



January 2022

Newsletter 9 – 14.1.22

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Whole School (excluding Nursery)
Wb 4.1.22	87%	95%	99%	93%	86%	99%	94%
Wb 10.1.22	93%	94%	98%	99%	92%	99%	96%

Our school target for attendance is 97%.

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	Ayeesha Scarlett	Rebecca Hadin	Joshua Georgie	Alfie Jabalah	Thomas Austin	Ahmad William
Demonstrating Determination	Harry Rosie	Joshua Hayden	Danny Abigail	Emilia Monty	Thaddeus Blake	Florence Connie

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope you all had a safe and restful Christmas holiday with your families and those of you who were unwell are recovering. The children have returned to school refreshed and eager to learn. We have talked about making New Year's resolutions linked to our school values of love and determination – please ask your child to share theirs at home too!

Teachers have planned stimulating and challenging learning opportunities for our children, across the curriculum, and our priority is to be able to continue face-to-face learning with as many children as possible so that we minimise disruption to their learning. Last week, each class teacher wrote to parents and carers with details of curriculum plans and how to support children at home.

We have already seen that the new Omicron variant of covid-19 is adding disruption for many families and to our staffing levels at school.



We will continue to do our best to minimise risks while making school feel as happy and 'normal' as possible. We know that you will all share this priority and will continue to support us by following the relevant guidance and working with us to keep everything running smoothly.

I hope you all enjoyed Nativities via the links we send home before Christmas. May I express a huge thanks to GEM Education for recording these and preparing them for parents to view within such a short timescale (alongside all the other schools they were serving!). Thank you for the positive feedback that we have received from many parents. We are delighted you enjoyed them and so pleased that we were able to give children at ARFS this opportunity. We can remember it as 'the year we tried to make Christmas as typical as possible...!'. These links will expire in the next few days so, if you have not already downloaded a copy, please ensure you do!

COVID UPDATE

As you will know, the covid guidance seems to be ever changing!

Last night, I informed relevant parents of a positive case in Year 3 and After School Club and the appropriate isolation times under current DfE guidance. We have subsequently been informed of a further positive case within Year 3. In addition, there has been a positive case within Nursery earlier in the week.

This means that these children are considered close contacts and are strongly advised to begin daily LFD testing for 7 days after the last contact with the confirmed case:

- Year 3 and some children in After School Club should test until Thursday 20th January.
- Nursery children should test until Tuesday 18th January.

If there are further cases in these groups, the end date for testing could be extended again, but we will keep in touch and inform you if we know this to be the case.

A reminder that primary school age should follow the 7 day LFD testing guidance after being identified as a close contact. The DfE has stated that this should include Nursery and Reception children at parents/carers' discretion. We strongly recommend that parents and carers of Nursery and Reception children follow this advice, as it contributes towards minimising transmission to other children, families and school staff. Please don't wait for Test and Trace to contact you to tell you that your child is a close contact!

Please contact us if you have any questions, if your child tests positive on a LFD test or if your child develops symptoms (in which case you are advised to book a PCR test).

We hope that everyone who is unwell has mild symptoms and gets better quickly. Thank you again for your support.

SYMPTOMS & POSITIVE TESTS

- Children and adults **with new symptoms** should self-isolate and book a PCR test as soon as possible
- If a PCR test returns a positive result, the affected person must then follow the self-isolation guidance from NHS Test and Trace. This should tell you when your self-isolation ends.
- Currently (until Monday!), if you have a positive result and are self-isolating, from day 6 onwards of your self-isolation, you should take an LFD test (rapid home test). If you have two consecutive negative results 24 hours apart, your self-isolation can end the day after the second negative result. So, if you have a negative result on day 6 and on day 7, day 7 becomes your last day of isolation.



If you have a positive result on day 6, but a negative result on day 7 and on day 8, day 8 becomes your last day of isolation, etc. If you continue to have positive results up to day 10, day 10 still remains your last day of isolation, as it is very unlikely that you will be infectious after 10 days. If you still have symptoms, you may have to prolong your self-isolation. If you cannot carry out LFD tests, then you must also complete the full 10 days of self-isolation.

- For positive results, if you use an LFD test on day 6 (the earliest which you should) and then 24 hrs later on day 7 and they are BOTH negative, your self-isolation stops after that test. So, if children have an LFD test with a negative result on the morning of day 6 and the morning of day 7 (they must be 24 hours apart), they can return to school after the test on day 7. The same would apply to day 7 and 8 or day 8 and 9. If you find yourself in this position and you are not sure, give us a ring and we will advise.
- Please continue to inform school of all positive test results, even though you no longer need a confirmation PCR, and please continue to get in touch with any questions or if you need any advice. Thank you.
- The DfE have updated its Actions for Schools guidance ([Schools COVID-19 operational guidance January 2022 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)) to link to the updated public health guidance [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).



From Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option, if they have no symptoms, to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral flow device (LFD) test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be [reported to NHS Test and Trace](#).

If the result of either of their tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Further [information on self-isolation for those with COVID-19](#) is available.

CLOSE CONTACTS

- **If you are a fully vaccinated adult or a child attending a childcare or education setting**, and you are a close contact of someone who tests positive for Covid 19, you do not have to book a PCR anymore. Instead, you should begin daily LFD tests (rapid home tests) for 7 days following the last contact. During this time, it would be wise to be cautious and reduce contacts with others where possible, but you can still attend school or work. If you develop any symptoms or have a positive result from an LFD, you should begin self-isolation and book a PCR.
- It has been confirmed in the DfE update for schools that children under 5 are included in this part of the guidance 'at parental or guardian discretion'. LFD test kits are available through the usual routes (community test sites, local pharmacies or online) for children who are 5 years old and over.
- **For adults who are not fully vaccinated**, you still need to book a PCR rather than using daily tests.





MITIGATIONS IN SCHOOL:

- All adults will wear face coverings/masks in school. These may be removed for teaching or when communication is difficult.
- We will continue to ventilate rooms by opening windows and doors – this means that the building will be cold so please feel free to send in extra layers.
- We will continue with frequent handwashing and sanitising.
- We will continue to keep frequently touched surfaces as clean as possible.
- We will reduce indoor mixing of classes to what is essential, e.g. lunchtimes in the hall, and these occasions will be managed as safely as possible.
- We will continue to lead collective worship with only two classes who are distanced.
- We will continue to send home any children who are unwell or have symptoms which may be indicative of a Covid infection.
- We will continue to inform parents and carers of the number of cases in school and which classes are affected.
- We will review numbers each day and week and will keep all of our mitigations under constant review.
- We will also continue to work closely with the LA and our local Public Health Team in order to guide our decision making.

Please continue to ring us if you have any questions or if you are in any doubt about whether your child should attend school. Thank you yet again for your ongoing support.

STAFFING

We are very sad that Mrs Bell (Kitchen Assistant, Breakfast Club and After School Club Supervisor) has decided to retire. She will be a huge miss (as will her staffroom treats!). We wish her every happiness in the retirement. If parents or carers wish to contribute to a retirement gift, please send clearly labelled donations to Mrs Pygall. Thank you!



AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

We are now recruiting a Breakfast Club and After School Club Assistant to support Miss Willett in running our wrap around provision. Details are on the school website. If you know anyone who may be interested, please let them know! Thank you.

ADMISSIONS POLICY CONSULTATION

As per my previous newsletter, if you have any feedback on our revised Admissions Policy, please email admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk FAO Sarah Hawkins. Thank you! The deadline for responses is 31.1.22.

CONSULTATION



CHURCH LINKS

It was fantastic to be able to return to St Nicholas' Church for our annual Carol Service on the last day of term. The children sang beautifully and it was a really awe inspiring service. Our thanks to the church wardens for accommodating us and to Canon Clare from Newcastle Cathedral for leading the service.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Year 2 led our school Epiphany collective worship last week, thinking about the presents brought by the Three Wise Men and their following of the star. We then built upon this in further worship settings, thinking about constellations and how strange and exciting it must have been to follow a brand new star in the sky. In addition to discussing ideas around a new year and a new start, we have also begun to think about the Gospel of Matthew and the composition of the New Testament.

TRAINING DAY

A reminder that all GST schools have a mid-term training day on Friday 28th January and school will therefore be closed to children on this day. Please make sure this date is in your diary!



TERM DATES

Term dates for 2022-23 are attached. You may also find them online at [this link](#). Please note the late finish to Autumn Term. Training dates are still to be agreed by governors and we will let you know when these are confirmed.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Newcastle school catering service currently have a high number of staff who have tested positive for Covid. They have also been informed by a number of suppliers that there are some supply issues. They have informed us that they may need to move to a simplified menu or a packed lunch. Thank you in advance for your understanding in this matter.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE!

You may have noticed (!) that there is a large pile of bark in the staff car park waiting to be moved to our EYFS outdoor classrooms. If any parents are free on weekday mornings between 9:00-11:00am and would like to help out, I know Mr Hunter would be most grateful!

We will also need to borrow some (named) spades and wheelbarrows too – if anyone would be willing to let us borrow theirs, we would be delighted. Many thanks in advance for your support!

SAFEGUARDING

Mrs Massey, Mr Booth, Miss Willett 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 – 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>

With my very best wishes,

Kate Massey

Headteacher

Be courageous; be strong.

Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14



DIARY DATES

New dates are in red, for your information

Friday 28 th January	Staff training day	9:00-4:00	School closed to children
Monday 31 st January	Dental Survey for 5 year olds	9-12	
	Year 4 residential deposits due (£30)	-	Please pay via ParentMail
February 2022			
Tuesday 8 th February	Safer Internet Day		Activities in school
Wednesday 2 nd February	Y4 leading Candlemas worship	10:15am	
7-11 th February	Children's Mental Health Week		Activities in school
Wednesday 9 th February	Collective Worship Council	In school	
Thursday 10 th February	School Council Meeting	In school	
Friday 11 th February	Bookings for March wraparound bookings		
	Year 3 Residential deposit due	Noon	Please pay by ParentMail
Monday 14 th February	Year 1 leading "Love is..." worship	10:15am	Children and staff only
Thursday 17 th February	Random Acts of Kindness Day	-	
Friday 18 th February	Deadline for Nursery applications for April start (for children who will have turned 3 before 22 nd April 2022)	Noon	
21-25 th February	Half term	-	School closed to children
March 2022			
Tuesday 1 st March	Reception height & weight checks	1:30pm	
Wednesday 2 nd March	Y3 leading Lent Worship	10:15am	Children and staff only
Wednesday 9 th March	Collective Worship Council	In school	
Thursday 10 th March	School Council Meeting	In school	
Friday 11 th March	Bookings for April wraparound close		
11-20 th March	British Science Week	-	If any parents/carers have any science based jobs and would like to come into school, please contact Miss Davison.
Friday 18 th March	Red Nose Day	-	Children invited to wear something red for a £1 donation
	Deadline for Nursery applications for September start (for children who will have turned 3 before 31 st August 2022)	Noon	
Friday 25 th March	Mothering Sunday Worship (all classes)	TBC	More info to follow
Tuesday 29 th March	Parent Teacher Consultations (core curriculum focus)	2:00-6:00pm	More info to follow via ParentMail
Thursday 31 st March	Parent Teacher Consultations (core curriculum focus)	2:00-6:00pm	More info to follow via ParentMail
April 2022			
Friday 1 st April	ASD Awareness Day in school		Activities in school
	Year 4 Residential remaining payment due	Noon	Please pay via ParentMail

Friday 8 th April	Y2 leading Palm Sunday Worship	10:15am	Children and staff only
11-22 nd April	Easter holiday	-	School closed to children
Friday 15 th April	Bookings for May wraparound close		
Tuesday 26 th April	Y2 SATs Meeting for parents	5:00pm	
Wednesday 27 th April	Collective Worship Council	In school	
	Y4 Times Table Check Meeting for parents	5:00pm	
Thursday 28 th April	School Council Meeting	In school	
	Y1 Phonics Screen Meeting for parents	5:00pm	
Friday 29 th April	Reception- Y4 FUNDS session	Am	Children in Reception to Year 4 to wear PE kits please
May 2022			
Monday 2 nd May	Bank holiday		
3 rd - 4 th May	Year 4 Residential to Dukeshouse Wood	TBC	TBC – Further information to follow.
Friday 13 th May	Y1 leading Christian Aid worship	10:15am	Children and staff only
	Bookings for June wraparound closes		
16 – 20 May	Christian Aid Week Walk to school week		
Friday 20 th May	Year 3 Residential final payment due	Noon	Please pay via ParentMail
Wednesday 25 th May	Collective Worship Council	In school	
Thursday 26 th May	School Council Meeting	In school	
	Y2 leading Ascension worship	10:15am	Children and staff only
Friday 27 th May	Y3 leading Pentecost worship	10:15am	Children and staff only
30 th May- 3 rd June	Half term		
June 2022			
Monday 6 th June	School closed in lieu of Jubilee Day Bank Holiday which falls in half term		
Wednesday 8 th June	World Oceans Day		
Friday 10 th June	Y4 leading Trinity worship	10:15am	Children and staff only
Wednesday 15 th June	Collective Worship Council	In school	
Thursday 16 th June	School Council Meeting	In school	
Friday 17 th June	Bookings for July wraparound close		
20 – 24 th June	School Sports Week	-	
Monday 20 th June	Reception Sports Day	2:00pm	
Tuesday 21 st June	Year 2 Sports Day	2:00pm	
Wednesday 22 nd June	Nursery Sports Day	9:30am	
	Year 1 Sports Day	2:00pm	
Thursday 23 rd June	Year 3 Sports Day	2:00pm	
Friday 24 th June	Year 4 Sports Day	2:00pm	
27.6.22 - 8.7.22	Year 4 swimming every afternoon for 2 weeks	12:45-1:30pm	
30.6.22-1.7.22	Year 3 overnight stay at school		See ParentMail.
July 2022			
Monday 4 th July	Y4 Bikeability	Morning or afternoon session	Children will need a bike and helmet in school in order to take part
Wednesday 6 th July	Collective Worship Council	In school	
Thursday 7 th July	School Council Meeting	In school	
Friday 8 th July	Bookings for September wraparound close		
11.7.22 - 22.7.22	Year 3 swimming every afternoon for 2 weeks	12:45-1:30pm	
Wednesday 13 th July	Full Governing Body	5:00pm	
Friday 22 nd July	School closes for summer holidays		

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