

January 2025 Newsletter 9 – 17.1.25

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 compared • to those with the lowest attainment.
- National data shows us that children not meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths also had lower attendance.
- 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.

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 6.1.25 | 95% | Year 3 (99%) | Year 1 (95%) | Year 2 (94%) |
| Wb 13.1.25 | 95% | Year 4 (100%) | Year 3 (96%) | Year 2 (95%) |

Did you know ...?

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- \cdot 95% attendance = two weeks absence
- \cdot 90% attendance = 4 weeks absence
- \cdot 85% attendance = 6 weeks absence
- \cdot 80% attendance = more than half a term of absence
- \cdot 75% attendance = more than 9 weeks of absence
- Why is it important? % or below 150 200 100% - 97% 48 days 10 weeks 250 70% 57 days 11.5 Excellent!

Please remember that I am unable to authorise absences during term time for family holidays. We would be grateful if

parents/carers could also inform grandparents, family and friends, who may be looking to book birthday or Christmas trips away, that these do not fall under exceptional circumstances and will not be authorised.



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If you need any support regarding attendance, please do not hesitate to come and speak to us as we can help you access support from the school nurse, attendance officer or other appropriate services.

We recognise that children may have a legitimate reason to be absent from school, and we are also aware that some families face difficulties which may impact on their child's education, therefore, the traffic light system has been put in place to support families by highlighting concerns at an early stage.

We hope that you will continue to support our school by promoting school

attendance and by informing us if you feel there are any issues that are preventing your child from attending school regularly.

If you would like to discuss this further, please get in touch (grant.short@clennelleducationsolutions.org).

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During this fortnight, 3 hours 5 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. Our first lesson of the day is reading so children arriving late miss vital learning.

For children who arrive late, more than once in a week, we run a Friday lunchtime catch-up session with class teachers.

PUPIL ABSENCES

| | Whole School absence (excluding Nursery) | Absence caused by holidays | Other absences |
|------------|--|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Wb 6.1.25 | 5% | 1.5% | 3.5% |
| Wb 13.1.25 | 5% | 1% | 4% |

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 |
|---------------|---------|-----------|--------|---------------|--------|--------|-----------------------|
| Demonstrating | Lydia | Yusuf | Penny | Marwa | Joshua | Elif | Mrs |
| Love | Lily | Gabby | Arthur | Lyla | Max Co | Razan | Conner Mrs Nelms |
| Demonstrating | Jasleen | Heidi | Haniya | Benjamin | Indi | Lydia | Miss |
| Determination | Otis | Naeto | Masa | D Melisssa | Joshua | Percy | Armstrong Mr Brown |

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 engaged highly with TTRS in the past fortnight. Well done everyone!











| | Children Need to Learn | Highest engagement this | Highest accuracy this |
|--------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| | | fortnight | fortnight |
| Year 2 | x 2, x 5, x 10 (and | Lyla | Musa |
| | corresponding division facts) | Musa | Mika |
| | | Mika | Lyla |
| Year 3 | x 2, x 5, x 10, x 3, x 4, x 8 | Mabel | Thanuja |
| | (and corresponding division | Thanuja | Mabel |
| | facts) | Teddy | Elvis |
| Year 4 | All tables to 12 x 12 (and | Daniel | Daniel |
| | corresponding division facts) | Percy | Percy |
| | | Harry | Harry |

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:



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| startaar as of preserte | standards of presentation. Wet done and manie you to the jonowing enderen | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--------|--------|----------|--|--|
| Reception | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | | |
| Marnie | Urwah | Musa | Max Cr | Daniel S | | |
| Jacob | Rudi | Amaya | Teddy | Rehan | | |

SECTION 3: SOCIAL ACTION

SCHOOL COUNCIL

We are delighted to have received a letter from our local MP, Katherine McKinnell, congratulating us on our work to improve safety for pedestrians around school. We look forward to her visit in the near future!

LIBRARY CHAMPIONS

Our Library Champions have really grown in confidence and are now banding new books and keeping our school library tidy independently. They do an amazing job!

PLAY LEADERS

We are very much welcoming the warmer weather in school this week and our Play Leaders have worked hard to involve the whole school in activities that are yard-based rather than field-based. They have started using games from Forest Schools such as 'Eagle Eyes' and also began to play some year group games of hockey. Well done all!

YOUNG LEADERS

After focusing on our local community last half term, this week we have begun to think about national charities and fundraising. We were shocked to learn that only 67% of adults in the United Kingdom regularly give to charity. We discussed some national charities and talked about how they aligned with our own, and school, values.

CONSULTATION

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ADMISSIONS CONSULTATION

The Governing Body is consulting on changes to the admission arrangements for the academic year 2026/27. Governors have carefully considered the Admissions Policy to ensure it remains compliant with the Department for Education's School Admissions Code

and is fair, clear and objective in light of the changing context of the school. We would welcome feedback from all stakeholders. To respond to the consultation please email <u>admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk</u>, FAO Dr S Pickett (Chair of Governors). Thank you.

Further information can be found at https://archbishopruncie.eschools.co.uk/web/admissions_consultation/702919

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

As you know, we place a huge curricular emphasis on educational visits to supplement children's in-school learning. These visits are planned into our curriculum and mapped across the school to ensure children get a range of educational experiences during their time at ARFS. The school



budget is not able to cover these costs so we routinely ask parents and carers to make a financial contribution to these. This year, educational visits have cost our school £12,150 and we have only received £8,481 in parental contributions meaning the school budget is covering the £3,669 shortfall.

All schools are facing significant budget cuts and we are, therefore, unable to sustain this level of financial contribution. As a result, we are reminding parents about the importance of these experiences and that if insufficient donations are made, we will regretfully have to cancel visits.

We have, over the past few years, used Pupil Premium funding that the school receives to fund these experiences for children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding. Unfortunately, next financial year, Pupil Premium funding will be used for in-school support and resources rather than educational visits.

This year, in response to feedback, Mrs Coates has offered regular instalments to cover costs of visits so we can avoid pinch-points for parents. If you have not yet paid for your child(ren)'s visits via ParentMail, please do so as soon as you are able to.

If any families are facing financial hardship, we would invite you to contact Mrs Lowe who will look at options to support your individual circumstances. Many thanks for your understanding.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Typically, we post on X each week. Schools across GST have agreed to move from X to Instagram and Facebook in order to increase levels of engagement. Mrs Coates will, therefore, issue an updated Social Media consent form. Please do follow us to see what's happening!





LUNCHTIME CLUBS

Staff are, once again, running lunchtime clubs for children in Reception – Year 4 every Monday. If your child has not yet signed up to a club and would like to attend, please contact Mrs Coates in the office.



ALL STARS

All stars Bible Club restarts fortnightly from Tuesday 14th Jan. All Stars is run by a group of parents/carers and local church representatives and attended by staff. Children from Reception -Year 4 are welcome to attend. If your child would like to attend please email beckymcbride90@qmail.com



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A new football course will restart on the 21th January for 5 weeks (Tuesday 21st

GOSFORTH BAND & GOSFORTH VOICES

Gosforth Voices restarted this week. There is no need to re-register your child if they took part last term but new members are required to register at https://musicpartnershipnorthnewcastle.co.uk/gosforth-voices

Jan 2025 - Tuesday 18th Feb 2025, 3:30 - 4:30pm) for children in Years 3 & 4.

Places can be booked at: https://ls-sports-coaching.classforkids.io/term/173

Upcoming dates are:

- Wednesday 29th January
- Wednesday 12th February
- Wednesday 5th March

Gosforth Band restarts on 22nd January at Archibald First School. There is no need to re-register your child if they took part last term but new members are required to register at https://musicpartnershipnorthnewcastle.co.uk/gosforth-band.

Subsequent dates are:

- Wed 5th February
- Wednesday 19th February

Mrs Norman is happy to continue to walk members to both ensemble rehearsals.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP



We began the term by celebrating Epiphany – the arrival of the three kings and we reflected on different celebrations around the world.

We have, over the last week, learned about the Bible; how it is special, why it is important

and some of the different people who write it. We have begun by reflecting on some stories from the Old Testament and have linked these to The Big Frieze.



CAKE SALE

Nursery & Reception will be hosting their class cake sale, after school, on Thursday 24th January. All donations must have ingredients clearly labelled, please. Please remember to bring cash when you collect children at 3:15pm if you wish to make a purchase. Thank you.





NURSERY – JANUARY INTAKE

A reminder for all parents/carers of children who have just turned 3 years old – we have a January and an April intake for Nursery children who have just turned 3. This means they will benefit from a longer period of Nursery provision (the

remainder of this school year and all of next school year) before moving to Reception. The educational and social benefits of this are huge and we have some real success stories in our school. If you have any questions or are interested in applying for a place, please contact Mrs Coates. Thank you!



READING WORKSHOP

Thank you to the Reception parents and carers who attended our RWI meeting last week. Information has been sent home, via Tapestry, to those who missed it.

SEND COFFEE MORNING

On Wednesday 19th of February at 9:00am, Mrs Ellwood would like to invite all SEND parents/carers to a drop-in coffee morning where she will be sharing information about provision in school and signposting parents/carers to local SEND groups and services available. If you are interested, please email Mrs Ellwood to confirm attendance by Monday 16th February. Thank you.

STEM WEEK

British Science Week will be celebrated 7 - 16 March 2025. Mrs Eqdell is currently in the process of planning activities and trips for this week. If you have a science based job or interest and would be willing to come into school to talk to a group of children or a class, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Mrs Eqdell to arrange a suitable time and discuss activities in more detail. Thank you. (Emily.egdell@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk)

CHILDREN'S CANCER RUN

You can now sign up online and select our school name when you enter. As per last year, all participants can join their school team fundraising page, which is a great tool for encouraging the school community to come together. Once children are registered, please 'edit display name' and change their display name so that it does not include their full name. So for example, just first name or initials. If you do not do this then it is possible for external participants to see a child's full name and the school they go to.



HOMESTAY HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

International House are looking for host families with a spare room to accommodate young learner students aged 12-17 who come for 1-4 weeks in the summer. Attached is a leaflet with more information.

Hosting would involve housing and possibly feeding the young person while they study, and hosts are compensated about £200 a week.

STAFFING UPDATE

Mrs Conner has secured a promotion and will be returning to her previous Nursery School as Deputy Childcare Manager. Although we are sad to see her go, we wish Mrs Conner huge congratulations on her new post.



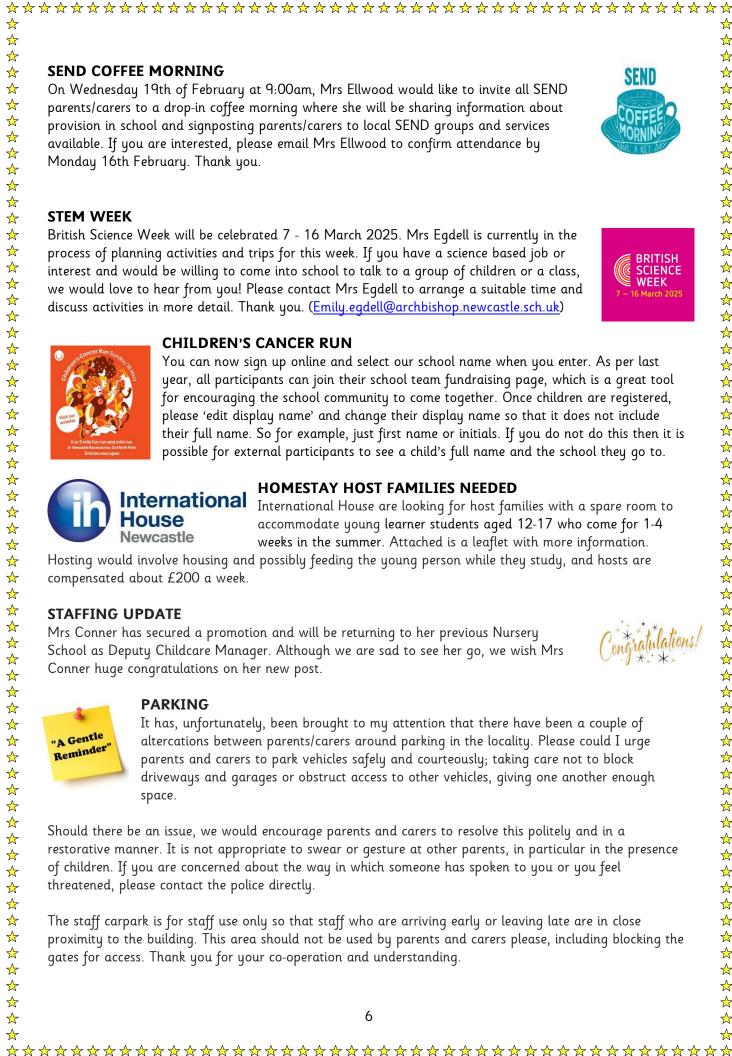


PARKING

It has, unfortunately, been brought to my attention that there have been a couple of altercations between parents/carers around parking in the locality. Please could I urge parents and carers to park vehicles safely and courteously; taking care not to block driveways and garages or obstruct access to other vehicles, giving one another enough space.

Should there be an issue, we would encourage parents and carers to resolve this politely and in a restorative manner. It is not appropriate to swear or gesture at other parents, in particular in the presence of children. If you are concerned about the way in which someone has spoken to you or you feel threatened, please contact the police directly.

The staff carpark is for staff use only so that staff who are arriving early or leaving late are in close proximity to the building. This area should not be used by parents and carers please, including blocking the gates for access. Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.





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Mrs Massey, Mrs Francis and Mrs Ellwood are our school's Designated Safequarding Leaders (DSL). Mr Brown is DSL for Wraparound care.

Children are regularly reminded who they can talk to if they are worried about something in school.



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







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DIARY DATES

| January 2025 | | | |
|--|---|---------------|---|
| Monday 20 th January | Year 3 Forest School | pm | Children should wear uniform tops with joggers and bring wellies and waterproofs to put on later in the day. Please make donations via ParentMail. |
| Tuesday 21 st January | Year 4 visit to El Torero | Lunchtime | Please see ParentMail for further info |
| Wednesday 22 nd | Gosforth Band | 3:45pm-4:45pm | Archibald First School |
| January | Year 4 Christingle Service at St Nicholas' Cathedral | 10:00am | Please see ParentMail for further info |
| Thursday 24 th January | Nursery & Reception cake sale | 3:15pm | Please could the parents/carers of Nursery & Reception children send donations of cakes with ingredients displayed. Thank you. |
| Monday 27 th January | Year 2 Forest School | pm | Children should wear uniform tops with joggers and bring wellies and waterproofs to put on later in the day. Please make donations via ParentMail. |
| Wednesday 29 th | Gosforth Voices | 3:45pm-4:45pm | Grange First School |
| January | | | |
| February 2025 | | | |
| Week beginning 3 rd Feb | Children's Mental Health Week | | Activities in school |
| Monday 3 rd February | Year 1 Forest School | pm | Children should wear uniform tops with joggers and bring wellies and waterproofs to put on later in the day. Please make donations via ParentMail. |
| Wednesday 5 th February | Gosforth Band | 3:45pm-4:45pm | Archibald First School |
| Friday 7 th | Year 2 Pants are Private | | |
| February | workshop - NSPCC | | |
| | Family Bingo Night | 7:00pm. | All welcome. More info to follow from the PTFA. |
| Monday 10 th February | Reception Forest School | pm | Children should wear uniform tops with joggers and bring wellies and waterproofs to put on later in the day. Please make donations via ParentMail. |
| Tuesday 11 th February | Year 1 walking tour of Gosforth | pm | More info to follow via ParentMail |
| | Internet safety day | | Activities in school |
| Wednesday 12 th February | Gosforth Voices | 3:45pm-4:45pm | Grange First School |
| Thursday 13 th February | PTFA Film Night | 3:15pm | More info will follow from the PTFA |
| Friday 14 th | Love is worship led by Year | 9:00am | Parents/carers welcome to attend |

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| February | 1 | | |
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| Monday 17 th February | Nursery Forest School | pm | Children should wear uniform tops with joggers and bring wellies and waterproofs t put on later in the day. Please make donations via ParentMail. |
| Tuesday 18 th February | Swimming Gala at Gosforth Pool | pm | Selected Year 4 children only |
| Wednesday 19 th February | SEND parents/carers coffee morning | 9:00 | In school |
| | Gosforth Band | 3:45pm-4:45pm | Archibald First School |
| Friday 21st February | Staff training day | All day | School closed to children |
| Monday 24 th February — Friday 28 th February | February half term holiday | | School closed to children |
| Friday 28 th | Deadline for Nursery | | |
| February | applications for April intake | | |
| March 2025 | | | |
| Monday 3 rd March | Year 4 Forest School | pm | Children should wear uniform tops with joggers and bring wellies and waterproofs t put on later in the day. Please make donations via ParentMail. |
| Wednesday 5 th March | Gosforth Voices | 3:45pm-4:45pm | Grange First School |
| Thursday 6 th March | Years 3 & 4 Magic Flute at The Theatre Royal | | More info to follow via ParentMail |
| | World Book Day | | Children invited to come to school dressed as a character from a book, if they wish. |
| Friday 7 th March | Year 4 Bikeability | am or pm session | More info to follow |
| Wednesday 12 th March | Year 4 Beamish visit | All day | More info to follow |
| Thursday 13 th March | Year 4 cake sale | 3:15pm | Please could the parents/carers of Year 4 children send donations of cakes with ingredients displayed? Thank you. |
| Friday 14 th March | Red Nose Day | | Children invited to wear red and 'do something funny for money'. Donations car be made via ParentMail. |
| Monday 17 th March | Year 2 visit to Newcastle Castle | | More info to follow via ParentMail |
| Wednesday 19 th March | Year 1 visit to Newcastle Central Mosque | am | |
| 17 – 28 th March | Year 4 swimming every afternoon | | More info to follow via ParentMail |
| 17-21 st March | STEM Week | | Activities in school. If any parents/carers have a career/interest in science, technolog or maths, please contact Mrs Egdell. |
| Wednesday 19 th March | Year 1 visit to Newcastle Mosque | | More info to follow via ParentMail |
| Friday 28 th March | Nursery & Reception Mothering Sunday Service (in school) | 9:00am | Parents/carers welcome to attend. |
| | Years 1 – 4 Mothering Sunday Service at St Nicholas' Church | 1:30pm | Parents/carers welcome to attend. |
| Monday 31 st March | Year 4 children are hosting a Mothering Sunday Cream | pm | More info to follow. |

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Team. April 2025 Please could the parents/carers of Year 3 Thursday 3rd Year 3 cake sale 3:15pm children send donations of cakes with April ingredients displayed. Thank you. Thursday 3rd Meeting for parents/carers 4:30pm Places can be booked via ParentMail. of Year 4 children about the April Y4 Multiplication tables Check (in school) Tuesday 8th April Stay & Play or parents and 2:00pm carers of children in Reception Meeting for parents/carers Places can be booked via ParentMail. 5:30pm of Year 1 children about the Y1 Phonics Screen Check (in school) Wednesday 9th Stay & Play or parents and 2:00pm carers of children in Nursery April Friday 11th April Years 1 - 4 Easter Service 1:30pm Parents/carers welcome to attend. at All Saints' Church Monday 14th -Easter holidays School closed to children Friday 25th April May 2025 Thursday 1st Year 2 cake sale 3:15pm Please could the parents/carers of Year 2 May children send donations of cakes with ingredients displayed. Thank you. Wednesday 14th Year 3 Watersmeet, More info to follow via ParentMail All day May Hexham Thursday 15th Year 4 residential at Info on ParentMail Dukeshouse Wood May Sunday 18th May Children's Cancer Run at Please save the date! Newcastle Racecourse Wednesday 21st Year 2 Geography fieldwork More info to follow – Whitley Bay May Thursday 22nd Year 1 cake sale 3:15pm Please could the parents/carers of Year 1 children send donations of cakes with May ingredients displayed Thank you. Children invited to wear something "daft" Friday 23rd May GST Daft as a Brush Day and make a donation via ParentMail. Monday 26th -Half term holiday School closed to children Friday 30th May June 2025 Monday 2nd June Staff training day All day School closed to children Friday 6th June Pentecost Service Parents/carers welcome to attend. Wb 9th June Year 1 Phonics Screen Places can be booked via ParentMail Check statutory assessment Wb 16th June School Sports Week If any parents/carers have any connections to sports coaches/providers, please let Mrs Francis know. Tuesday 17th Year 4 Leavers Service at More info to follow via ParentMail am Newcastle Cathedral June Thursday 19th 3:15pm Please could the parents/carers of Reception Reception class cake sale June children send donations of cakes with ingredients displayed? Thank you. Friday 20th June Big Gig (Choir) More info to follow Monday 23rd Year 2 visit to Grace Darling All day More info to follow June Museum

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| Wednesday 25 th June | Year 1- 4 Music Concert at All Saints' Church. | pm | More info to follow |
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| Thursday 26 th June | Year 3 sleepover at school | All day | More info to follow |
| 30 th June – 11 th July | Year 3 swimming every afternoon | | More info to follow |
| July 2024 | | | |
| Tuesday 8 th July | Year 4 visit to Vindolanda & Roman Army Museum | | More info to follow via ParentMail |
| Thursday 10 th July | Nursery class cake sale | 3:15pm | Please could the parents/carers of Nursery children send donations of cakes with ingredients displayed Thank you. |
| Tuesday 15 th July | Whole school trip to Tynemouth | All day | More info to follow via ParentMail |
| Friday 18 th July | Year 4 Leavers' Service (at school) | 9:15am | Please save the date |
| Monday 21 st July – Friday 29th August | Summer holiday | | School closed to children |

Be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14



HEALTHIER TOGETHER

The Healthier Together website (https://www.nenc-healthiertogether.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.





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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 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



PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING

The school is given £1480 Pupil Premium funding, per eligible 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

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

UNIFORM LIBRARY & EXCHANGE



We have a pre-loved "Uniform Library" in the main entrance for anyone who needs to borrow, exchange or replace any uniform items. This is not only to help cut costs to families but also aims to have a positive environmental impact by reducing waste and pollution caused by textiles. Please come along and help yourselves. Cash donations can be made to

the PTFA at the school office. Thank you.

Donations of outgrown uniform can also be made at the school office. Please ensure items are clean and name labels are removed. Thank you!



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