



March 2023

Newsletter 13 – 24.3.23

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

	Whole School Attendance <small>(excluding Nursery)</small>	Highest class attendance!	Second place	Third place
Wb 13.3.23	91%	97% (Year 1)	94% (Year 2)	93% (Year 4)
Wb 20.3.23	98%	99.5% (Year 2)	99% (Year 1)	98% (Reception)

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, 285 (4 hours and 45 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 13.3.23	9%	1%	8%
Wb 20.3.23	2%	0.5%	1.5%

ILLNESS

If your child has sickness or diarrhoea they will need to 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 make informed decisions about keeping children off school if they are unwell. Another Useful website is: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>



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



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	Rosa Carter	Alistair Franco	Elli Hannah	Omar Scarlett	Karlo Jake Evie	William Ruby
Demonstrating Determination	Grace Molly	Lyla Nnamdi	Samuel Max Co	Harry Danny	Mabel Aliza Aziza	Denver Fatima

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
Ryan	Mabel	Abigail	Nolan	Nancy
John	Rio	Rehan	Amelia	Taishaun

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		Theo Percy Rex Joshua
Year 3	x 2, x 5, x 10, x 3, x 4, x 8	Charlie Abdul Aleeza Amelia	Charlie Sammy Isaac Amara Karlo
Year 4	All tables to 12 x 12	Thaddeus Zoe Maddison Phoebe Charlotte	Zoe Phoebe Nancy Hugo Safaa

Current rank of ARFS among nearby schools	11th
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YEAR 4 SWIMMING

As part of their PE curriculum, Year 4 children will swimming at Gosforth Pool next week. Because we are going to church on Friday, children will have a longer session on Thursday and will not attend on Friday. Lunch will be taken early on this day, before children leave for swimming.

Gosforth Pool request the following:

- Children with long hair (both boys and girls) should have hair tied back and therefore will need to wear/bring a hair bobble (or put hair inside a swimming cap)
- **All jewellery**, including earrings, and watches should be removed (ideally not worn for school please)
- All items of clothing should be clearly named
- Children can bring a snack for after swimming
- Everyone should have a named water bottle in school to bring to the pool



Class teachers will be in touch with parents confirming parent helpers for each day. Helpers have now received an email.

If you have not yet completed the ParentMail form for swimming, please do so as soon as possible.

The pool have informed us that members of the public (including parents) are not able to enter the viewing area during swimming lessons. Apologies for any inconvenience that this may cause.

	Leave school	Lesson time	Arrival back at school
Monday - Wednesday	1:00pm	1:30 – 2:15pm	3:00pm
Thursday	12:15pm (after lunch)	12:45 – 2:15pm (double session)	3:00pm
Friday			

WRAPAROUND UPDATE

Following parental feedback, we have reviewed our After School Club menu (please see attached). Now that the weather is improving, we hope to make use of the outdoor area so, if there is a note on the main entrance door to say we are on the field, please collect your child from the side gate (past the kitchen door, next to the green container). Thank you.



A polite reminder that if you do not pick up your child by 3:20pm, your child will automatically be taken to after-school club as classroom staff have to fulfil other duties and attend relevant training which has an impact on the whole school. The charge for After School sessions is currently £9.

FREE SCHOOL MEAL HOLIDAY VOUCHERS

The Easter and May half term holiday FSM voucher payment is £15 per eligible pupil per week. This is less than the last holiday payment of £20. £15 is the amount normally. The Council agreed to push to £20 for the last two winter payments to support the additional pressures with cold weather utilities etc as an exception. Vouchers will be issued as follows:

- £30 per eligible child - 31.3.23
- £15 per eligible child - 26.5.23





PARENTS MEETINGS

Thank you to the parents of Year 2 and Year 4 children who attended workshops around statutory assessments this week. We are looking forward to meeting with Year 1 parents and carers on Monday 27th March at 5:30pm.

FOREST SCHOOL

Mrs Francis led Science Week themed Forest School last week. The children used their senses to explore the soil in our woodland area to learn all about the hidden world of wonderful, working worms. They discovered three different types of worms in our soil, earth workers, surface dwellers and deep burrowers. They placed the worms in a tray to take a closer look, then placed them all back where we found them so they can keep recycling and making super soil for plants to grow! They also made bird feeders to hang in the trees and toasted hot cross buns on the fire.



LEAVERS' HOODIES

Year 4 parents can now order Leavers' hoodies for their children via ParentMail. Orders must be placed and paid for via ParentMail no later than noon on 31st March 2023. If you have any questions, please speak to Mrs Coates.

RECEPTION TRANSITION TO YEAR 1

From Monday 24th April, in readiness for moving to Year 1, children in Reception will enter school via the main cloakroom from the yard (where Years 1 and 2 enter) instead of through their classroom door. Reception children should initially enter at 8:30am please (and will be greeted by Mrs Armstrong) and **Years 1 and 2 can enter after Reception at 8:35am**. Please could we ask children in Years 1 and 2 to stand back to allow Reception to enter first whilst they are getting used to their new routine. After the first few days, when Reception children are comfortable in their new routine, we can resume the usual 10 minute window for all children. Thank you in advance for your understanding.



READING BUDDIES

We are looking to recruit reading buddies to help in all classes. If you could spare an hour a week, please email class teachers who will be delighted to hear from you! You will require DBS clearance through our school – please speak to Mrs Coates or Mrs Lowe who will arrange this. Thank you in advance!

READING BOOKS

We would be really grateful if all reading books could be returned to school when complete please. There are several books missing from our new reading scheme and they are expensive to replace. Please check bookshelves and bedrooms at home for any books that might belong to school. Thank you in advance for your support.

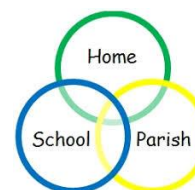


Please remember to sign your child's reading record each time your child reads (which should be daily please). A polite reminder that children should be re-reading their short phonics books several times during the week in order to develop their fluency, intonation and pace (this is not always applicable for those children reading longer books on Accelerated Reader). Thank you.



CHURCH LINKS

Thank you to all the children who entered the All Saints' Easter card competition. A reminder that, this Sunday, you are all warmly invited to the Service for the rededication of the Calvary Cross at All Saints' Church.





COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

It was wonderful to welcome so many Mothers (and others!) to our Mothering Sunday services in school. Thank you for all your compliments and kind words. It is a joy to be able to welcome you into school for such lovely occasions! We hope you all enjoyed the service as the children's gift to you, along with the daffodils.

This week, we have thought about covid reflection day, the Easter story, the Trinity, Down Syndrome Awareness Day, International Day of Happiness.



WORSHIP COUNCIL

The Worship Council met with Rev'd Miriam Jones, Curate at All Saints', to plan for the Easter Service at the end of term. They agreed what they will read and how the service will work – they are very excited to read in front of so many people! They will be telling the Holy Week story, from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, supported

by some Year 4 actors. They have also written the three prayers for the service.

EASTER SERVICE- ALL SAINTS'

A reminder that children from Reception – Year 4 will walk to All Saints' Church (off the High Street, next to the Bowling Club) for the Easter Service on Friday 31st March. If you would like to walk to church with us, please meet at school at 1:00pm prompt. Thank you.



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/carers in attendance will return to school for their usual collection arrangements.

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

10-19 March
British
Science
Week
2023



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

Thank you to all the fabulous scientists who visited school last week to help make British Science Week such a memorable occasion. We are really grateful to have such willing and skilled people within our school community.

GOSFORTH VOICES TOUR

Today we welcomed Gosforth Voices for their first tour since pre-covid. It was wonderful to listen to such beautiful singing and great to see ARFS represented!



CHARITABLE GIVING



We have celebrated Red Nose Day in school (raising £40) and, today, have had a Shaun the Sheep themed day in support for St Oswald's. Children have also designed their own Shaun the Sheep too. The next step is decorate him with the children's designs then our very own ARFS Shaun which will be part of the upcoming Shaun the Sheep trail around Newcastle this summer. For more information, please see <https://www.shaunonthetyne.co.uk/>



CLASS VISITS

Year 4 were delighted to visit Beamish last week. They had a Victorian school lesson and thought about how life has changed for children.

Next week, Year 3 are due to visit Cragside as part of their local history learning and, after Easter, Year 1 have a visit planned to St Mary's lighthouse to complete their learning about the changes to Whitley Bay over time. Year 2 will also visit Alnwick Castle as a completion to their current study of castles.



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!

SMART WATCHES

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



JEWELLERY

Could I politely request that children do not wear jewellery for school, in particular earrings. These often catch on clothing and other children and can very easily end in injuries. Thank you for your understanding.

SINGLE USE PLASTIC

As a school, we are trying hard to reduce our consumption of single use plastic. Could we please ask parents and carers to avoid sending single use water bottles to school. We would welcome re-useable bottles that can be washed and refilled. Thank you!



We would also be grateful if parents and carers could reduce/avoid single use plastic in lunch boxes, as far as possible, and consider using re-useable containers for items in lunch boxes. Thank you!



PTFA

There is an Extraordinary Meeting to discuss future membership and activities of the PTFA in school Thursday on 30th March at 5:30pm. Please come along!

CLUBS FOR AFTER EASTER

Next week, parents and carers will be able to book lunchtime clubs for after Easter. Further details will be sent out on Monday next week.

Club	Maximum numbers	For children in	Run by
Nursery Play Buddies	15	Y1 & Y2	Mrs Francis
Film Club	30	Y3 & Y4	Miss Willett
Choir	30	Rec – Y4	Miss Bowers
Art Club	15	Rec – Year 2	Miss Witherspoon
Library Club	30	Y3 & Y4	Mrs Crozier
Maths Club	No limit	Y3 & Y4	Miss Nattress

We will miss you

MR BOOTH

GOOD
LUCK
AT YOUR
NEW
SCHOOL

Next Friday, we will say goodbye to Mr Booth as he embarks on the next step in his leadership journey. As you know, after Easter Mr Booth will be the Headteacher at Warkworth Primary School in Northumberland. Mr Booth has not only been a huge support to me during my time as Headteacher but has also contributed so much to the development of the curriculum, the staff and the families at ARFS. He will be a huge miss to our school but we know that he will make a wonderful Headteacher and enrich the lives of the families at Warkworth. We wish him every success!

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 – 0800 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

THE BOWES MUSEUM

FAMILY SPRINGTIME

Visit The Bowes Museum to explore its curious collection, interesting objects and exciting artwork. Join us this spring to take part in making workshops inspired by the permanent galleries, **MODERN MAKERS** exhibition and outdoor spaces. Explore outside and inside the Museum with our free discovery trails designed to keep you busy!

Pick up from reception.

MODERN MAKERS
Until 18 June

Introducing the next generation of artists, makers and designers. See the 21st century response to the Museum's collection by artists from The Northern School of Art. Shown alongside rarely seen, and re-sited pieces, this exhibition introduces the production process behind an exhibited object.

Barnard Castle, DL12 8NP • Open Daily 10am-5pm • FREE entry to Café Bowes & shop
hello@thebowesmuseum.org.uk • 01833 690606 • #TheBowesMuseum

THE BOWES MUSEUM

COLOUR AND STITCH WORKSHOP
Saturday 25 March, 10am-12 noon
Use a variety of materials and embellishments to create an embroidery sample in this fun children's session. No sewing experience needed.

ARTIST MAKERS
Saturday 1, 8 & 15 April, Wednesday 5 & 12 April, 1-3pm
Make time for making; join in and get creative. An opportunity for anyone over the age of 5 years to try out new techniques, materials and experiment with our team of artists, makers and designers.

FAMILY STORY TOUR: ANIMALS IN UNEXPECTED PLACES
Monday 3 & 10 April, Tuesday 4 & 11 April, Friday 7 & 14 April, 11am and 1pm
Explore the animal-inspired stories in our collection and join us to find the creatures, big and small, furry and feathered, hiding in unexpected places across the Museum.

TWISTING, TURNING, SWOOPING
Wednesday 5 & Thursday 6 April, 10am-1pm
Join the team from Bright Woods Forest School to help create a twisting, turning, swooping mummuration for our Earth Day celebrations.

STAY AND PLAY
Thursday 6 & 13 April, 10am-2pm
Time for all under 5s to explore and play in the galleries, investigate materials and be creative in this self-led, free-play session.

EARTH DAY
Saturday 22 April, 10.30am-3.30pm
Explore the parkland with scavenger trails, birdwatching and fact finding points. See bird sculptures created by local schools and have a go at making your own with Bright Woods Forest School, along with other feather inspired arts and crafts.

All events are drop-in sessions between times shown and free with admission. Book online at thebowesmuseum.org.uk

Barnard Castle, DL12 8NP • Open Daily 10am-5pm • FREE entry to Café Bowes & shop
hello@thebowesmuseum.org.uk • 01833 690606 • #TheBowesMuseum



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

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

DIARY DATES

New dates are in red, for your information

Sunday 26 th March	Rededication of the Calvary Cross at All Saints' Church	2:30pm	All invited
27 – 30 th March	Year 4 swimming lessons Monday – Thursday	-	Please see info on Newsletter 13
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	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
	Deadline for Year 4 Leavers' hoodies	Noon	Please order 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/carers. Children will be dismissed from church at 2:15pm Please do not send bookbags today. All children should wear school uniform please.
April 2023			
3.4.23 - 14.4.23	Easter holidays		School closed to children
Monday 17 th April	School reopens to children	8:35am	
	Reception places offered by LA		
Wednesday 19th April	Year 1 visit to St Mary's Lighthouse	All day	Please see ParentMail
Monday 24th April	Reception children enter via KS1 cloakroom door	8:30am for the first couple of days then 8:35am	

Tuesday 25 th April	Year 2 visit to Alnwick Castle	All day	Please see ParentMail
Friday 28 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 May	Year 4 leading Ascension Worship	9:00am	Parents and carers of Year 4 welcome to attend.
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.
	Pentecost Service at St Nicholas' Church	1:30pm	
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		
	Eat Smart project begins in school		
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	Year 1 Sports Day	2:00pm	Year 1 children to wear school PE kits please

June			
Wednesday 21 st June	Nursery Sports Day	9:30am	Nursery children to wear school PE kits please
	Big Gig 2023		More info to follow
	Year 2 Sports Day	2:00pm	Year 2 children to wear school PE kits please
Thursday 22 nd June	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	Transition Days for GST		
Friday 7 th July	Year 4 Bikeability		All children taking part will need a well-fitting helmet and their own bike in good working order.
Friday 14 th July	Deadline for wraparound bookings for Autumn 1		Please book via ParentMail
	Year 3 visit to Great North (Hancock) Museum		More info to follow
	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