrs Coates know, via ParentMail, if your child will be absent by 9:00am at the latest. Thank you.

If your child is not in school when the register closes at 9.15am (even if this is for a medical or dental appointment), they are marked as absent for the whole morning session. Therefore, we would encourage parents to make medical appointments outside school time, wherever possible please. Thank you.

If you are experiencing any difficulties and need support with your child's attendance, please contact school as soon as possible. Mr Tolan can visit you at home or meet you in school to offer support and advice.

MINUTES MISSED

During the last fortnight, 355 (5 hours and 55 mins) minutes of learning time have been missed in school due to lateness. Please try to arrive on time at school, between 8:40am – 8:50am. Thank you.



ABSENCE DATA

	Whole School absence <small>(excluding Nursery)</small>	Absence caused by holidays	Other absences
Wb 27.2.23	5%	3%	2%
Wb 6.3.23	5%	4%	1%



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).



In school, we have been looking to see children demonstrating these core values. 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
Demonstrating Love	Amarachi Isla	Harry Daniel	Harmony Eva	Percy Charvitha	Emilia Huwariya Isaac	Layla Wasan
Demonstrating Determination	Josiah Shloka	Harriet Ava	Teddy Indi	Joshua Razan	Finley Victory	Taishaun

HANDWRITER OF THE WEEK

We are having a real drive in school to improve handwriting, presentation of work and spelling. Each week, the 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:

a b c d e f g
h i j k l m n
o p q r s t u
v w x y z

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Lyla	Indi	Jacob D	Zain	Kiran
Felix	Alicia	Jacob C	Jabalah	Thaddeus

TIMES TABLE ROCKSTARS

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



	Children Need to Learn	New Rock Stars, Heroes and Legends in this class	Highest engagement this fortnight
Year 2	x 2, x 5, x 10		Joshua Rehan Elias Lydia Harry
Year 3	x 2, x 5, x 10, x 3, x 4, x 8	Monty Aleeza Abdul Jake Charlie	Nolan Zain Finley Jake
Year 4	All tables to 12 x 12	Mustafa Nancy	Thomas Zoe Kiran Rose

Current rank of ARFS among nearby schools	20th
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NEU STRIKE ACTION

As you know, the NEU has indicated that they will continue strike action for a further two days later this month. Currently, **we do not believe that any classes in school will close**, however, union members are not required to tell school if they are or are not striking. If anything changes, I will inform you as soon as possible via ParentMail.



STAFFING UPDATE

As you know, we have struggled to recruit support staff and, as a result, have had a number of temporary/short term supply staff supporting in school. I am delighted to inform you that, last week, we appointed two support assistants, from after Easter, which will help to stabilise staffing for our children.

We have also appointed Miss M Armstrong to support in Key Stage 1 until July, when she will embark on her teacher training. Miss Armstrong has already started working in school and has settled in brilliantly!

We have had a slight reshuffle of current support staff roles in school too. Please see below:

	Class Teacher	Support staff from after Easter	
Nursery	Mrs K Francis	Mrs J Ryder, Miss S Sweta, Mr W Brown	
Reception	Miss E Willett (as Miss Waters is currently absent)	Mrs A Armstrong, Mrs K Brown	
Year 1	Miss H Bowers	Mrs K Palmer/Miss R Turner	Miss M Armstrong
Year 2	Miss A Witherspoon	Mrs L Norman, Miss B Brown	
Year 3	Mrs E Crozier		Miss J Wakefield
Year 4	Miss M Nattress	Miss J Halliday	

Obviously, support staff roles will adapt and change to reflect the needs of the children across school.

Additionally, we have successfully appointed Miss Clay who will also join us after Easter and will cover staff planning, preparation and assessment time (PPA) in each class. This is a statutory entitlement for all teachers and provides staff with release time (1 day per fortnight) where they can plan teaching and learning activities, prepare resources and carry out assessments of the children in their class. You can, of course, still contact class teachers by email on this day. Miss Willett has historically covered this time across school and, more recently Miss King (supply teacher) has covered until we were able to appoint. Miss Clay will also release staff for subject leadership activities and training across the term. We hope that this will, therefore, reduce the need for supply cover in school.

Teaching staff are all kindly taking on extra responsibilities for summer term until we appoint a Deputy Headteacher in September. I am very grateful to them all!

WRAPAROUND UPDATE

Miss Wakefield will continue to run Breakfast Club, with the support of Mrs Brown, after Easter. As Miss Willett is currently teaching Reception, we have appointed Miss Sweta to support in After School Club alongside Miss Armstrong and other support staff.



With the increase in food and energy prices, we are unfortunately having to increase Breakfast Club and After School Club prices after Easter. Breakfast Club will increase to £5.00 per session and After School Club will increase to £10.00 per session (with late collection bookable in advance at a cost of £12.50). We apologise for any added pressure that this may cause but we have absorbed the increased costs for as long as we are able to and we need to ensure the provision is financially viable. Thank you for your understanding.



YEAR 3 CRAGSIDE VISIT

Due to the windy conditions next week that would affect the walking routes around the site, the National Trust has recommended that we postpone Year 3's trip to Cragside. This will now take place on Wednesday 29th March. Parent helpers will be contacted very soon. Thank you for your understanding.

PARENTS MEETINGS

You will know from our calendar (attached), information sharing meetings about statutory assessments for parents are being held on the following dates. Please save the dates!

Year group	Agenda	Date	Time
Year 1	Phonics Screen	Monday 27 th March	5:30pm
Year 2	SATs	Monday 20 th March	5:30pm
Year 4	Year 4 Multiplication Check & Residential	Wednesday 22 nd March	5:30pm



WORLD BOOK DAY

Huge thanks to Mrs Crozier for organising a fabulous World Book Day. The character costumes across school were wonderful and children in Years 1 - 4 enjoyed their visit from Elizabeth Green and learned about her journey to becoming an author. Children also enjoyed reading to a buddy in another class and taking part in lots of other book based fun. Please see pictures on Twitter!

FOREST SCHOOL

Next week, all classes will be taking part in Forest School activities as part of Science Week. Please ensure children are dressed appropriately in warm clothes that can get muddy. They will also need waterproof trousers, coats, hats, gloves etc. Please ensure all items are clearly named. Children will need long sleeved tops and full-length trousers, regardless of the weather, please. Thank you.



MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICES

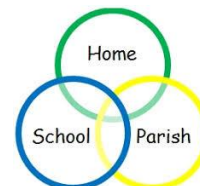
As part of our Lent traditions, we will be celebrating Mothering Sunday in school. Services will be held for each Key Stage. Please see dates in the diary dates section of the newsletter. Attendance at these services will be limited to one adult per family, per service, for children's mothers (or others!). Thank you.



CHURCH LINKS

Rev'd Shipton talked to the children, this morning, about the rededication of the cross that was stolen from All Saints' in 2021 and which has now been repaired and returned. There will be a special service held on Sunday 26th March at 2:30pm and all are warmly

invited to attend. <https://www.chroniclive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/stolen-bronze-crucifix-returned-gosforth-20638233>



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Father Paul from St Nicholas' has begun his regular Worship, commemorating World Candle Day and thinking about preparing for Easter. Rev'd Shipton from All Saints' has continued to lead Worship on a Friday and we have also had the curate from All Saints', Rev'd Miriam Jones, leading a special Worship about the colours of Lent and Easter.



Over the past couple of weeks, we've been thinking about preparing for Easter, especially Lent and what we may do differently to help ourselves and others as our Lenten promises. We've also thought about the Jewish festival of Purim, Fairtrade Fortnight and Miss Nattress led a special celebration for International Women's Day.

EASTER SERVICE- ALL SAINTS'

The Worship Council and Rev'd Miriam Jones are in the process of planning our Easter Service at All Saints'. Children from Reception – Year 4 will walk to All Saints' (off the High Street, next to the Bowling Club) for a 1:30pm start on Friday 31st March. Parents and carers are warmly invited to attend and will be able to take their children home after the service. Children who do not have a parent/carer in attendance will return to school for their usual collection arrangements.



Nursery children are welcome to attend if they are collected by a parent/carer from school at 1:00pm and accompanied to church.

10-19 March
**British
Science
Week
2023**



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

Next week is British Science Week in school. We are looking forward to welcoming parents, carers and friends of the school into school to run science based activities. If you are interested in leading a session, please contact class teachers directly. Thank you.

GOSFORTH VOICES TOUR

On Friday 24th March, Gosforth Voices will perform in each of the 11 schools within Gosforth Schools' Trust. It will be great to get the tour back up and running after covid as it is a wonderful opportunity for the choir to perform in each school.



Parents of children in Gosforth Voices are asked to drop their child off at Brunton First School (8.30am - 9am). Children will then visit each school, by coach, dropping children back off at Brunton First School at 3.20pm.

There is still one more rehearsal (on 15th March) before the tour so if any Year 3 or Year 4 children still want to join please do let them know! It would be fantastic to increase our numbers within the choir. Thank you.

CHARITABLE GIVING



We will be celebrating Comic Relief over two days;

- Nursery and Reception are invited to wear something red on Friday 17th March
- Years 1 – 4 are invited to wear red clothing and accessories on Monday 20th March.



Donations can be made directly to Comic Relief via ParentMail. Thank you.



SHAUN THE SHEEP ON THE TYNE!

Along with the other GST schools, we will be taking part in designing and creating our very own Shaun the Sheep. As part of this project, we will be having a fundraising day for St Oswald's on Friday 24th March.



Each class will take part in a range of activities during the day and Miss Cooper will be hosting a "Mossy Bottom Farm" themed lunch!



FOOTBALL TRAINING

Lee Sterry will be offering a Thursday lunchtime football club for children in Years 3 & 4 starting next week. The first couple of sessions will be for anyone to attend in order for the coach to select a school team. Selected children will then be chosen to play in inter-school competitions later in the year. These players will need football boots and shin pads.



TENNIS TRAINING

Northumberland Tennis Club will be coming into school next term for a taster session for children in Years 1 & 2, the dates will follow in the next newsletter.

CHILDREN'S CANCER RUN

2023 marks the 40th anniversary of the Children's Cancer Run! Schools from across the North East will be taking part in a cross-country fun run for all the family. You can help to raise money to support children diagnosed with cancer in our region, making life a little better for them and their families. It will take place on 14th May at Newcastle Racecourse. Please save the date!



SCHOOL COUNCIL

With support from Eat Smart, we will carry out a whole school food waste audit after Easter and create a plan together to reduce waste in school. Watch this space!

SAFEGUARDING

Mrs Massey, Mr Booth and Mrs Francis are our school's Designated Safeguarding Leaders. 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>

For more information, you can read our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy on our school website.

With my very best wishes,

Kate Massey

Headteacher



**Be courageous; be strong.
Do everything in love.**

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

DIARY DATES

New dates are in red, for your information

10-19 March	British Science Week		We will be looking for parents and carers to visit school to lead science themed activities! Please contact class teachers if you are interested in joining us.
Tuesday 14 th March	Year 1 Forest School	am	Children must wear long sleeved tops and trousers. We will be outdoors regardless of the weather so please send clearly named wellies, waterproofs, hats and gloves (and possibly a named change of clothes!) £1 donations can be made via ParentMail Please send children in their usual PE kit on their PE day. Thank you.
	Year 2 Forest School	pm	
Wednesday 15 th March	Nursery & Reception Forest School	am	All classes open as usual Please see ParentMail Archibald First School, Gosforth, NE3 1EB.
	Year 3 Forest School	pm	
	NEU Strike Action		
	Year 4 visit to Beamish	All day	
Thursday 16 th March	Gosforth Band rehearsal	3:45-4:45pm	
	NEU Strike Action		All classes open as usual
	Year 3 & 4 lunchtime football sessions begin		Sessions will be run by Lee Sterry. Children who would like to attend should bring appropriate kit and shoes.
Friday 17 th March	Year 4 Forest School	pm	Please see info above
	Years 3 & 4 Mothers' Day Service	9:00am	Parents and carers of Years 3 & 4 welcome to attend.
	Comic Relief for Nursery & Reception children		Children invited to wear something red. Donations can be made via ParentMail.
Monday 20 th March	Years 1 & 2 Mothers' Day Service	2:45pm	Parents and carers of Years 1 & 2 welcome to attend.
	Nursery & Reception Mothers' Day Service	9:00am	Parents and carers of Nursery & Reception welcome to attend.
	Comic Relief for Years 1- 4		Children invited to wear something red. Donations can be made via ParentMail. If children have PE, clothing must be suitable for sports activities.
	Meeting for parents and carers of Year 2 children regarding end of KS1 assessments	5:30pm	Adults only please
Wednesday 22 nd March	Gosforth Voices rehearsal	3:45-4:45pm	Grange First School, Gosforth, NE3 2NP
	Meeting for parents and carers of Year 4 children regarding Multiplication	5:30pm	Adults only please

	Tables Check & Residential		
Friday 24 th March	Deadline for Summer 1 Wraparound bookings	-	Please book via ParentMail
	Shaun the Sheep fundraising day & Mossy Bottom lunch		Donations to can be made and lunch booked via ParentMail.
	Gosforth Voices Tour		
	School Council Meeting	2:45pm	
Sunday 26 th March	Rededication of the Calvary Cross at All Saints' Church	2:30pm	All invited
27-31 st March	Year 4 swimming lessons each day	-	More info to follow
Monday 27 th March	Year 1 & 2 Multi skills (in school)	pm	Please wear PE kits
	Meeting for parents and carers of Year 1 children regarding Phonics Screen	5:30pm	Adults only please
Tuesday 28 th March	Reception Stay & Play	2:00pm	Reception parents & carers invited
Wednesday 29 th March	Nursery Stay & Play	2:00pm	Nursery parents and carers invited
	Year 3 visit to Cragside – re-scheduled from 13 th March	All Day	Please see ParentMail
Thursday 30 th March	Year 2 leading Palm Sunday Worship	9:00am	Parents and carers of Year 2 welcome to attend.
	PTFA Extraordinary Meeting	5:30pm	
Friday 31 st March	Deadline to accept Nursery place offers for summer term		
	Deadline for residential payments (Year 4 Dukeshouse Wood and Year 3 camping at school with Mr H)		Details will be sent via ParentMail
	Easter Service at All Saints' Church	1:30 – 2:15pm	Children in Reception – Year 4 will attend. Nursery children are welcome to attend if accompanied by a parent/carer.
April 2023			
3.4.23 - 14.4.23	Easter holidays		School closed to children
Monday 17 th April	School reopens to children		
	Reception places offered by LA		
Friday 25 th April	School Council Meeting	2:45pm	
May 2023			
Monday 1 st May 2023	Bank holiday		School closed to children
Friday 5 th May	Coronation themed day in school		More info to follow
Monday 8 th May	Additional Bank Holiday for His Majesty's coronation.		School closed to children
11-12 May 2023	Year 4 Residential at Dukeshouse Wood		Details to follow
Sunday 14 th May	Children's Cancer Run	TBC	Please register at https://childrenscancernorth.org.uk/event/childrens-cancer-run-2023
Monday 15 th May	Year 1 leading Christian Aid Worship	9:00am	Parents and carers of Year 1 welcome to attend.
Thursday 18 th	Year 4 leading Ascension	9:00am	Parents and carers of Year 4 welcome to attend.

May	Worship		
Friday 19 th May	Deadline for booking Summer 2 wraparound		Please book via ParentMail
	School Council Meeting	2:45pm	
Monday 22 nd May	Nursery Forest School	am	Children must wear long sleeved tops and trousers. We will be outdoors regardless of the weather so please send clearly named wellies, waterproofs, hats and gloves (and possibly a named change of clothes!) £1 donations can be made via ParentMail
	Year 4 Forest School	pm	
Tuesday 23 rd May	Year 1 Forest School	am	
	Year 2 Forest School	pm	
Wednesday 24 th May	Reception Forest School	am	
	Year 3 Forest School	pm	
Thursday 25 th May	Year 3 leading Pentecost Worship	9:00am	Parents and carers of Year 3 welcome to attend.
Friday 26 th May	Staff Training Day	-	School closed to children
26.5.23-2.6.23	Half Term		
June 2023			
Monday 5 th June	School reopens to children		
Tuesday 6 th June	Year 4 leading Trinity Worship	9:00am	Parents and carers of Year 4 welcome to attend.
Wb Monday 12 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screen		
Tuesday 13 th June	Nursery & Reception games (in school)	am	Children will wear PE kits in school
Wednesday 14 th June	Welcome Meeting for parents and carers of children starting Nursery in September 2023	5:30pm	
Thursday 15 th June	Welcome Meeting for parents and carers of children starting Reception in September 2023	5:30pm	
19 th -23 rd June	School Sports Week		Children to wear sports clothing all week (School PE kit on their Sports Day) please
Monday 19 th June	Reception Sports Day	2:00pm	Reception children to wear school PE kits please
Tuesday 20 th June	Year 1 Sports Day	2:00pm	Year 1 children to wear school PE kits please
Wednesday 21 st June	Nursery Sports Day	9:30am	Nursery children to wear school PE kits please
	Big Gig 2023		More info to follow
Thursday 22 nd June	Year 2 Sports Day	2:00pm	Year 2 children to wear school PE kits please
	Year 4 Sports Day	2:00pm	Year 4 children to wear school PE kits please
Friday 23 rd June	Year 3 Sports Day	2:00pm	Year 3 children to wear school PE kits
Thursday 29 th June	Year 3 activities and sleepover at school with Mr H Outdoor Experiences	All day & night	More info to follow
Friday 30 th June	School Council Meeting	2:45pm	
July 2023			
Monday 3 rd July	Reception Stay & Play	2:00pm	
Tuesday 4 th July	Nursery Stay & Play	2:00pm	
Wed 5 th & Thurs 6 th July	Provisional Transition Days for GST		
Friday 14 th July	Deadline for wraparound bookings for Autumn 1		Please book via ParentMail
	School Council Meeting	2:45pm	
17-21 st July	Year 3 swimming lessons each day this week		More info to follow
Friday 21 st July	Year 4 Leavers Service	9:00am	Parents and carers of Year 4 welcome to attend.

	School closes for summer	3:15pm	
September 2023			
Monday 4 th Sept 2023	Staff training day		
October 2023			
Friday 27 th October 2023	Staff training day		
30.10.23 - 3.11.23	October half term		
December 2023			
22.12.23 – 5.1.24	Christmas Holiday		
February 2024			
19.2.24 – 23.2.24	February Half Term		
March 2024			
29.3.24 – 12.4.24	Easter Holiday		
May 2024			
27.5.24 – 31.5.24	May Half Term		
June 2024			
Monday 3 rd June 2024	Staff training day		
July 2024			
22.7.24 – 30.8.24	Summer Holidays		
Tuesday 3 rd September 2024	School re-opens to children		

Be courageous; be strong.

Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14