





February 2020 – Newsletter Weeks 21 & 22

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Whole School (excluding Nursery)
Week 21	100% 	95%	94%	94%	93%	96.5%	94%
Week 22	98%	98%	99%	99%	95%	100% 	97%

Our school target for attendance is 97%.

PTFA NEWS

Thank you to our PTFA for organising our Valentines Disco. It was a huge success.



If you have been in the main yard, you will have noticed our new Trim Trail and All-Weather Running Track which has been part funded by the PTFA. Huge thanks to our PTFA and all who helped raise the money for this project. Please could children have **named** trainers (not plimsolls) which they can fasten themselves in school, every day, so they can use it. Thank you!

Next Thursday, staff and PTFA members are hosting a "Bedtime Story" event on World



Book Day from 5:30-6:30pm. Children are invited to return to school in their pyjamas with a teddy bear for hot chocolate and to listen to a 'bedtime' story, read by staff members. Each staff member will choose a short story to share with children so they will have time to hear more than one story. Places for this event can be booked via ParentMail. Money raised will go towards our new fundraising project of Reading Books across the school.

A reminder that pre-loved uniform can be purchased via the PTFA (or the school office on a Tuesday). Please contact Bridget on archbishopruncieptfa@gmail.com If anyone has any school uniform that children have outgrown we are always grateful for donations which we can then pass on to other families. This is not only beneficial cost wise but is also more environmentally friendly too! Thank you.

LIBRARY VISITS

All classes will be visiting Gosforth Library as part of our Book Week activities. Year 2 are going on Tuesday 3rd March and all other classes will visit on Friday 6th March. We would be grateful for parent helpers to accompany each class. Thank you.

Year 2 are visiting on **Tuesday 3rd March** 1.45pm - 2.25pm - leave school at 1.30pm

Visits will take place on **Friday 6th March** as follows;

- Year 1 - 10am-10.40am - leave school at 9.45am
- Year 3 - 10.40am - 11.20am - leave school at 10.25am
- Year 4 - 11.20am - 12pm - leave school at 11.05am
- Nursery & Reception - 1.45pm - 2.25pm - leave school at 1.30pm

Please contact Class Teachers directly if you are able to help. Thank you!



WORSHIP



On Friday 14th February, Year 1 led "Love is..." Worship. They told us what the Bible explains love as and how we can undertake acts of love.

On Tuesday afternoon this week, Year 4 led Worship to mark the beginning of Lent. They explained the meaning of Shrove Tuesday and some traditions of Lent.

Mothers' Day services will take place on Friday 20th March. Years 1-4 at 9:00am and Nursery and Reception at 2:30pm. Please could we ask that only **one adult per family** attends due to fire regulations. Many thanks.

LENT

This Lent, we hope both adults and children might engage in God's plea for us to "Care for Creation".

LiveLent: Care for God's Creation is the Church of England's Lent Campaign for 2020. With weekly themes shaped around the first Genesis account of creation, it explores the urgent need for humans to value and protect the abundance God has created. This year's LiveLent challenge offers 40 short reflections and suggested actions to us live in greater harmony with God, neighbour and nature. You can download the app for more information!



CHURCH LINKS

Rev'd Jane Nattrass has visited us in school and introduced herself to all the staff and children. She has invited Years 3 & 4 to St Nicholas' Church Hall on Thursday 2nd April to take part in an Easter storytelling day. We are really looking forward to being the first school in Newcastle to do this activity!

RESOURCE REQUESTS



Nursery and Reception classes are seeking donations of white or wicker storage baskets and containers of varying sizes. If you have any suitable boxes or baskets at home, that you no longer need, they would be extremely grateful to receive them! They are also seeking balance bikes, scooters, trikes and bike helmets. Thank you



NURSERY APPLICATIONS



We are now accepting applications for Nursery places after Easter, for children who have just turned 3, and for September, for children who turn 3 before 31st August 2020. Please contact Mrs Pygall in the school office for more information.

We have another open evening at 4:00pm on Monday 9th March for anyone wanting to come and look round or talk to staff.

ACCELERATED READER

As you know, we have recently invested a significant amount of money in a new reading programme which will mean individual reading books are very well matched to children's reading ability and their

comprehension, for children in Years 2-4. Miss Orr intends to launch this programme later in the year; however, before that can happen, she needs to re-band and label our current books and purchase some new ones.



This will be a **huge** task and we are therefore asking for volunteers to make a start on Monday 2nd or Tuesday 3rd March. We have already had several offers of help which is fantastic. Thank you! If anyone else is able to help, please let us know via ParentMail. Lunch and refreshments will be provided for all those who help.

Miss Orr will be collecting all reading books in from children in Years 2, 3 and 4 on Monday so please could they read a book from home until reading books are returned to them? Many thanks!



Y3 & Y4 GOSFORTH VOICES

The Gosforth Voices choir will tour all the First Schools in GST on Friday 13th March. We are delighted to hear we will have five ARFS representatives on the tour! Thank you to the children who have signed up to take part.

SCHOOL CHOIR

Choir will resume on Tuesday 17th March, on Mrs Lavin's return, as an after school activity on a Tuesday from 3:15-4:00pm. Mrs Lavin has moved this from lunchtimes to after school because, as the weather improves, children will want to be outdoors at lunchtime. We would like to thank her for giving up so much of her time for our school. It is very much appreciated by staff, children and parents alike!



There will be no cost to attend choir but we will need a register of children who will be attending. Please email Mrs Pygall to register your child. Thank you.

SWIMMING GALA



On Thursday 19th March, Gosforth Pool are holding their annual Swimming Gala for children in Years 3 & 4. The swimming teachers at the pool will be advising on team selection. Therefore children who are confident, able swimmers are invited to attend "run offs" on Monday 9th March. Please complete the form on ParentMail if you would like your child to take part in the time trials.

Children who finish in the top 4 of the gala will be invited to a final which will be held at Gosforth Leisure Centre on 11th June 2020 (time to be confirmed).

QUICKSTICKS

Today children in Year 3 and Year 4 were invited to take part in trials for our school Quicksticks team with Miss Nattress. Successful children will bring letters home tonight inviting them to a training session on Monday, after school, and the Quickstick competition next Thursday.

PARENT COUNCIL

Our Parent Council met this morning and had a really positive meeting to help move our school forward. They are in the process of organising an Easter Egg hunt on Thursday 2nd April for children of pre-school age for any younger siblings, cousins, neighbours or other friends of the school. Please also pass on the invitation to anyone you may know with young children who are not yet school age. Further information will follow in due course.



Welcome to the Parent Council

We are aiming to have representative from each class on our Parent Council and we currently have vacancies for a Nursery and Year 1 representative, plus one other place. If you would be interested in joining the Parent Council please let them know via email on

parentcouncil.archbishoppruncie@gmail.com

In addition, it has been raised that some parents are frustrated by other parents taking up more than their 10 minutes allocated time on Parents Evening. It has been suggested that, in future, we use a 10 min timer for each appointment so that these meetings do not overrun. To help these meetings run smoothly we will also try sending interim reports out to parents prior to meetings and inviting parents to arrive early to look at books before the meeting begins.

If any parents have business "Charity Days" at work that they would like to use in school, please let us know! There is always plenty to do!

Finally, I have been asked to run a poll, via ParentMail, as to whether we continue with the staggered drop off after Easter or revert to lining up. This will be added to ParentMail next week. Please let us know what you think! Thank you.

PARKING

We have, once again, had several complaints about parking around school. In order to keep our children safe, please could we ask parents and carers to park and drive considerably around school. We understand that parking close to school can be very challenging but ASDA remain happy for our families to park in their carpark and walk to school from there.

The doors are opened to children at 8:40am and are closed at 8:50am, when teaching begins. We regularly request surveillance and support in enforcing parking restrictions. If you would like to **log your concerns directly**, please contact Parking Services on 0191 261 4503. If a vehicle is causing an immediate obstruction to pedestrians, or other road users or driving dangerously, please call Northumbria Police on 101.

Our priority is the safety and wellbeing of our pupils and we would very much appreciate your continued support with this.
Thank you!



YEAR 2 SKIPPING

Due to the snow, Year 2 skipping will take place next Wednesday.

SIAMS QUESTIONNAIRE

As you may know, our school is subject to both Ofsted inspections and, because we are a Church of England School, SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). SIAMS will judge the school on seven areas of school life; Vision & Leadership; Wisdom, Knowledge & Skills; Character Development; Community and Living Well Together; Dignity & Respect; The impact of collective worship; The effectiveness of religious education. Staff and Governors are due to receive further training on this next week.



I have, this week, sent out a questionnaire on some of these aspects of school life so we can gather your views to allow us to recognise our strengths and help us improve further. We would be grateful of your feedback.



MELVA

Next week Year 4 children across GST are visiting Gosforth Civic Theatre to watch a performance of Melva and take part in follow up workshops.



'MELVA' tells the story of a 10-year-old girl whose struggles with anxiety, or 'worrits' as she knows them, keep her from leaving the house. Her Grandpa has grown so worried about her that he fakes his own disappearance in the hope that it will compel Melva to leave the house and overcome her 'bad worrits'. What follows is a funny and poignant adventure for them both, where each learn how their 'worrits' affect them and new ways to tackle them separately and together.



WORLD BOOK DAY

A reminder that children are invited to come to school dressed as a character from a favourite book and to bring in their book to share with others. **Please remember that it is not necessary for parents to buy costumes specially.** Many book characters are ordinary boys and girls who wear everyday clothes. We look forward to hearing all about their favourite characters and stories and seeing them dressed up!

STEM WEEK

As part of STEM Week, Years 1-4 will be visiting the Centre for Life (see dates attached to Newsletter). Staff would be grateful for parent volunteers to accompany the children on their visit. Payments can be made via ParentMail.



Please contact Miss Young if you are a parent or carer with an interest or specialism in STEM and you would like to lead a session in school. Thank you.



FOREST SCHOOL

Before Easter, each class will take part in Forest School with Mrs Francis (see dates attached to Newsletter). You can now make a donation towards this on ParentMail.

PERMISSION TO COLLECT CHILDREN

Mrs Pygall has again sent out collection forms to people who have not yet returned these to her. This is the third time of sending. It is really important, from a safeguarding point of view, that we know who has permission to collect each child. If you receive a form today please return it on Monday. Thank you!

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			
2-6 th March	Book Week in school	All week	
Monday 2 nd March	Miss Nattress coaching Quicksticks team	3:15-4:15pm	Only for children who received letters on Friday
Monday 2 nd & Tuesday 3 rd March	Volunteers needed in school to band reading books please!	All day	Please contact Miss Orr if you are able to help. Thank you!
3 rd March	Y2 Library visit	1:30pm	
4 th March	Gosforth Voices	3:45pm	3:45-4:45pm at Grange First School
	Y2 skipping (rearranged due to snow)	1:30pm	
	Year 4 Gosforth Civic Theatre visit "Melva"	1:00pm	Please pay on ParentMail
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day	All day	Children invited to dress as a book character
	Year 3 & 4 Quicksticks Tournament	1:00-4:00pm	Selected children only. Children will return to school late. Please see letter.
	Bedtime stories at school	5:30-6:30pm	More info to follow
Friday 6 th March	Class visits to Gosforth Library (not Y2)	See above	
	Year 2 visit to Centre for Life	10:00am - 2:00pm	Children will need to bring or order a packed lunch please
9-13 March	British Science Week	All week	We would welcome any parents/visitors to school linked to Science please.
Monday 9 th March	Purim	All day	Activities in school
	Swimming Gala Trials for Years 3 & 4	pm	Please complete the form on ParentMail if you would like your child to take part in time trials
	Prospective Nursery Parent visits	4:00pm	Please book a place via the school office
9 th -13 th March	British Science Week	All Week	We will be looking for parents to come into school to lead science based activities for children please!
Tuesday 10 th March	Year 4 visit to Centre for Life	10:00am - 2:00pm	Children will need to bring or order a packed lunch please
	National Dental Survey for Nursery	TBC	
Wednesday 11 th March	Year 3 visit to Centre for Life	10:00am - 2:00pm	Children will need to bring or order a packed lunch please
	Gosforth Band	3:45pm	3:45-4:45pm at Archibald First School
Thursday 12 th March	Year 1 visit to Centre for Life	10:00am - 2:00pm	Children will need to bring or order a packed lunch please
Friday 13 th March	Year 4 Forest School	pm	
	Teddy Bear protest organised by Parent Council	TBC	More info to follow
Tuesday 17 th March	E-safety sessions in school	All day	
	Nursery & Rec Animal Story session	pm	
	After school Choir Club begins	3:15-4:00	No cost. Please email Mrs Pygall if your child will be attending.
Wednesday 18 th March	Gosforth Voices	3:45pm	3:45-4:45pm at Grange First School
Thursday 19 th March	Year 3 Forest School	pm	
	Year 1 Dental Health Survey	9:30am	
	Year 3 & Year 4 Swimming Gala	9:30am	Selected children only

Friday 20 th March	Persian New Year	All day	Activities in school
	Year 1-4 Mothers' Day Service	9:00am	One member of each family invited to attend
	Visit from a local poet for Y1-Y4	All day	Please pay on ParentMail
	2:30pm EYFS Mothers' Day Service		One member of each family invited to attend
	Closing date for Nursery applications for Sept 2020	Noon	
	Gosforth Voices Tour	All day	Performance in all GST school
Monday 23 rd March	World Water Day	All day	
Tuesday 24 th March	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	
	Gosforth Band	3:45-4:45pm	at Archibald First School
Thursday 26 th March	Nursery visit to Walker Dome	1:00-2:45pm	Children may be slightly late returning to school
Friday 27 th March	SATs Meeting for Year 2 Parents	9:00	
	Nursery & Reception Forest School	am (N&R)	
	Year 2 Forest School	pm (Y2)	
Monday 30 th March	Year 2 visit to Alnwick Castle	All Day	Please pay on ParentMail
	No French lunchtime club	-	
Tuesday 31 st March	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	Nursery Stay & Play	2:00pm	Nursery Parents invited
Thursday 2 nd April	Pre-School Easter Egg Hunt	9:00am	For children who do not currently attend school
Friday 3 rd 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	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	9:00	
	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
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	1:30	
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	am Y2 Skipping Event- GJA	TBC	
	pm Y4 Skipping Event- GJA	TBC	
	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	pm EYFS Sports Day	1:30pm	Parents invited
	Full Governing Body Meeting	5:30pm	
Thursday 9 th July	Y2 Team Games festival at Walker Dome	1:00-2:45pm	Children may be slightly late returning to school
Friday 10 th July	Cakes in the Courtyard		All helpers and volunteers invited!
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





The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

The dentist is coming NOW!
to your nursery / playgroup

If your child will be 3years old on **10/03/20** you will be given a form;

- Please fill in the form to allow your child to take part and get a
- **free toothbrush for your child** when you bring your completed form back by **09/03/20**

It only takes 2-3minutes for the dentist to look at your child's teeth while they are at the nursery/ playgroup

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