



Newsletter 9

16th January 2026

Headteacher Message



Welcome back to school and a very Happy New Year! We returned to ARFS, last week, amidst the first snow of 2026 - we were delighted to have all our children back and they have started the new year amazingly.

The staff and I would also like to express our thanks for the many kind gifts, cards and warm wishes shared over the festive period; we are always blown away by the generosity of our families. It was wonderful to end 2025 on such a high at the Carol Service which is always a well attended and much anticipated afternoon. Thank you to all of you that came along (it was also lovely to see some previous pupils in the congregation too!).

You may have noticed that Mrs Gyle is currently absent from work as she recovers from planned surgery. We wish her a speedy recovery. Mrs Rusby has, temporarily, joined us to cover Mrs Gyle's absence and we know you will join us in welcoming her to our school family for the next couple of months.

With Epiphany falling as we began this new term, we have focussed this last fortnight on new light and discovery for all of us. We hope 2026 will be a year of joy as we navigate whatever it holds.

Best wishes,

Kate Massey

Attendance



Did you know ...?

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 attendance have higher rates of attainment.

- National data shows us that children not meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths.
- For the most vulnerable pupils, regular attendance is also an important protective factor and the best opportunity for children's needs to be identified and support provided. Research has shown there are clear links between regular absence from school and harm to children.
 - 95% attendance = two weeks absence
 - 90% attendance = 4 weeks absence
 - 85% attendance = 6 weeks absence
 - 80% attendance = more than half a term of absence
 - 75% attendance = more than 9 weeks of absence

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.

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 sometimes 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.

Our full school Attendance Policy can be found on our website.

"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.



1 - Mrs Jan Gurkin

If you would like to discuss this further, please get in touch with our attendance officer Jan Gurkin (jan.gurkin@clennelleducationsolutions.org).

Attendance Headlines

Whole school attendance:

- w/c 05/01/2026 - 97%
- w/c 12/01/2026 - 98%

Highest class attendance:

- w/c 05/01/2026 - Year 4 100% **Well done!**
- w/c 12/01/2026 - Year 1 100% **Well done!**

Absence Headlines

During this fortnight, 270 mins 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.

Whole school absence:

- w/c 05/01/2026 - 3%
- w/c 12/01/2026 - 2%

Absence caused by holidays:

- w/c 05/01/2026 - 1%
- w/c 12/01/2026 - 0.5%

Other absences:

- w/c 05/01/2026 - 2%
- w/c 12/01/2026 - 1.5%



2 - <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/parent-information/school-attendance-and-absence>

Leave of Absence requests can be made to the head teacher *in advance* by the parent/carer the child normally lives with if you want to take your child out of school during term time, however, it is only able to be authorised if there are exceptional circumstances. You can be fined for taking your child out of school without the school's permission.

Please note, as per DfE guidance, we routinely refer families who have taken holidays during term time to the LA for fixed-penalty notices:

- For first offences within a three-year rolling period, each parent/carer could be fined £160 to be paid within 28 days, which can be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.

- For second offences within a three-year rolling period, each parent/carer could be fined £160 to be paid within 28 days, with no option to pay a reduced amount.
- For your third offence within a three-year rolling period, parents/carers will not be issued with a fine and will be referred straight to court. This could be a fine of up to £2,500, a community order or a jail sentence up to 3 months. The court also gives Parenting Orders.

School Celebrations!



Demonstrating Love

Nursery

- Haadi
- Lori

Reception

- Sara
- Harry

Year 1

- Josiah
- Ivan

Year 2

- Rosa
- Carter

Year 3

- Eisa
- Marwa

Year 4

- Rahaf
- Hannah

Staff

- Mrs Brown



Demonstrating Determination

Nursery

- Astrid
- Emma

Reception

- Lucas
- Isaac

Year 1

- Eric
- Aima

Year 2

- Eric
- Rosa

Year 3

- Marwa
- Benjamin
- Janvika

Year 4

- Nuh
- Ivy

Staff

- Mr Brown
- Mrs Nelms



TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS

By the end of Year 4, children are expected to know all their multiplication tables up to 12×12 and Year 4 children undertake their statutory Multiplication Tables Check in the summer term.

TTRS - Highest engagement

Year 2- Nura

Year 3 - Lyla

Year 4 - Henry

TTRS - Highest accuracy

Year 2- Carter

Year 3 - Felix

Year 4 - Esim

Current Rank amongst nearby schools: 9th (Well done for achieving top ten!)

Mean studio speed (seconds per question): 3.25



3 - Year 2 looked amazing today!!

HANDWRITING HEROES!

HANDWRITING HEROES

As a school, we continue to have a real drive to improve handwriting, letter formation and presentation of work. 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:

Year 1

- Lola
- Grace

Year 2

- Haniya
- Yashika

Year 3

- Isla
- Lyla

Year 4

- Elvis
- George F

Social Action Groups





4 - Green Team



5 - Energy Champions



6 - Play Leaders



7 - Library Champions



8 - Worship Council



9 - School Council



10 - Hall monitors



SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Council have begun leading the personal best challenges for this half term, positively supporting their class mates to be active on the playground and help to develop their gross motor skills as well as demonstrating the School Games values. Every Wednesday they will be on the playground leading the challenge for their class. They will be keeping score to give out certificates at the end of this half term to children with the highest score. Pupils in year 1 and 2 are challenged to see how many times they can throw a ball in the air and clap before they have

to catch it again and children in year 3 and 4 are challenged to see how many times they can chest pass a ball against a wall and catch it again, in 30 seconds, while two big steps away.



PLAY LEADERS

Over the past two weeks, the Play Leaders have worked hard to keep everyone warm in the wintry conditions by leading games such as 'Lava monsters' and having dance competitions. They have also been reminding children across the school that they need to be responsible for the equipment that they have used and tidy it away after use!



GREEN TEAM

Today Green Team had a litter picking competition. Well done to Rosa and Marnie who won hands down. Well done girls!

Between us we managed to fill a whole black bag full of litter!



YOUNG LEADERS

During our meeting this week, we discussed how our actions as young people can be supportive and lead others. We also began a debate on the statement 'Children are too young to be leaders' - our Young Leaders thought of both reasons both for and against and began to structure their arguments.



LIBRARY CHAMPIONS

Now we've entered 2026, the Library Champions are beginning to think about plans for World Book Day which will be held on Thursday 5th March. The Library Champions have some great ideas already!



Clubs for Spring Term 1 (January & February)



We are delighted to be able to offer a range of extra-curricular activities for our children.

- Lacrosse with Kath from Whitley Bay Lacrosse Club (Years 2, 3 &4) - Monday - 3.15-4.15pm - £4.00 per session - contact Kath on 07592 760881 to book.
- Choir with Charlotte from Music Partnership North - Monday 12:30pm (Years 1 - 4) email: admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk
- All Stars Bible Club (run by a group of parents and church volunteers) - Tuesdays (fortnightly) 12:30pm (Reception - Year 4) email: beckymcbride90@gmail.com **NOW OPEN TO RECEPTION CHILDREN**
- Violin - Monday after school with Charlotte from Music Partnership North (Years 3 & 4) <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=wLSfsgQNn0q0YsEpSx4bR6HhZ8onp51DiB-iHdtAkHdUNzg1S08yUTdTR0hGRzJSMkQySU5PVUJFVi4u&route=shorturl>
- Guitar with Jack from Music Partnership North (Years 2, 3 & 4) - Tuesdays after school <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=wLSfsgQNn0q0YsEpSx4bR6HhZ8onp51DiB-iHdtAkHdUNzg1S08yUTdTR0hGRzJSMkQySU5PVUJFVi4u&route=shorturl>

- Gosforth Voices (Years 2, 3 & 4) run by Music Partnership North on behalf of Gosforth Schools Trust <https://www.newcastlemusicservice.co.uk/ensembles>
- Gosforth Band run by Music Partnership North on behalf of Gosforth Schools Trust (Years 3 & 4) <https://www.newcastlemusicservice.co.uk/ensembles>
- Football with Lee Sterry (Years 3 & 4) Tuesday 3:30-4:30pm

Please note there is **no Andrew Cartwright Club taking place** on a Monday due to Lacrosse sessions. Please accept our apologies for any confusion caused.

LACROSSE CLUB - JANUARY 2026

We're excited to be able to offer an after-school Lacrosse Club for pupils in Years 2, 3 and 4! These fun, active sessions are a great way for children to build confidence, learn new skills and enjoy teamwork in a supportive environment. Sessions are paid for in advance each term and work out at just £4 per week, paid directly into the club's bank account. To book a place, please text Kath directly on 07592 760881. Spaces are limited, so get in touch soon!

Kath was in school on Thursday 8th January to carry out some taster sessions, so hopefully lots of children will be keen to attend the after school sessions!



11 - Lacrosse taster sessions in action!







GOSFORTH VOICES & GOSFORTH BAND

Gosforth Voices is a choir aimed towards children in Years 3 & 4, meeting at Grange First School. It's a fantastic way to make new friends from other schools, develop confidence in singing and learn new songs.

Gosforth Band is a mixed instrumental ensemble designed for children from Year 3 up to Year 8. We rehearse at Archibald First School. It's open to complete beginners right through to experienced players.

We get together to learn new pieces and develop as musicians, gaining valuable musicianship skills and a good sense of ensemble. For more information and to sign up, please see our website: www.newcastlemusicservice.co.uk/ensembles.



**GOSFORTH
VOICES & BAND**
Do you enjoy singing
and making music?

FREE

Our Gosforth Voices & Band groups meet on Wednesdays from 3:45-4:45pm. It's a fantastic opportunity to make music with others and meet new friends from other schools! We perform several times through the year too.

To join us, scan the QR code to find out more or visit our website:
www.newcastlemusicservice.co.uk/ensembles

Supported using public funding by



12 - Breakfast Club runs daily, 7:45am - 8:45am

BREAKFAST CLUB

We are pleased to offer our own Breakfast Club (7.45am - 8.45am) and After School Club (3.15pm - 5.30pm) in our school hall. If you have any queries regarding menus or activities, please email wraparound@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk

Breakfast Club sessions cost £6.00 to include breakfast of cereal/toast and milk/orange juice. Children must arrive before 8.15am if they require breakfast.

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

REDUCED PRICES & SUBSIDISED COSTS: If you are entitled to Tax Free Childcare, then in effect this will reduce the cost of childcare by 20% (equivalent to £4.80 a day). See :

<https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare.>

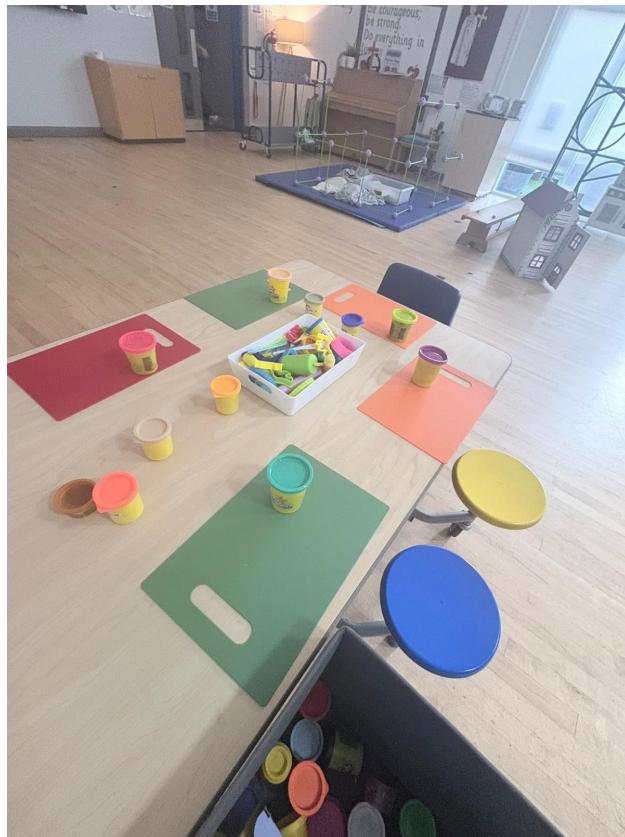
If you receive Universal Credit, you may be able to claim back up to 85% of the cost of childcare. This means Breakfast Club would only cost 90p a day! Check here: <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/universal-credit>











AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Our After School Club runs 3:15-5:30pm, Monday - Friday.

Afterschool Club:

- 3.15- 4:15pm is £6.00
- 3.15-5.30pm is £12.50 and includes a snack and drink.

This week, we have been gathering suggestions from our children (at ASC) and parents/carers (via the display board in the main entrance). We are delighted to announce that the children have voted to have a Film Night to watch 'How to train your dragon' on Thursday 5th February. This is open to all but spaces must be booked as normal via Childcare Bookings for Schools.

Bookings for Wraparound Care are managed by Childcare Bookings for Schools. You can pay using either a debit/credit card or using childcare vouchers.

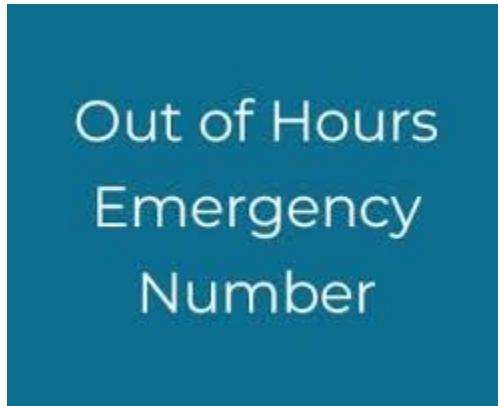
The URL to access the booking system is <https://archbishop-runcie.cbfs.uk/>

Contact email address: archbishopruncie@childcarebookingsforschools.co.uk

Contact phone number: 01444 523335

REDUCED PRICES & SUBSIDISED COSTS: If you are entitled to Tax Free Childcare, then in effect this will reduce the cost of childcare by 20% (equivalent to £4.80/£10 a day). See : <https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare.>

If you receive Universal Credit, you may be able to claim back up to 85% of the cost of childcare. This means After School Club would cost from 90p per day! Check here: <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/universal-credit>



13 - Wraparound phone can be used outside school office hours (7:45-8:45am/3:15-5:30pm)

Wraparound have a mobile phone that parents/carers can use outside of school office opening times. This number should be used before 8am or after 3:30pm if you need to contact the wraparound team.

They can be contacted by calling 07340117366. This phone is not active during the school day and should not be used to make or cancel bookings.

Collective Worship

Last week, we reflected on the importance of the arrival of the kings in the nativity story linked to the festival of Epiphany. We also reflected on how Christians around the world celebrate the festival of Epiphany in varied ways. We were glad our traditions do not involve jumping into a frozen lake!

This week, we have reflected on our school vision: 'Be courageous, be strong; Do everything in love.' and what this might mean about the way we behave, treat others, welcome visitors and our attitudes. We talked about the importance of belonging and what it means to wear our school badge and represent our school family. As always, children blew me away with their thoughtful and empathetic responses.



Church Links



Tree Planting – Saturday 17th January

A number of trees will be planted at the west end of All Saints' Green (while still leaving plenty of space for outdoor activities) on Saturday 17th January, from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon. They are looking for around 20 volunteers to help with the planting. If you are interested, please let Christine Willoughby know by email at cbwillas@gmail.com.

Refreshments will be provided, and there will be a warm space available inside the church.



**Sunday 25th January
at 3.00pm**

in the
All Saints Centre
West Avenue, NE3 4ES

Tel 0191 2130450 for more details

Valentines by Candlelight



EVERREADY BAND

All Saints Church, West Avenue, Gosforth

7:30pm, Saturday, 14th February

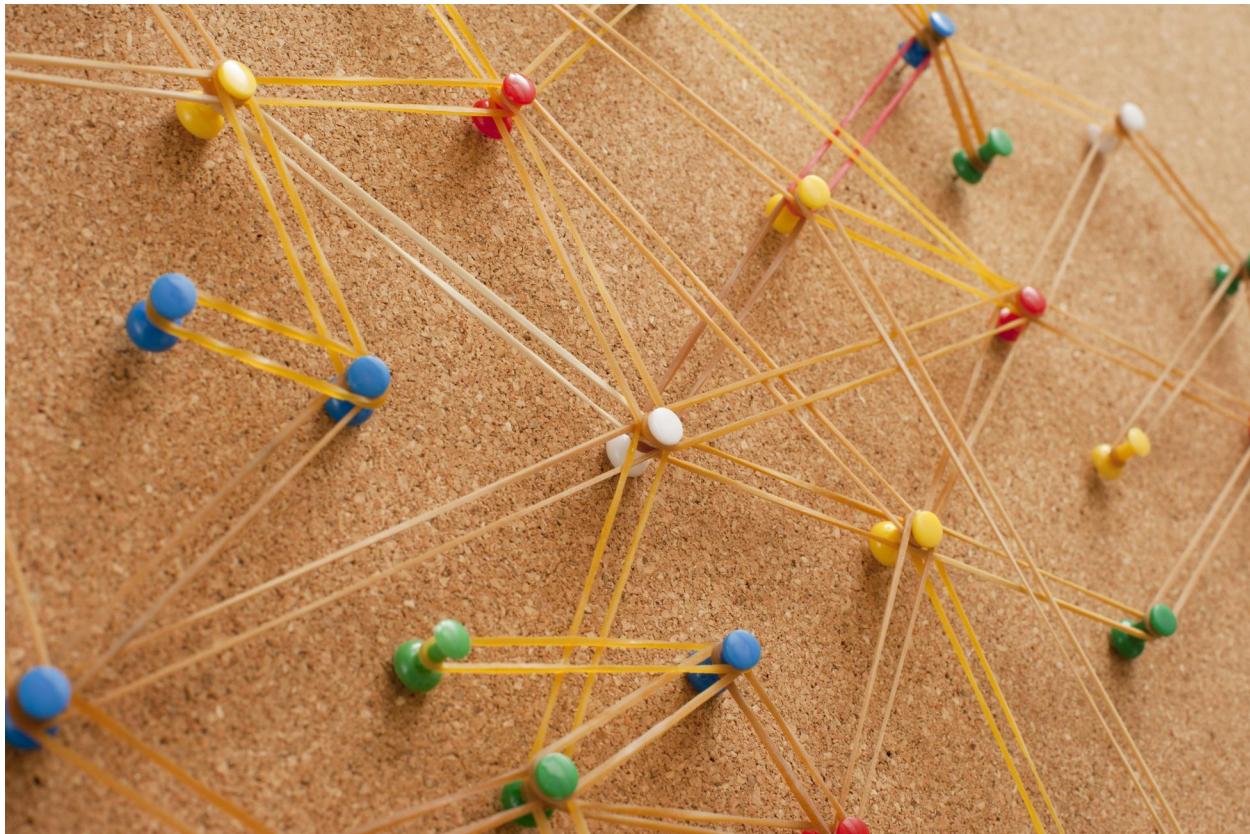
An evening of music
and romance by candlelight.

Tickets £15



Scan QR code for tickets

School News



TALENTS OUTSIDE SCHOOL

As you know, we have a very active school Facebook page and we would like to use it to celebrate the successes and talents of our wonderful children! If your child takes part in a significant event or achieves a significant accomplishment, please let us know by tagging us in a Facebook or Instagram post. We are very proud of all our children and want to share their success with our school community!

We will also celebrate recent talents of our children in celebration worship on Wednesday 1st April so please encourage children to bring in recent certificates of achievements, medals or badges that showcase their talents.

PICCOLO MUSIC

Nursery & Reception have begun a six week music workshop with Piccolo music. The children are really enjoying learning lots of original songs, exploring pitch, dynamics, rhythm and pulse. Piccolo can be found on most streaming platforms if you would like to join in with their songs at home!



AMAZON WISHLIST

Whilst there is absolutely no pressure to do so, several parents have suggested we set up an Amazon Wishlist to enable friends of our school to make a donation. You can find a list of items we are wishing for here: <https://amzn.eu/1E02d6C>

Our wish list includes:

- Anti-choking devices for each classroom <https://www.lifevac.uk/shop/> - these have been recommended by a grandparent.
- craft materials
- forest school resources and consumables

- reading books for classroom libraries
- first aid resources
- playground equipment

If you have a suggestion of something that we might benefit from, we'd love to hear from you!
Please make sure you get items delivered directly to school! Thank you



14 - A LifeVac is a portable, non-invasive, anti-choking device that uses one-way suction to clear a blocked airway when traditional methods like back blows and abdominal thrusts fail.

Parents/carers can make a donation towards this via ParentMail, if they wish.



EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Following feedback last year, parents and carers were issued with a full breakdown of the educational visits for the full year in September. Parents/carers were given the option to pay for these visits outright or in instalments.

Unfortunately if there are insufficient contributions made, upcoming visits will need to be cancelled. The cost of the educational visits for the full year is £13,000 and income received to date is only £4,600. Sadly the school are unable to cover the cost of parental contributions.

If you are able, please make outstanding payments on ParentMail as soon as possible. This will be reviewed at the end of January and if the situation remains the same we will let parents know which visits will be unable to go ahead.



PARENTS' EVENING & SEND REVIEWS

This term, teaching staff have set their own days/times for parents evenings to fit around their family circumstances. Some staff have chosen to issue late appointments and others have opted to offer earlier appointments, depending on their commitments.

We will offer face to face appointments as well as telephone consultations, however, if you wish to see your child's exercise books, you will need to arrive 15 minutes before your allocated appointment time.

If you have not yet booked your appointment you should do so via ParentMail. If you have any difficulties with making a booking, please contact Mrs Coates in the school office.

If your child has an SEN meeting on Monday 19th January they will not require a separate appointment for parents evening.



Special Educational Needs
& Disabilities

SEND COFFEE MORNING

On Wednesday 11th February from 9:00-10:00am, **please note the change of date**, Mrs Ellwood will be having a drop in coffee morning to discuss all things SEND. If you have any concerns or questions that you would like to discuss please feel free to drop in and have a hot drink and a chat.



PTFA UPDATE

Last Thursday, the PTFA met for the AGM and discussed plans for the year ahead. Our PTFA is open to all member of the school community (grandparents, aunts and uncles, friends of the school are all welcome) and many hands make light work so please try to come along to our next meeting on **Monday 23rd February 2026 at 2:00pm**.

Class Reps are a point of contact for anyone with ideas, suggestions or feedback.

- Nursery - Becky McBride
- Reception - Hannah Ballard
- Y1 - Shela Close
- Y2 - VACANT
- Y3 - Hayley Cohen
- Y4 - Sarah McRea

Chair- Angela Nicholson

Secretary- Sarah MacRea

Treasurer - Hannah Ballard

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL THE PTFA...
ARCHBISHOPRUNCIEPTFA@GMAIL.COM

PTFA

VALENTINE'S DISCO



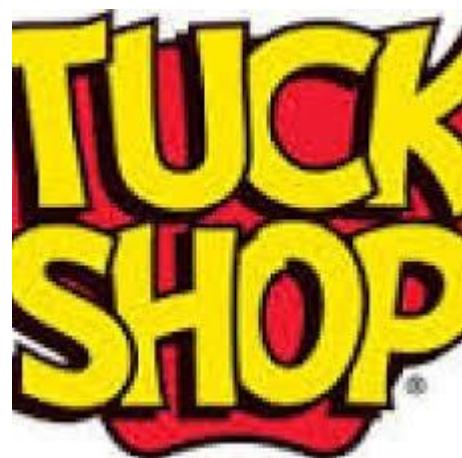
12TH FEBRUARY

Nursery & Reception: 3.15-4.15pm

Years 1-4: 4.30-5.30pm

£4 per child... this includes DJ & games, glow sticks,
temporary tattoos & a drink.
Don't forget to bring pennies for the tuck shop.

BOOK SPACES NOW ON PARENTMAIL



Please make your booking for the Valentines Disco and make payment on ParentMail. We no longer accept cash. Please speak to the PTFA if you have any queries. Your child is welcome to bring cash for the tuck shop (suggested amount £1).

UNWANTED GIFT DONATIONS

We regularly hold events in school that require items to be donated from friends and families - if you have any unwanted Christmas gifts (or other items) that would be suitable for school tombolas and/or raffles, please feel free to leave them at the office. Thank you!



DECLUTTER Unwanted GIFTS



**Support us through
easyfundraising**



EASY FUNDARISING

Easyfundraising works by partnering with over 8,000 retailers who donate a percentage of your purchase to a cause of your choice when you shop through the easyfundraising website or app. It is a free service for both shoppers and the causes they support, as the cost of the donation is covered by the retailer and comes at no extra cost to you. To use it, you register an account, select a cause to support, and then shop online as you normally would via the easyfundraising site or app, which directs you to the retailer's site.

You can join here, and then select Archbishop Runcie First School PTFA

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/how-it-works/>



CAKE SALE

The next cake sale will be Year 2 on Thursday 12th February - all donations will be gratefully received. Please remember to list ingredients of any home made goodies! Thank you.

Please note that our cake sales are now cashless. Contactless payments can be made with a debit card or phone via our school SumUp machine.



WELLIES

As you know, children are invited to leave a pair of wellies in school to use during the school day. Please make sure these are clearly named!

If anyone has any old wellies that are no longer needed at home or that children have outgrown, these would be gratefully received in school too. Please ensure names are removed and we will write 'ARFS' on them to avoid any confusion! Thank you in advance.



NEW UNIFORM PROVIDER

We are delighted to let you know that Etika will be sourcing ARFS uniform in addition to Tots to Teams at Kingston Park.

In line with our school ethos and values, Etika Uniforms believe that what children wear to school should reflect fairness, sustainability and compassion. By choosing ethically made uniforms, we set a powerful example and give parents an ethical choice. Etika garments are

made under fair working conditions, with environmentally friendly materials, and designed to last, supporting workers' rights, reducing environmental impact and turning uniforms into a true symbol of integrity and kindness.

A portion of each Etika school uniform sale directly funds educational initiatives in vulnerable communities in the UK and India.

From providing bicycles that aid children in travelling to school to supplying essential items such as shoes, stationery and uniforms, Etika are dedicated to breaking down barriers to education and creating real opportunities for learning and growth.

To place an order, you can select ARFS at <https://etikauniforms.co.uk/schools-page/>





PERSONAL BELONGINGS

To foster a focused and equitable learning environment, could we kindly remind you that care children are able to leave all toys and other personal items at home and DO NOT bring them to school. These items can easily become a distraction during teaching time and often lead to disagreements, loss or damage, causing unnecessary distress for your child and their peers. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us maintain a productive and smooth school day for all our children. Thank you.



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

Each year at ARFS, we celebrate British Science Week. This year, it will run in school between Monday 9th - Friday 13th March. Class teachers are busy planning activities for each class but we are also hoping that parents/carers with relevant experience/jobs/skills may also be able to enrich our offer. If you may be able to help (or know someone else who could help), please get in touch! Thank you.



HOMEWORK UPDATE

As you know, before Christmas, we asked for parental feedback on homework. Thank you for all those who returned the questionnaire.

We have looked carefully at the results of the survey and agreed that children in Years 1 - 4 will be asked to:

- Complete Times Table Rock Stars (Year 1 will be added after their TTRS Launch on Friday 27th March 2026)
- Complete weekly spellings linked to in-school learning
- Read daily at home (either via Oxford Owls e-books or physical reading books).

In response to feedback, we will no longer ask children to use Spelling Shed. Our IXL subscription ends in July 2027, after which we will not renew our licence and use will cease.



Donations Needed Can you help?

FOREST SCHOOL DONATIONS

We are looking at building up our Forest School resources and we need your help, please!

We are looking for donations of:

- Old pots & pans
- Old picnic/camping equipment e.g. plates, tin cups
- Cooking utensils
- Yarn & wool
- Natural resources such as pine cones, conkers, rounded pebbles (not acorns, please, as these are a choking hazard!)
- Bird feeders and seed

Please give any items to Mrs Norman or leave them at the main office. Many thanks in advance.



JEWELLERY

A reminder that children should NOT wear jewellery for school. This includes stud earrings.

Health and safety guidance from the Association for Physical Education strictly mandates that all jewellery, including stud earrings, must be removed for physical education (PE) to ensure a safe learning environment. This requirement is based on significant risks of injury to both the wearer and others, such as earlobes being torn if caught on equipment or the earring post causing internal damage to the neck or brachial nerve during impact.

Guidance also explicitly states that taping over earrings is no longer recommended, as it creates a false "perception of safety" and fails to prevent compression injuries from direct blows. If a child is unable to remove their earrings e.g. following new piercings, they are not permitted to engage in the practical elements of the lesson. Instead, they must fulfil non-active roles such as observing others to satisfy curriculum requirements while maintaining safety.



LOST PROPERTY

We seem to have an incredible amount of unnamed lost property lying around cloakrooms and classrooms. This will be placed on tables on the yard (before and after school) in the hope that parents/carers may claim missing items.

Anything that is not claimed by Friday 23rd January will be donated to charity.

Please could we ask that all parents/carers ensure **ALL ITEMS are clearly named** so they can be returned to their owners ASAP? Thank you for your support in this matter.



WOW BADGE DESIGN

The [2026 WOW Badge Design Competition](#) launches on Monday 19 January. The competition runs until Tuesday 24 February and our pupils could be in with the chance of creating one of the designs featured on the new badges for the academic year 2026/27. The winning designers will also win up to £500* worth of FREE WOW resources for their school.

Watch this space for more details once the scheme launches on 19th January 2026.

Volunteer with us!



We are always looking for people to come and help in school! If you are interested in helping in school, please contact Mrs Lowe in the school office (admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk). All volunteers will require DBS clearance, and will need to provide references in line with our commitment to Safer Recruitment.

Please note that volunteers must not use their mobile phones during school visits and they must maintain confidentiality at all times. All volunteers will need enhanced DBS checks for this role.



EDUCATIONAL VISITS

We often need helpers to support us on educational visits out of school. Visits may be full or part days and may be with any class in school. Helping on educational visits will include supporting a small group to achieve the intended learning outcome, promoting high quality discussions, supporting positive behaviour and respectful attitudes of a group of pupils and ensuring the risk assessment is adhered to.

Please note that volunteers must not use their mobile phones during school visits and they must maintain confidentiality at all times.

If you think you might be able to help, please let Class Teachers know. Thank you!



LIBRARIAN / VOLUNTEER

Mrs Crozier and the Library Champions are in the process of giving the library a revamp and they are looking for a helping hand from a "Library Volunteer". This will involve tidying books shelves, checking and replacing labels, revamping displays, categorising new books and generally helping to promote the school library and class libraries. If you are interested in helping on a weekly or fortnightly basis, please contact Mrs Crozier (Emily.Crozier@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk).

Please note that volunteers must not use their mobile phones during school visits and they must maintain confidentiality at all times. All volunteers will need DBS clearance.



READING BUDDIES

Could you or a grandparent spare 20 - 30 minutes once or twice a week to help children with reading? We operate a successful reading buddy scheme with parents, grandparents and friends of the school, sharing books with children in Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. If you could spare an hour or two a week (ideally in the afternoons!), please contact the school office. You will require enhanced DBS checks through the school - please contact Mrs Coates.

Please note that volunteers must not use their mobile phones during school visits and they must maintain confidentiality at all times.



PLAYGROUP VOLUNTEER

Mrs Francis is looking for a couple of warm and friendly faces to support in our pre-school playgroup every Wednesday afternoon. This would involve setting up games and activities for our young visitors, welcoming families to school and interacting with pre-schoolers before helping to tidy up the hall. If you think you might be interested, or would like to know more, please contact Mrs Francis (Kathleen.Francis@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk).

Please note that volunteers must not use their mobile phones during school visits and they must maintain confidentiality at all times. All volunteers will need enhanced DBS checks for this role.

Dates for your diaries



Please see diary dates attached - this term is a busy one so please check you have added everything to your calendar! Dates can also be viewed on the school calendar at

<https://archbishop-runcie.eschools.co.uk/web/calendar>

Mrs Coates regularly puts reminders of events on Facebook and Instagram to prompt parents too - please follow us to keep up with what's happening in school!

Safeguarding



WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD?

Mrs Massey, Mrs Francis, Mrs Crozier and Mrs Ellwood are our school's Designated Safeguarding Leaders (DSLs). 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:

If you have a non-emergency concern about a child contact:

- Initial Response Service – 0191 277 2500
- Emergency Duty Team – 0191 278 7878 (out of hours)

- 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>

All concerns that a child or young person is suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm must be referred directly to the Initial Response Service of Children's Social Care in accordance with the Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board Procedures. Please refer to the Newcastle Safeguarding Children Partnership website for safeguarding policies and procedures. For more information, you can read our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy on our school website.



E-SAFETY UPDATE FROM ALAN MACKENZIE (ONLINE SAFETY SPECIALIST)

For Parents - Family Gaming Database

When it comes to app and games reviews one of the resources which is really useful is [Common Sense Media](#) who have thousands of unbiased and up-to-date reviews. These can be really helpful for parents over and above age ratings. But when it comes to games specifically there's an equally great site which is often overlooked called [The Family Gaming Database](#). This is a fantastic resource with a plethora of information for families and currently 3,485 video games and 197 board games already reviewed.



Community Notices





SEND PARENTS & CARERS 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.

These sessions run every Friday 10:00am-11:30am and Tuesdays 4:00-5:30pm at Gosforth Civic Theatre. No need to book - just turn up!

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>



16 - For family support, please scan.



17 - To see what is happening in the city, please scan.

Contact Us



Archbishop Runcie CE First School

Christon Road

Gosforth

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE31US

Visit us on the web at <https://archbishop-runcie.eschools.co.uk/web>

Tel: 0191 285 2663

email: admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk