



# March 2024

## Newsletter 13 – 22.3.24



### 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 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 <small>(excluding Nursery)</small>	Highest class attendance!	Second place	Third place
<b>Wb 11.3.24</b>	94%	Year 4 (98%)	Year 3 (95%)	Year 2 (94%)
<b>Wb 18.3.24</b>	95%	Nursery (97%)	Year 4 (96.3%)	Year 2 (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. 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, 150 (2 hours and 30 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 <small>(excluding Nursery)</small>	Absence caused by holidays	Other absences
<b>Wb 11.3.24</b>	6%	1%	5%
<b>Wb 18.3.24</b>	5%	1%	4%

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 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	Staff member(s)
<b>Demonstrating Love</b>	Josiah Isla	Aninunnu Marcel	John Logan	Hayden Isaac	Abbie Elif	Nolan Zidan Zain	Mrs Armstrong Mr Hunter
<b>Demonstrating Determination</b>	Lola Phoenix	Marcel Urwah	Alistair Ethan	Harmony Rio Max	Rehan Percy	Maya Charlie	Mrs Francis Mrs Egdell

### 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 this fortnight
<b>Year 2</b>	x 2, x 5, x 10 (and corresponding division facts)	Ebuka Mabel Thanuuja	Mabel Teddy Ebuka	3
<b>Year 3</b>	x 2, x 5, x 10, x 3, x 4, x 8 (and corresponding division facts)	Theo Rehan Evelyn	Evelyn Rehan Lydia	3
<b>Year 4</b>	All tables to 12 x 12 (and corresponding division facts)	Lauren Emilia Aleeza	Zain Emilia Lauren	2
Current rank of ARFS among nearby schools		12	Mean studio speed (seconds per question)	3.99

### HANDWRITING HEROES

As a school, we continue to have a real drive 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
Zephy Annabelle	Marwa Franco	George P Joshua	Evelyn Theo	Amara Lauren

## SECTION 3: SOCIAL ACTION

### SCHOOL COUNCIL



Children have been thinking about recycling and the importance of creating a healthier planet for ourselves and future generation. We have been making a conscious effort to cut down on the plastic we use in school. We have collected and weighed waste plastic and are busy creating an action plan to reduce plastic waste in our school.



### CHARITABLE GIVING

We raised an amazing £228 in donations for comic relief through the donations for non-uniform day and the sale of red noses. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

## SECTION 4: SCHOOL NEWS!



### FASTING

Just a reminder that, if your child is fasting or observing other religious practices, please let us know so we can support them appropriately. Thank you.

### READING RECORDS

Thank you for all the wonderful comments received on Mrs Crozier's recent survey. The majority of parents said they would prefer to stick with paper Reading Records to record home reading and that their child(ren) enjoyed reading at home which is wonderful to hear! Please make time to listen to your child read for 5 - 10 minutes each day to support their progress and remember to record it in Reading Records please. Thank you for your ongoing support!



## STEM WEEK

Last Week we celebrated British Science Week. We took part in a variety of activities and were very lucky to have lots of visitors into school to talk to us. Thank you to the governors, parents (past and present) and friends of the school who gave up their time to plan and lead sessions in school.



## CLUBS

After Easter, the following clubs will be running at lunchtimes:

Club	Open to:	Staff leading:	Day/time	Book via:
<b>Nursery Buddies</b>	Nursery, Years 3 & 4	Mrs Francis	Monday 12:30pm	Book via ParentMail
<b>Colouring Club</b>	Nursery, Reception, Years 1 & 2	Mrs Egdell	Monday 12:30pm	Book via ParentMail
<b>Young Leaders</b>	Years 3 & 4	Mrs Singh	Monday 12:30pm	Children have already begun this last term – no need to re-book.
<b>Library Champions</b>	Years 2 & 3	Mrs Crozier	Monday 12:30pm	Children have already begun this last term – no need to re-book.
<b>Recorder</b>	Years 1 – 4	Miss Kelly	Monday 12:30pm	Book via ParentMail
<b>Games &amp; Puzzles</b>	Rec – Year 4	Mrs Conner	Monday 12:30pm	Book via ParentMail
<b>Green Team</b>	Years 1 - 4	Mrs Massey & Mr Hunter	Monday 12:30pm	Attendance is only for nominated Green Team members.
<b>Choir</b>	Years 1 - 4	Miss Bowers	Wednesday 12:30pm	No need to re-book if children are already part of choir. If there any additional children that would like to join, please let Mrs Coates know.
<b>KS1 Football</b>	Years 1 & 2	Lee Sterry	Friday 12:15pm	Bring boots & kit – no need to sign up, just turn up
<b>KS2 Football</b>	Years 3 & 4	Lee Sterry	Thursday 12:15pm	Bring boots & kit – no need to sign up, just turn up
<b>KS2 Football*</b>	Years 3 & 4	Lee Sterry	Tuesday 3:30pm – 4:30pm	Parents need to book this via <a href="https://ls-sports-coaching.classforkids.io/term/126">https://ls-sports-coaching.classforkids.io/term/126</a>

## PARKING



A reminder that parking is not allowed on double yellow lines or zig-zag lines at any time. This is for the safety of your children as they arrive at/exit school. Parking in these areas reduces children's visibility which leads to increased risk of accidents. Please park considerately. Thank you.



A reminder also that residents require access to their driveways and garages. Please do not block these, even momentarily, whilst dropping off/collecting your child. Thank you.

## SMART WATCHES

A reminder that children are not allowed to wear smart watches (that record, take pictures etc) at school. If these are worn, they will be removed from children and held by the class teacher until home time. Thank you for your understanding.



## PE

Children in Years 1 – 4 should arrive in school wearing their PE kit, please. As the weather improves, PE will be taught outdoors whenever possible therefore children need to wear appropriate footwear (trainers) that they can fasten themselves (not school shoes or wellies), no jewellery and with long hair tied back. If children are not suitably dressed, they will not be able to take part in PE lessons.

PE days after Easter will be:

<b>Year 1</b>	Thursday
<b>Year 2</b>	Monday
<b>Year 3</b>	Friday
<b>Year 4</b>	Friday



Nursery and Reception children should have their PE kit in school on their peg at all times please. Thank you.

## PTFA

Today, lots of our children have taken part in the PTFA egg decorating competition. Prizes have been awarded to:

<b>Nursery</b>	Molly
<b>Reception</b>	Zephy
<b>Year 1</b>	Sacha
<b>Year 2</b>	Mia
<b>Year 3</b>	Thomas
<b>Year 4</b>	Amara



Well done to everyone who took part, we had some amazing entries!



A reminder that the PTFA are holding an Easter cake sale after school next Wednesday. All donations of cakes and other Easter treats would be gratefully received! Please ensure all donations are clearly labelled with ingredients included. Many thanks.

We would be really interested to hear about any suggestions of future events. Please email [archbishopruncieptfa@gmail.com](mailto:archbishopruncieptfa@gmail.com) Thank you.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

We have been thinking about different representations of the cross, created by Christians around the world, in advance of Easter.



Additionally, this week, we have been thinking about Neurodiversity as part of our ongoing commitment to No Outsiders. In particular, we have reflected on children with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and the challenges and benefits these can bring to individuals.



## BULLYING

Whilst bullying is extremely rare in our school, we have had a couple of concerns raised by parents and carers in recent weeks. If you have any concerns that your child may be





being bullied, I would urge you to speak to your child's class teacher at the earliest opportunity to discuss your concerns.

Bullying is defined as *"Behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally."*

All children have the right to feel safe in school and bullying, of any form, is not acceptable. Please be assured that your concerns will be treated seriously and staff will respond swiftly. Our Behaviour Policy (including Anti-Bullying) can be found on our school website.



### CHURCH LINKS

Rev'd Shipton came to visit Year 1 to talk about Holy Week and Easter and to explain how some Christians celebrate these special events.



Please see info attached about an Easter Fun session on 31<sup>st</sup> March at All Saints' Church.

### EASTER SERVICE

A reminder that the Easter Service will be held at All Saints' Church (over the High Street) at 1:45pm next Thursday. Children can be taken home from church after the service finishes at approx. 2:15 pm.



### STAFFING UPDATE

I am delighted to announce that we have appointed Mrs Margery Ellwood as our new Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) Leader and Key Stage 1 & 2 (Years 1 – 4) SENCo from June 2024. Mrs Ellwood will join us straight after May half term but will not be class based until September 2024. This will give her an opportunity to get to know children with additional needs and their families.



Mrs Armstrong has received her long-awaited surgery date and will re-join us, post surgery, when she is fully recovered. We wish her all the very best for a swift recovery. We will be having a slight re-shuffle of some support staff whilst Mrs Armstrong is recovering. Please bear with us during this time – we will be back to usual levels of staffing soon!

Nursery parents may also have noticed that Mrs Gyle has been absent from work for the last couple of weeks – she is currently on crutches but hopes to be back with us after Easter!



### NEW NURSERY MEMBER!

Last week, Nursery welcomed a new member to their class – Fudge the hamster! Nursery have been reading "What Pet to Get?" by Emma Dodd and have welcomed their new pet into Nursery. The children are enjoying caring for Fudge, reading him stories and even singing him songs!

### NURSERY SESSIONS

As you know, we offer 15 hour places (2.5 days) and 30 hour places (5 days) in our Nursery. In the past, we have allowed families to purchase extra sessions to "top up" their 15 hours. As there is a strict ratio of adults: children in Nursery so we have made the decision, from September 2024, we will no longer be allowing families to do this. I'm sure parents and carers will



Not sure what support you could get with childcare costs? Go to [childcarechoices.gov.uk](https://childcarechoices.gov.uk)



understand that offering partial allocation means we do not have the full 15/30 hour places to offer other children. There will still be an option for families to “top up” to the full 30 hours (purchasing the extra 2.5 days) but not to purchase ad hoc sessions.

### NON-UNIFORM EVENTS

Over the course of the last few weeks, children have worn their home clothes to school for various events. Could I politely request that clothing worn for school is modest and age appropriate (e.g. skirts are an appropriate length, shoes are flat with a closed toe and are appropriate for outdoor play/PE and clothing covers children’s tummies). A sensible rule to go by is that we should not be able to see up it, down it or through it, please! Although we talk to children about why we are wearing non-uniform on these themed days, the majority of the school day is usual timetabled activities and therefore children need to be dressed appropriately. Thank you for your understanding and support in this matter.



### GOSFORTH VOICES

Today, we were visited by Gosforth Voices (the Choir for children in Years 3 & 4 in Gosforth Schools Trust). It would be fantastic to have our school represented in this group. If any children in Years 3 & 4 are interested in attending, you can find out more and sign up at <https://musicpartnershipnorthnewcastle.co.uk/ensembles>

### SUPPORTING FAMILIES EVENT

The next North East Children’s Additional Needs Network (NECANN) Marketplace Event is on Wednesday 3rd April 2024 10am - 2pm at Hadrian School, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE15 6PY.

<https://hadrian.newcastle.sch.uk/parents/school-events/>

Visit [www.northeastcann.org](http://www.northeastcann.org)



The NECANN Marketplace is an event for Parents & Carers of children with additional needs and their families. The event is to help families explore what support and resources are available to them in the North East region. There will be a range of activities for children to take part in throughout the day:

- Inclusive sports clubs demonstrations
- NECANN members showcasing their services including therapies, aids/ equipment, charities & more
- Sensory room and activities
- Music, rebound Therapy, Face Painter and more

If you would like to attend the event, please email NECANN at the following email address

[info@northeastcann.org](mailto:info@northeastcann.org)

### SAFEGUARDING

Mrs Massey, Mrs Francis and Mrs Crozier are our school’s Designated Safeguarding Leaders (DSL). Mr Brown 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



**Gosforth Schools' Trust**

# Signs of Spring

## PHOTO COMPETITION

Take a picture to show signs of spring.

**COMPETITION DEADLINE**  
**APRIL 26**

**WINNERS ANNOUNCED**  
**MAY 03**

Email or hand in your photograph to your school along with your name and year group. A school winner will be selected for EYFS, Years 1&2, Years 3&4, Years 5&6 and Years 7&8.  
A GST winner will be selected for each group.

Show your photography skills to win a prize.



### EASTER HALF TERM FOOTBALL

Starting 2nd April - ending 12th April  
Outdoor course at Gosforth Academy

Week 1 1st day (2nd April)  
Week 1 2nd day (3rd April)  
Week 2 1st day (9th April)  
Week 2 2nd day (10th April)

Activities:  
Football, Ball manipulation, fun drills,  
Training, setting objectives,  
Live football games.

For more information:  
Contact: 01709 286113  
Email: [info@leeblissports.co.uk](mailto:info@leeblissports.co.uk)  
Website: [www.leeblissports.co.uk](http://www.leeblissports.co.uk)



### EASTER HALF TERM MULTI-SPORTS

Starting 2nd April - ending 12th April  
Indoor course at Gosforth Academy

Week 1 1st day (2nd April)  
Week 1 2nd day (3rd April)  
Week 2 1st day (9th April)  
Week 2 2nd day (10th April)

Activities:  
Football, 1st & 2nd year Basketball, games,  
Physical education, cross-country,  
Sports education, (taggled), football,  
Circuit training, Golf, Basketball

For more information:  
Contact: 01709 286113  
Email: [info@leeblissports.co.uk](mailto:info@leeblissports.co.uk)  
Website: [www.leeblissports.co.uk](http://www.leeblissports.co.uk)



ALL SAINTS CHURCH

FAITH@4

# EASTER FUN!



31 MARCH  
EASTER SUNDAY

4-5PM

ALL SAINTS CENTRE | NE3 4ES | GOSFORTH



## DIARY DATES

New dates are in red, for your information

29.3.24 – 12.4.24	Easter Holiday		School closed to children
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Easter Fun at All Saints'	4:00-5:00pm	See poster
<b>April 2024</b>			
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 4 visit to Beamish		Please see ParentMail
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Year 1 leading Collective Worship	9:00am	Parents and carers welcome to attend
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Class Photographs		
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Deadline for GST Photo Competition		See info in Newsletter 10
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 3 & 4 visit to Safety Works		
<b>May 2024</b>			
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	GST Photo Competition winners announced		
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
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 Residential at Dukeshouse Wood		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.
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	NE Children's Cancer Run	TBC	Please save the date! <a href="https://childrenscancernorth.enthuse.com/pf/kate-massey-357dc">https://childrenscancernorth.enthuse.com/pf/kate-massey-357dc</a>
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Year 1 Mosque visit	am	More info to follow
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 leading Trinity worship	9:00am	Parents/carers welcome to attend
	GST Daft Day		Donations can be made to Daft as a Brush via ParentMail
27.5.24 – 31.5.24	May Half Term		School closed to children
<b>June 2024</b>			
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Staff training day		School closed to children

2024			
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day - commemoration and lunch		Children who usually have packed lunch are welcome to have a themed D-Day lunch (bookable via ParentMail)
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Wear wellies for Winston's Wish		<a href="https://www.winstonswish.org/">https://www.winstonswish.org/</a> More info to follow
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Family Quiz Night	5:30-7:00pm	More info to follow
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 3 sleepover at school		More info to follow
<b>July 2024</b>			
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Reception visit to the Discovery Musuem.	All day	More info to follow
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 2 visit to Grace Darling Museum & beach		More info to follow
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Music Concert at All Saints' Church		More info to follow
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	ARFS has talent celebration		If your child has won a badge, award or trophy in one of their out of school activities since Easter, they can bring it into school so we can celebrate their achievements.
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

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### NURSERY 30 HOUR PLACES

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 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**

## HEALTHIER TOGETHER

The Healthier Together website (<https://www.nenc-healthiertgether.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](mailto: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>



## SEND PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

Does your child have a special educational need or disability? Would you like to talk to other parents/carers or get advice from professionals? Whether your child has a formal diagnosis or not, you are invited to drop in to the SEND

Support Group for an informal place to chat and get advice.



## PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING

The school is given £1480 per child in order to further strengthen our offer to families. We do this by ensuring these children get additional support in school and by funding events (such as educational visits and other activities) to ensure all children in school have access to equal opportunities. We would encourage all families to check their eligibility for this funding [https://www.newcastlelea.org/CitizenPortal\\_LIVE/en](https://www.newcastlelea.org/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en)

If you are unsure or need help, please see Mrs Lowe.