



## December 2023

### Newsletter 7 – 8.12.23

#### SECTION 1: ATTENDANCE

##### HEALTHIER TOGETHER

We have been asked to promote the Healthier Together website (<https://www.nenc-healthiertogogether.nhs.uk>) which 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.



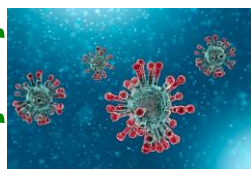
##### ILLNESS

If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, it is recommended they remain absent for 48 hours after the last incidence in accordance with the Department of Health's guidelines. In any other circumstance, please continue to advise school on a daily basis of the reason for continued absence. The Little Orange Book is on our website to support parents to make informed decisions about keeping children off school if they are unwell.

<https://nenc-northtyneside.icb.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Little-Orange-Book-NT-version-v2.pdf>

The DfE is running a pilot scheme in Newcastle around attendance and parental concerns about sending their children to school if they are not feeling 100%. The survey below should only take 10 minutes to complete. Your feedback will be really valuable and will be considered as part of the local authority's thinking going forward. Responses are completely confidential and all data is collected and processed in compliance with all data protection laws and the Market Research Society Professional Code of Conduct. Thank you in advance! [Survey \(savanta.com\)](https://savanta.com).

##### COVID



Government guidance no longer advises that we test for covid, even if we are symptomatic. In line with the latest guidance on school attendance, we would expect children to come to school with general cold symptoms such as a mild cough, runny nose or sore throat but children should not come to school with a temperature of 38 degrees or above. Further guidance can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/covid-19/covid-19-symptoms-and-what-to-do/>

##### 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 attainment have higher rates of attendance.
- National data shows us that children not meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths had an overall absence rate of 4.7% (so their overall attendance was 95.3%).
- The overall absence rate of children not meeting the expected standard was higher than among those meeting the higher standard (4.7% compared to 2.7%).
- For the most vulnerable pupils, regular attendance is also an important protective factor and the best opportunity for needs to be identified and support provided.
- Research has shown there are clear links between regular absence from school and harm for children (90% of young offenders have been persistently absent as young children) and serious violence (83% of knife possession offenders had been persistently absent for at least one year).



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 27.11.23	97%	Year 2 (99%)	Year 4 (98%)	Year 3 (97%)
Wb 4.12.23	97%	Year 3 (99%)	Year 2 (98%)	Year 4 (97%)

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. Mrs Gurkin can visit you at home or meet you in school to offer support and advice.

We will now be taking appropriate legal action for children who are deemed persistent absentees (under 90% attendance). Please see the attendance policy on our school website for further information.



### MINUTES MISSED

During this fortnight, 280 (4 hours and 40 minutes) 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.



### PUPIL ABSENCES

	Whole School absence (excluding Nursery)	Absence caused by holidays	Other absences
Wb 27.11.23	3%	0.5%	2.5%
Wb 4.12.23	3%	0.2%	2.8%

As you know, there is no entitlement in law to time off in term time. Children who are absent from school fall behind in their learning, they miss out on school events and many find it difficult to catch up. In

addition, school staff have to divert their attention away from other children in order to support those that have fallen behind due to a holiday related absence.

For this reason, any request for leave of absence due to holidays in term time will not be authorised. In the case of all unauthorised leave of absences, incurring 8 or more unauthorised sessions (4 days), an application for a Fixed Penalty Notice will be made to the Local Authority.

## 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
<b>Demonstrating Love</b>	Grace Heidi	Yashika Annabelle	Ethan Ava	Teddy Harmony	Elias Scarlett	Abdul Jake
<b>Demonstrating Determination</b>	Heidi Lola	Billie Carter	Lyla Sacha	Henry Elli	Georgie Harry	Mabel Cheuk Yin

### 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.



The following children have either earned a new TTRS title or engaged highly with TTRS during the last fortnight. Well done everyone!

	Children Need to Learn	Highest accuracy this fortnight	Highest engagement this fortnight	Average Daily Minutes
<b>Year 2</b>	x 2, x 5, x 10 (and corresponding division facts)	Thanuja Esim	Rio Max Cr	8
<b>Year 3</b>	x 2, x 5, x 10, x 3, x 4, x 8 (and corresponding division facts)	Thoe Joshua	Omar Theo	9
<b>Year 4</b>	All tables to 12 x 12 (and corresponding division facts)	Karlo Zain	Karlo Alfie	8
Current rank of ARFS among nearby schools		11	Mean studio speed (seconds per question)	3.12

## HANDWRITING HEROES

As a school, we continue to have a real drive in school to improve handwriting, presentation of work and spelling. 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
Eric Ani	Amaya Ruby	Thanuja Teddy	Lucas Jacob D	Darcey Huwariya

## SECTION 3: SOCIAL ACTION

### SCHOOL COUNCIL

Designs have almost been finalised for our appeal to encourage and promote safe driving on Christon Road. School Councillors are looking forward to displaying them around the local area. Keep your eyes peeled in the locality



### WORSHIP COUNCIL

Worship Council have been discussing how we can play an active role in evaluating Collective Worship at ARFS. They all agreed that a successful worship is informative, engaging and reminds us of Christian values including our own school values of love and determination. Over the spring term, the children will be involved in actively evaluating and helping us to shape worship throughout the year.



### CHARITABLE GIVING

Today is Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. Thank you for all your kind donations towards this charity. We have raised £60 so far. Donations can be made until the end of term, via ParentMail.

## SECTION 4: SCHOOL NEWS!

### NATIVITIES

Extra seats may be released from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December if capacity allows. Physical tickets will not be issued; Mrs Coates will check attendance at each performance against the bookings list.



### CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Please sign up to bring shared party food on the list outside each classroom door. Please be aware that all items must be individually wrapped in order to comply with Natasha's law and, as we have nut allergies in school, please ensure items are nut free. Thank you!



On party days, children can come to school in their party clothes but these need to be practical for playtimes and appropriate to the weather please! Thank you.

### WINTER WEATHER

When it is wet/snowy, please ensure children come to school with suitable named outdoor clothing (e.g. waterproof coats, leggings, wellies, 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 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.







# HOME TIME

## COLLECTION OF CHILDREN

It is really important that we know who is collecting your child(ren) at the end of each day. If this is going to differ from the collection list we hold in school (e.g. when going to play at a friend's house) please let us know before 2:30pm. Children will not be released to anyone who is not on our collection list in school. Many thanks.

## DONATING

Many of you may know that our PTFA are registered with **easyfundraising.org.uk** which is a great way to generate free funds for the PTFA. Follow this link <http://efraising.org/dDQQY2Ddjz> to set yourself up. All the

pennies really do add up! We currently only have a very small number of people using these fundraising options. It would be great to see some new users, especially as online shopping is no doubt expected to increase in the next few weeks! Any member of the PTFA would be happy to assist with set up. There are nearly 3,000 retailers on board ready to make a donation to our school every time you shop online... and it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

Join, shop and raise here:  
[easyfundraising.org.uk/archbishopprunciefirstptfa](http://easyfundraising.org.uk/archbishopprunciefirstptfa)



It's really simple, all you have to do is:

- **Join** - <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/archbishopprunciefirstptfa/> and sign up for free.
- **Shop** - Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.
- **Raise** - After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation the PTFA for no extra cost whatsoever!

## PTFA



Huge thanks to the PTFA for organising the disco and the film nights for our children to enjoy. They were both well attended events and I know the children really enjoyed them. The PTFA have kindly donated £2000 towards our KS1 & 2 Theatre visits in the last week which has substantially reduced costs for parents and carers.

Your child will also be bringing home some raffle tickets this evening. You can purchase these for £1 per strip. Please ensure your child's name is written on the back of the tickets and returned with the cash in the small envelope provided. The raffle will be drawn in the last week of term and there are some wonderful coloured hampers to be won!

## CHURCH LINKS

Please remember to pop along to the Festival of Angels at All Saints this weekend. Year 4 have created a lovely angel to display using recycled materials.



## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Over the last fortnight, we have been thinking about the season of Advent and how we prepare for Christmas with different traditions and symbols such as wreaths, trees and cards. We have also been busy learning some beautiful Christmas Carols to sing at our Carol Service at the end of term.



### DONATIONS

We are seeking donations of girls and boys pants, socks and tights in ages 5-6, 6-7, 7-8 and 8-9 please. We would be also be grateful if all spare items could be washed and returned to school as soon as possible. Thank you.



### 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](mailto:archbishopruncie@childcarebookingsforschools.co.uk)  
Contact phone number: 01444 523335



### SAFEGUARDING

Mrs Massey, Mrs Ravel, Mrs Crozier and Mrs Francis are our school's Designated Safeguarding Leaders (DSL). Miss Wakefield is DSL for Wraparound care. 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



# Archbishop Runcie Church of England (VA) First School



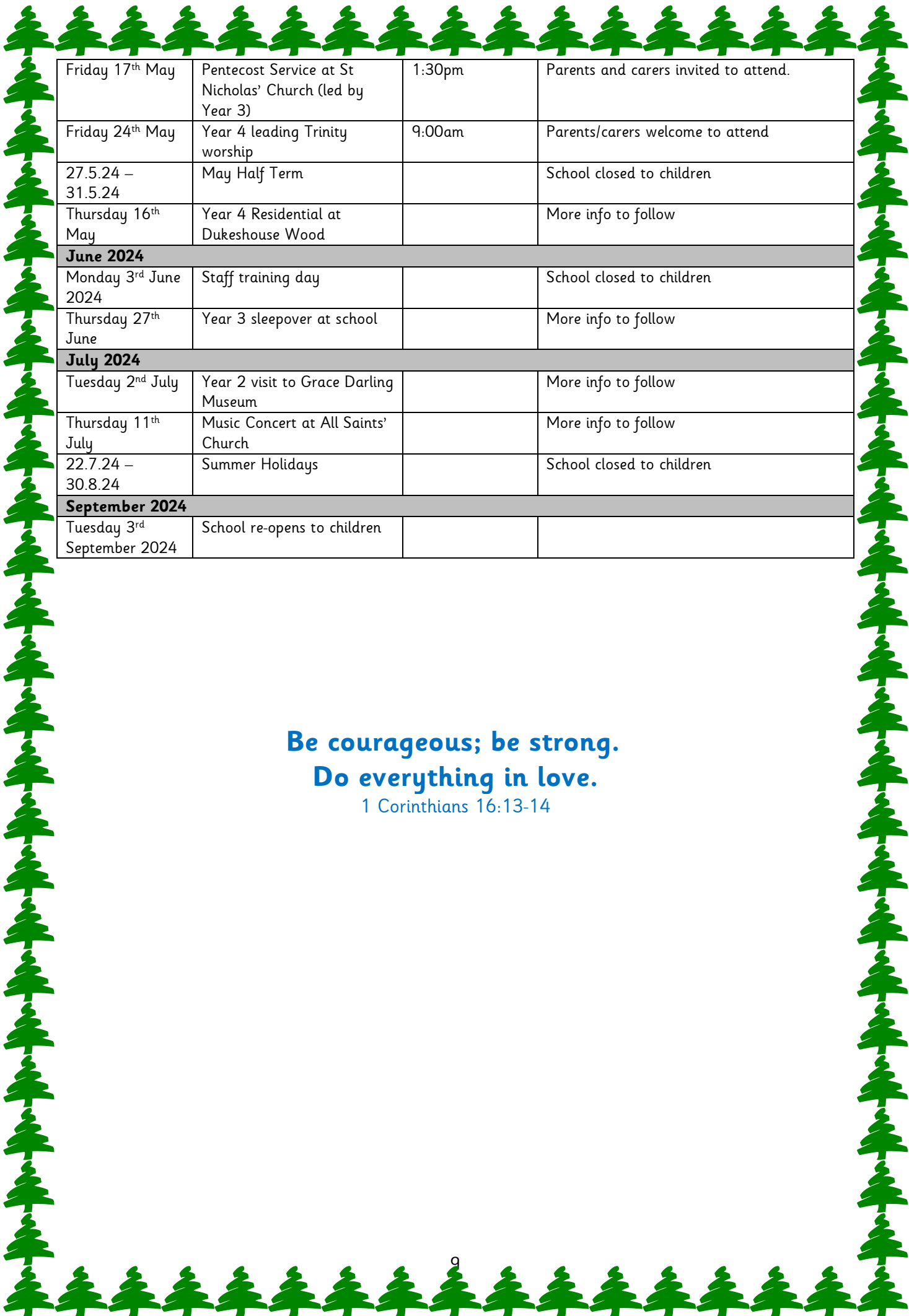
## DIARY DATES

New dates are in red, for your information

December 2023			
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	All Saints' Festival of Angels	10:00am-12:00 noon	
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 visit to Durham University		Please see ParentMail for more info
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery & Rec Nativity	9:30am	Please contact Mrs Coates to book tickets (2 per family per Key Stage)
	Year 1 & 2 Nativity	1:30pm	
	Year 3 & 4 Nativity	5:00pm	
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 & 4 Nativity	9:30am	
	Nursery & Rec Nativity	1:30pm	
	Year 1 & 2 Nativity	5:00pm	
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1 & 2 Nativity	9:30am	No cost. Relevant classes to wear clothing/footwear suitable for PE, please.
	Year 3 & 4 Nativity	1:30pm	
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Choir performing at St Thomas' Church	9:15am (meet)	Choir members only. Further details have been sent via ParentMail
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Class Family Christmas Days (N – Y4)	All day	Children invited to wear Christmas jumpers
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1 & 2 visit to St Nicholas' Church	am	
	Year 1 & 2 Christmas Crafts	pm	
	Year 3 & 4 Christmas Party	pm	Please sign up to bring a food donation on classroom doors from Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December.
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 3 & Year 4 Tyne Theatre	10:00am	Please pay via ParentMail
	Year 1 & 2 Christmas Party	pm	Please sign up to bring a food donation on classroom doors from Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December.
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Year 1 & Year 2 Tyne Theatre	10:00am	Please pay via ParentMail
	Year 3 & 4 Christmas Crafts	pm	
	Nursery & Reception Christmas Party	pm	Please sign up to bring a food donation on classroom doors from Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December.
	Celebrating Talents & Achievements		Children invited to bring meals, certificates or badges from out of school activities.
	Class attendance reward	TBC	
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Year 1 – 4 Carol Service at St Nicholas' (South Gosforth)	1:30pm	

	Children invited to wear something festive to school!		No cost. Relevant classes to wear clothing/footwear suitable for PE, please.
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Eve Service at Newcastle Cathedral	6:00pm	
22.12.23 – 5.1.24	Christmas Holiday		
<b>January 2024</b>			
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 2 leading Collective Worship	9:00am	Parents/carers welcome to attend
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	The Children's Society Christingle Service at Newcastle Cathedral (Year 4 children only)	1:30-2:30pm	
<b>February 2024</b>			
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Year 3 leading Candlemas worship	9:00am	Parents/carers welcome to attend
19.2.24 – 23.2.24	February Half Term		School closed to children
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 4 Leading Shrove Tuesday Collective Worship	9:00am	Parents/carers welcome to attend
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 1 Leading Collective Worship	9:00am	Parents/carers welcome to attend
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 3 leading Ash Wednesday Collective Worship	9:00am	Parents/carers welcome to attend
<b>March 2024</b>			
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 & Year 2 Mothering Sunday Service	9:00am	Parents/carers welcome to attend.
	Year 3 & Year 4 Mothering Sunday Service	2:45pm	Parents/carers welcome to attend.
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Healthy Active Lifestyle opportunity for Year 1 & Year 2 (Multiskills)	am	Children should arrive at school in PE kit please.
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 visit to Cragside		More info to follow
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2 visit to Newcastle Castle		More info to follow
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 visit to St Mary's Lighthouse		More info to follow
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Service at All Saints' Church	1:45pm	Parents and carers invited to attend
29.3.24 – 12.4.24	Easter Holiday		School closed to children
<b>April 2024</b>			
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Year 1 leading Collective Worship	9:00am	Parents and carers welcome to attend
<b>May 2024</b>			
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 leading Ascension worship	9:00am	Parents/carers welcome to attend
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 1 leading Christian Aid Collective Worship	9:00am	Parents and carers welcome to attend
	Healthy Active Lifestyle opportunity for Nursery & Reception children	am	Children will wear PE kits already in school
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	No Outsiders demo lessons, open lesson and staff training.		More info to follow





Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Pentecost Service at St Nicholas' Church (led by Year 3)	1:30pm	Parents and carers invited to attend.
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 leading Trinity worship	9:00am	Parents/carers welcome to attend
27.5.24 – 31.5.24	May Half Term		School closed to children
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 Residential at Dukeshouse Wood		More info to follow
<b>June 2024</b>			
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024	Staff training day		School closed to children
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 3 sleepover at school		More info to follow
<b>July 2024</b>			
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 2 visit to Grace Darling Museum		More info to follow
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Music Concert at All Saints' Church		More info to follow
22.7.24 – 30.8.24	Summer Holidays		School closed to children
<b>September 2024</b>			
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024	School re-opens to children		

**Be courageous; be strong.  
Do everything in love.**  
1 Corinthians 16:13-14

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

1



Apply through the childcare service:  
<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>  
You will need to confirm your identify.



If successful you will receive an eligibility code – '50xxxxxxxx'



2

3



Take this code to your childcare provider with your NI number, child's date of birth and complete a Parent Declaration form.

Your childcare provider checks the code is valid – and if valid - confirms when you can start and reminds you to reconfirm – every 3 months



4

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 



# ART AND CRAFT WORKSHOP

Free!

Make your very own  
Angel!

~~~~~  
Saturday 9th

December

2.30 - 4.00 pm  
~~~~~

All Saints Centre  
Linden Road, Gosforth





**All Saints**  
Gosforth

# Christingle Service

Sunday 17th December

at

3.30pm

Join with us in celebrating  
Jesus as the Light of the World.  
Followed by refreshments



All Saints Church, West Avenue, Gosforth, NE3 4ES