



ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VA) FIRST SCHOOL



June 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy start to the second half of the Summer Term but it has, nevertheless, been positive too. I do appreciate it has been an unsettling time for many parents but please be assured that everyone has pulled together over the last few weeks to keep as



much continuity as possible for the children. The school community has supported us in beginning to transform the Courtyard, Year 1 and Year 2 and the main entrance to school has also been decorated. Plans are well underway for this Saturday's "Changing Rooms" and all help would be gratefully received! Thank you to all of you who have given your time and energy and those who have donated plants and money to the cause. Thank you also to the PTFA for their involvement in this, Nick Jaszynski for his Ground Force design (see plan on the left) and Rebecca Parker for her interior design advice!

Safeguarding and Health & Safety remain our top priority; we have undertaken school audits in both of these areas and, consequently, have improved drop off procedures in order to keep our children as safe as possible. This has also had a very positive impact on punctuality. As always, copies of our policies are available at the school office if you do not have access to the school website. We have ordered many new resources for our children; tables and chairs, lockers, reading books to name a few. We have also been working hard on GDPR compliance, as I am sure, many of you will be through work too! And then there is the day to day work of the children and staff, who have been busy with their new topics...

EYFS - Nursery and Reception have been leaning about travel and holidays; they have a pizza shop role play and a travel agents. The children are also enjoying creating their own buses and planes using the new purple crates! Nursery are visiting Kirkley Hall on Monday to learn about animals from around the world and Reception are visiting Northern landmarks on an open top bus tour today, to mark the Great North Exhibition.

KS1 (Years 1 & 2) - Zoolab joined KS1 with a variety of rainforest animals to launch their topic on The Amazon. Children are currently debating deforestation and learning about fair trade. They have a visit to Sunderland Winter Gardens planned next week. Year 2 will be taking part in a Skipping festival, and are currently taking the playground by storm!

KS2 (Years 3 & 4) - KS2 children have attended All Saints Schools Week and welcomed Jo Bath (a historical actress) to begin their new topics. During this half of Summer Term, Years 3 & 4 work on separate topics as this allows us to teach British history in chronological order. Year 3 will focus on the Stone Age and Bronze Age and Year 4 study the Iron Age and Romans, as part of a wider transition topic that involves other feeder schools. Both classes have a Great North Exhibition visit planned before the end of term.

Year 3 - Year 3 welcomed Jo Bath as their "hook" into their Stone Age topic and have visited Tyneview Primary school today, to embark on a Play Leader scheme.

Year 4 - Jo Bath also worked with Year 4 to launch their Romans topic. They visited Vindolanda on Monday with children from Regent Farm First School who are also transferring to GCMS. Lots of new friendships have already been established and the children all seem very excited about September.

COMMUNICATION

Thank you to all the parents who have given such positive feedback about communication over the last few weeks. We are trying hard to share as much information as we can with you and appreciate your patience at this time. In order to further improve communication between parents and staff, we are developing Class Notice Boards outside each of the external classroom doors. Notice boards will include curriculum information and will also be used to celebrate successes. Information about how to contact teaching staff directly will also be available, as we recognise that many parents are not able to be at school at the beginning or end of the school day. Matters such as school meals and attendance should still be sent to the school admin email (admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk).



In addition, we have opened a school Twitter account- it would be great if you could follow us in order to keep up to date with what is happening. The Twitter handle is @RuncieOf. I have also enjoyed being on the main yard gate each morning, and chatting to parents and carers. Please use this opportunity to come and talk to me informally or, if you would prefer, make an appointment to pop in to see me. You can also email directly on kate.massey@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk

We are currently considering dates for next academic year and our (rather ambitious) aim is to plan the majority of our school diary entries for the next academic year by September. This means staff and parents will have increased notice and prior warning of events for the year. Staff are already busy thinking about visits and visitors to enhance learning next year.

ParentMail continues to be a successful, efficient way of communicating but it does not replace face to face communication. Please do come and see us if you have anything that you would like to discuss- no matter how great or small, we would like to hear your thoughts.

Thank you for everyone who made suggestions of how our school could be even better. We have read your responses and prioritised common themes such as communication, learning environment, more educational visits this term and increasing parental engagement. On the list for September is homework, full time Nursery, stability of staffing and increased curriculum information from staff.

WEBSITE

Mrs Nellis has been working hard to ensure our school website is up to date. We are currently in the process of reviewing our curriculum so this will be added when our work is complete. We have recently purchased online resources for children to use at home, such as Times Tables Rock Stars, and links are being added to the website too. From September, Mrs McCloud will ensure the website calendar is up to date so this is a good way to keep an eye on dates. Please check the website regularly so that you can see our changes. Thank you!

STAYING SAFE



We have had several accidents before and after school caused by children riding their bikes and scooters on the yard. Please could we remind you that bikes and scooters must not be used within the school grounds and that dogs must be left at the gate. We have also asked the children not to play fight with sticks and would appreciate your support with this too. Many thanks for your cooperation in helping keep our children safe.

READING

As you are aware, we are having a push on further improving reading in school and we wrote to you recently, explaining that staff would write a challenge/next step for your child to work on when reading to you at home. We are really keen to build up a dialogue between home and school that helps support our judgements about the progress children are making. Could we therefore ask that you let us know how your child gets on at home with their reading book and other books that they choose to read? We are aiming for a minimum of three comments each week from parents of all children. These comments may be based around the fluency and decoding of your child's reading or their understanding and inference of what they have read. In order to



help spur the children on, we recently ordered some new reading books which have now arrived and it would be great to hear how the children are enjoying them! They have already attracted a lot of attention!

SUMMER TERM STAFFING UPDATE

Nursery- Miss Leigh, our new Reception Teacher, is going to work alongside Mrs Hinsche in the final week of term (16th- 20th July) to get to know some of the children, parents and staff. In addition, she and Mrs Gregory (new Nursery Teacher & Early Years Leader) have both agreed to come into school several times between now and the end of term, so there will be plenty of opportunities to get to know everyone!

Reception- Mrs Randall is currently teaching in Reception while Miss Stokes is absent. Mrs Law (0.5 Reception Teacher) returns from maternity leave on Monday 9th July. As Mrs Law is moving to Year 2 next year, we have decided to use this opportunity to allow Mrs Law to get to know the current Year 1 children, rather than returning to Reception. She will therefore work alongside Miss Taylor, in Year 1, when she returns.

Year 1- Miss Taylor will remain at school until the end of term to provide continuity for the children.

Year 2 - Mrs Senior and Mrs Mann will cover Year 2 until the end of term in order to provide consistency for the children.

Year 3- Mrs Nellis remains in Year 3 until the end of term at which time she will return to Tyneview Primary School. Miss Burns will be taking Year 3 on their visit on 12th July to get to know them a little better.

Year 4- Miss Burns will continue to work with the Year 4 children, preparing them for their transition to their new schools and for the end of term Leavers' Service.

OFSTED

We continue to work with other schools and Mrs Redhead to move our school forward. I am busy writing an Ofsted Update which will follow when it is completed. The behaviour of the children is excellent and they are relishing the challenges provided!

SUNSHINE

The sunshine has been very welcome and the children have played beautifully in our gorgeous grounds. In order to keep our children safe in the sun, please could we ask parents to;

- provide a named sun hat
- ensure sun cream has been applied before school
- send in a named water bottle



MODERATION

Both Reception and Year 2 classes have been moderated by the Local Authority. This process is completed regularly to validate the statutory assessment judgements of the school. We are delighted that the moderators agreed that all our judgements were robust and accurate and they were impressed by the high quality of our children's work. They also commented on how well we knew our children and were particularly pleased by the breadth of the curriculum on offer at our school.

MISSION STATEMENT CONSULTATION

Thank you to those parents who responded to the Mission Statement consultation in May. Our Ethos Committee met today to finalise it. You may have seen the display about Our Renewed Vision in the school hall too. After much discussion, we have agreed our new school motto will be "Love to learn, learn to love".

NURSERY SEPTEMBER 2108

If you know anyone wanting a Nursery place for a child who is currently 3 (or is turning 3) years old next academic year, please let them know that we have places available for September. This year we are offering 2 ½ day provision as well as 30 hour provision (5 full days).

END OF TERM PICNIC

Several families have an established tradition of meeting in the park next to school at the end of the last day of term. We wondered whether it might be nice to adapt this tradition and



invite parents and children to play on the school field until 4:30pm after school on Friday 20th July. You are welcome to bring picnics, rugs etc. if you would like!

As a final word, Miss Nellis (our Acting Deputy, who is on secondment from Tyneview Primary School), commented to me the other day that she had never met a team of staff who are so committed and hard working. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff, Governors, volunteers and parents for their ongoing support and drive to improve our school.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or queries. Thank you once again for your ongoing support and patience.

With best wishes,

Mrs KE Massey

Acting Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

July 2018

Friday 29 th June	Y3 visit to Tyneview Primary School
Monday 9 th July	Nursery visit to Kirkley Hall
Monday 9 th July	New Nursery Meeting for Parents 5:00pm
Tuesday 10 th July	Gosforth Pyramid Concert 6:30pm (rehearsal at 5:00pm)
Wed 4 th July	KS1 visit to Sunderland Winter Gardens
Wed 4 th July	Current Nursery children to have their "Reception taster" morning with Miss Leigh
Thursday 5 th July	Children who are joining Reception in September and are new to the school will have their Reception taster "Come & Play" morning with Miss Leigh
	Nike Charity Day- DIY SOS & KS1 Sports Activities
Thursday 5 th July	Transition Day (Y4 go to GCMS, all other classes move up for the morning)
Thursday 5 th July	Y1 parents invited to view Y1 classroom in order to ease transition between EYFS & KS1 (3:30-3:40pm)
Friday 6 th July	Non uniform day (please bring a bottle for tombola prizes for the PTA Summer Fair)
Monday 9 th July	Parents Evenings (N, R, Y1, Y3 & Y4) 3:30-5:00pm
Tuesday 10 th July	Parents Evenings (N, R, Y1, Y3 & Y4) 3:30-5:00pm
	Year 2 Skipping Festival 9:30-12:30
	Y4 Picnic with other feeder schools
Tuesday 10 th July	EYFS Come and Play Picnic (1pm - 3pm) PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE
Wed 11 th July & Thursday 12 th July	Parents Evenings (Y2 only) 3:30-5:00pm
Wed 11 th July	Reception Parents Coffee & Chat from 2:30pm
Thursday 12 th July	Year 3 – Great North Exhibition Trip
	8 children from Year 2 to Archibald for Dancercise event 1:45-2:45pm
Thursday 12 th July	Full Governing Body Meeting
Friday 13 th July	Year 4 – Great North Exhibition Trip
	KS1 Rainforest celebration for parents (1:30-2:30pm)
	New Nursery children to come and play with Mrs Gregory 9:15-10:30am
Saturday 14 th July	PTFA Summer Fair (11am - 1pm)
Tuesday 17 th July	Early Years Sports Day (9.15am – 10am) (weather permitting)
	KS1 and KS2 Sports Day (1.30pm – 2.30pm) (weather permitting)
Thursday 19 th July	Year 3 Play Leader Presentation for parents (2:30pm)
Friday 20 th July	Leavers Service for Year 4 Parents (9.15am) in school
	Toy Day for all classes (nothing too expensive or noisy please!)
	3:30-4:30pm End of Term Picnic on school field (weather permitting)
	School closes for Summer Holidays (3.15pm)

September 2018

Monday 3 rd Sept	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 4 th Sept	School re-opens (Nursery and Rec staggered start)
Friday 14 th Sept	New Nursery & Reception parents and children invited for lunch
Monday 17 th Sept	New Reception children start full days
	Y4 Welcome Meeting (9:00-9:30am)
Tuesday 18 th Sept	Y3 Welcome Meeting (9:00-9:30am)
Wed 19 th Sept	Y2 Welcome Meeting (9:00-9:30am)
Thursday 20 th Sept	Y1 Welcome Meeting (9:00-9:30am)
Sunday 23 rd Sept	School is 30 years old!
Thursday 27 th Sept	Nursery Welcome Meeting (9:00-9:30am)
Friday 28 th Sept	Reception Welcome Meeting (9:00-9:30am)