



Newsletter 3

3rd October 2025

Headteacher Message



Another fortnight has flown by and the children continue to impress us with their positive attitudes and behaviour. The new academic year is always special but, this year in particular, we are so impressed with each class and how maturely they have adapted.

This term, we will continue to focus on our school values of love and determination in order to provide an enriching and supportive learning environment where every child feels happy, safe and is able to reach their full potential. We know that a strong partnership between home and school is vital to your child's success, and we look forward to continuing to work together with you over the coming months.

Autumn is also the time where we show prospective families around school and I always ask our children to talk to visitors about their experiences of school and what it is like to attend ARFS. They have blown me away with their fabulous responses, care for each other and love of our school!

We have a number of events coming up in the next few weeks so please check the dates attached (or on the website) to make sure you don't miss anything. These enriching experiences are an essential part of what makes our school so special.

This newsletter feels like a bumper edition so, please, make yourselves a cuppa and get comfy...

Wishing you all a wonderful (cosy!) weekend,

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.

"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 22/09/2025 - 94%
- w/c 29/09/2025- 95%

Highest class attendance:

- w/c 22/09/2025 - Year 1 98%
- w/c 29/09/2025- Year 2 98%

Absence Headlines

During this fortnight, 130 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 22/09/2025 - 6%
- w/c 29/09/2025- 5%

Absence caused by holidays:

- w/c 22/09/2025- 2%
- w/c 29/09/2025- 1.5%

Other absences:

- w/c 22/09/2025- 4%
- w/c 29/09/2025- 3.5%

School Celebrations!



Demonstrating Love

Nursery

- Dua Alaia
- Haris

Reception

- Billy
- Amarleia

Year 1

- Jad
- Margot

Year 2

- Urwah
- Masa

Year 3

- Lyla
- Ruby

Year 4

- Ivy
- Hadin

Staff

- Mr Brown
- Mrs Ellwood
- Mrs Armstrong



Demonstrating Determination

Nursery

- Grace T
- Alvin

Reception

- Sara
- Yusuf

Year 1

- Gabby
- Jacob

Year 2

- Archie
- Zephaniah

Year 3

- Maliha
- Ayesha

Year 4

- Mia
- Joshua

Staff

- Mrs Brown
- Mrs Armstrong
- Miss Blamire



TIMESTABLE 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.

TTRS - Highest engagement

Year 2- Yashika

Year 3 - Lyla

Year 4 - Thanuja

TTRS - Highest accuracy

Year 2- Carter

Year 3 - Felix

Year 4 - Thanuja

Current Rank amongst nearby schools: 14

Mean studio speed (seconds per question): 3.19

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

- Isla
- Suleman

Year 2

- Oliver
- Jacob

Year 3

- Kayden
- Henry

Year 4

- Hannah
- Mabel

Social Action Groups



2 - Green Team



3 - Play Leaders



4 - Library Champions



5 - Worship Council



6 - School Council



SCHOOL COUNCIL

School council met this week to discuss what they would like to do this upcoming year. The children had some amazing ideas and will now consult their class mates and make notes in their council journal ready for their next meeting!



PLAY LEADERS

Even though the recent change in weather has meant limited time on the school field this week, our Play Leaders have worked hard to engage all of our children in meaningful, active play times. There has been lots of role play as shopkeepers, security guards and playing traditional games such as red light, green light. The girls have also been working very hard to keep our equipment neat and tidy at the end of each breaktime. Well done Thanuja, Rahaf, Indi and Phoebe.



GREEN TEAM

Green Team have had a busy couple of weeks and have now completed litter picks in several areas around school. They are really getting into the swing of things and have shown a wonderful enthusiasm for improving our local area. This week, we have discussed planting trees in our school grounds in order to increase biodiversity and shade.



WORSHIP COUNCIL

Worship Council have been busy this week preparing for our Harvest Festival and thinking about all the things we are thankful for. They have written, practised and read their lines amazingly in order to lead a thoughtful and reflective Harvest Festival Service. Thank you to everyone who was able to come along.



YOUNG LEADERS

In Young Leaders this week, the children chose a famous leader that they would like to research to focus on their leadership skills and how they put these into action. We will be then discussing how we can develop these skills within ourselves.



LIBRARY CHAMPIONS

Our library champions have been working extremely hard tidying and sorting books in the library over this past fortnight. We have also talked a lot about what our favourite books are in school, encouraging others to read them.





A huge thank you to everyone who donated cakes, their time or attended our coffee morning for Macmillan last week. As a school, we raised over £180 pounds that has been transferred to the Macmillan Cancer charity. I hope you can all agree that our Year 4 pupils were excellent hosts and I know that they really enjoyed themselves. Thank you for your ongoing support with our charitable giving.



Huge thanks to everyone who donated food and other produce to our collection for The People's Kitchen. We are really grateful for your generosity and proud that our school has been able to support such a worthwhile cause. Donations will be collected this afternoon. If you have not yet donated, you can do so by text - just text KITCHEN to 70490. Thank you!

Clubs this term



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

- Choir - Monday 12:30pm email: admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk
- All Stars - Tuesdays (fortnightly) 12:30pm email: beckymcbride90@gmail.com
- Years 3 & 4 Football with Lee Sterry - Tuesdays 3:15pm <https://www.ls-sc.co.uk/schools/>
- Rec, Year 1 and Year 2 Multiskills with Andrew Cartwright - Monday 3:15pm
<https://goteamup.com/p/7576178-andrew-cartwright-football/courses/118755/>
- Years 3 & 4 Football with Andrew Cartwright - Monday 3:15pm
<https://goteamup.com/p/7576178-andrew-cartwright-football/courses/118756/>
- Violin - Monday after school
<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=wLSfsgQNN0q0YsEpSx4bR6HhZ8onp51DiB-iHdtAkHdUNzg1S08yUTdTR0hGRzJSMkQySU5PVUJFVi4u&route=shorturl>
- Guitar - Tuesdays after school
<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=wLSfsgQNN0q0YsEpSx4bR6HhZ8onp51DiB-iHdtAkHdUNzg1S08yUTdTR0hGRzJSMkQySU5PVUJFVi4u&route=shorturl>
- Rugby Minis - Thursdays 3:15pm <https://www.rugbyminis.co.uk/archbishoppruncie>
- Gosforth Voices (Years 3 & 4) <https://www.newcastlemusicservice.co.uk/ensembles>
- Gosforth Band (Years 3 & 4) <https://www.newcastlemusicservice.co.uk/ensembles>



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

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 and include a breakfast of cereal/toast and milk/orange juice. Children must arrive before 8.15am if they require breakfast. Afterschool Club, until 4:15pm is £6.00 and, until 5:30pm, is £12.50 per session and includes a snack and drink.

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

Collective Worship

This week in worship, we have reflected on more of the eight core skills for success. This week we have thought about the importance of listening (with your whole body) and speaking, including for those who are unable to speak up for themselves. As always, the children have responded brilliantly. We have learned about some significant speakers and listeners in history and within the Bible. We have combined this with learning about heroes of hope, such as Rosa Parks, who have helped change the world for God and made a positive difference in the world.

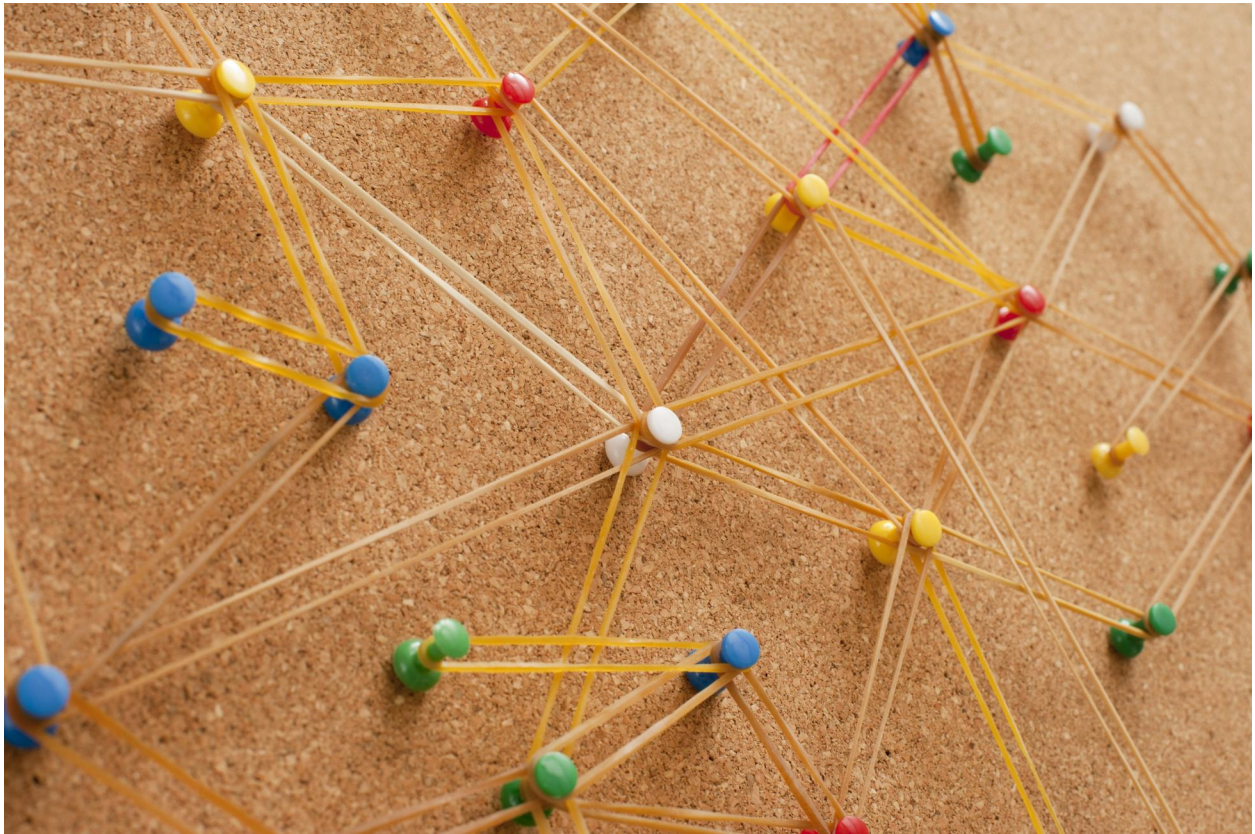


Church Links



Ruth Stradling (curate at St Nicholas') will be moving on to become team vicar of St Columba's Wideopen. Her last leading of Collective Worship at school will be next Wednesday (8 October). Her farewell at church will be at the 10am service on Sunday 26th October. She will be licensed by Bishop Mark at St Columba's on Thursday 6 November at 7.30pm. We are excited for her, and St Columba's will be a lovely place to work, but we will also miss her very much!

School notices



PARENT-TEACHER CONSULTATIONS

Parent Teacher consultations will take place on Monday 20th & Tuesday 21st October. This will be an opportunity for parents and carers to meet with class teachers to discuss how children have settled into the new school year. For parents and carers who are separated, bookings can be made at different times. Parents and carers can also request a phone appointment if this is more convenient. Appointments are limited to 10 minutes per child. Bookings will be made available on ParentMail next week. Mrs Coates will let parents know when bookings will go live.

Parents and carers of children with SEND do not need to attend



SEND REVIEWS

Autumn term SEND reviews will take place on Monday 6th October or Tuesday 7th October for all classes. Relevant families will have received booking information via ParentMail. For parents and carers who are separated, bookings can be made at different times if this is preferable but, please note, other agencies may not be able to attend multiple meetings. These meetings will include parent-teacher consultation info as well as reviewing individual support plans and in-school provision.



PACKED LUNCHES

It is really important that the children having packed lunches bring something filling such as a sandwich or pasta (or other carbohydrates) that will fill them up for the afternoon rather than just crisps and other processed snacks. Could we also request that sweet items such as cakes and biscuits are restricted to one item per day please? We really appreciate your cooperation and support in keeping lunch boxes healthy, thank you.

Reminders:

- Please do not send foods containing nuts in case of allergies amongst the other children.
- Please remember; no sweets, chocolate bars or fizzy drinks should be in packed lunches.
- Please continue to cut grapes into halves to minimise the risk of choking.

- Please ensure that your child can unwrap/open all items in their lunch box independently.
- Please consider using reusable food containers for packed lunches and fruit snacks, rather than disposable food packaging and avoid sending disposable plastic cutlery or straws in packed lunches. Thank you.

For ideas of what to include you could try:

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/collection/school-lunch-recipes>

<https://babyfoode.com/blog/30-healthy-lunch-box-ideas-for-kids/>

<https://www.playpennies.com/fitness-and-diet/free-change-4-life-sugar-swap-pack-lunch-box-app-117627>



ANTIBULLYING WEEK - Please save the date!

Clennell Education Solutions are running an online workshop specifically for parents and carers of children at ARFS linked to anti-bullying - please save the date!

Topic: Anti Bullying for Parents of Archbishop Runcie

Time: Nov 10, 2025 05:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83888994313?pwd=v1rJZ0cszoglwtdH6WL9DMINne6Kgy.1>

Meeting ID: 838 8899 4313

Passcode: 136032



KEY STAGE LEADERS

As a school, we are split into three Key Stages. Each Key Stage has a Key Stage Leader who is responsible for all pupils within both classes. This includes supporting families, supporting behaviour and leading teaching and learning.

EYFS (Nursery & Reception) - Mrs Francis

KS1 (Years 1 & 2) - Mrs Crozier

KS2 (Years 3 & 4) - Mrs Ellwood

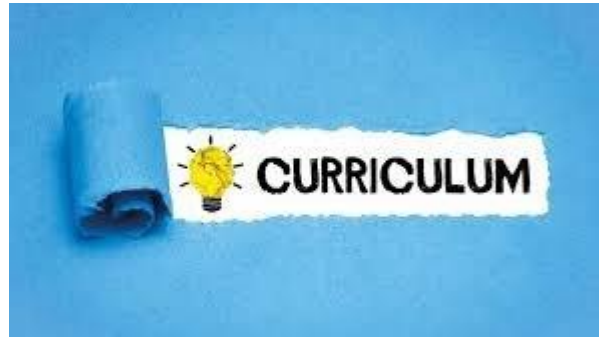
If you have any questions or queries that class teachers are not able to answer, KS leaders should be your next point of contact.



GREEN CAREERS WEEK

3-8th November is 'Green Careers Week' and as a school who recognises the importance of climate we will be marking this week with a special worship, led by Mrs Ellwood, and inviting in visitors who have green careers to conduct special lessons with our children.

If you would like to be involved or would like more information please email Mrs Ellwood by **Friday 17th October** expressing your interest - margery.ellwood@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk



CURRICULUM INFO

Children in Years 1 - 4 will begin new units of work on Monday 13th October. Mrs Coates will send information via ParentMail next week so you are able to support your children's learning at home.



SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD

You may already be aware that October is Black History Month. We will be addressing the issues of inequality and prejudice through age appropriate activities in school throughout October and beyond. This links beautifully to our work on No Outsiders. On Friday 17th October, we will be promoting racial equality by wearing red clothing to 'show racism the red card'. Donations can be made via ParentMail, if you wish. Please do not send cash to school.

Parents and carers can also:

- TEXT 'RED' TO 70470 TO GIVE £1
- TEXT 'RED5' TO 70470 TO GIVE £5

- TEXT 'RED10' TO 70470 TO GIVE £15
- TEXT 'RED20' TO 70470 TO GIVE £20



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

On Friday 10th October children are invited to come to school wearing something green for World Mental Health Day. We will be talking to children about mental health and habits that promote a good mental health such as exercise, sleeping well, building strong relationships and relaxing. Donations can be made to Mental Health Foundation, via ParentMail, for anyone who would like to donate. Please do not send cash to school.



CAKE SALE

The next cake sale will be Year 3 on Thursday 6th November - 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 via SumUp.

TOYS FROM HOME

Could we kindly request that children do not bring toys or other similar belongings into school, please, as there is a risk they could get damaged or broken and, more importantly, they cause a distraction to learning. Thank you for your support.

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 Coates (admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk). All volunteers require DBS clearance.



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. 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! This involves tidying books shelves, checking and replacing labels, revamping displays, categorising new books and generally helping to promote the school library and class library corners. If you are interested in helping on a weekly or fortnightly basis, please contact Mrs Crozier (emily.Crozier@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk).



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 DBS clearance through the school - please contact Mrs Coates.



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)

Dates for your diaries



Please see diary dates attached. These can also be viewed on the school calendar at <https://archbishop-runcie.eschools.co.uk/web/calendar>

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)

- 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>

- Adjustments to content maturity ratings.

- ID verification for certain games and experiences.
- Stricter moderation
- Enhanced parental controls.

According to Revealing Reality, these still don't go far enough. There are still workarounds and very significant concerns. It's worth having a read of the full report which you can find at <https://think.revealingreality.co.uk/roblox-updated>.

Community Notices



WBSC WILDCATS

All girls programme delivered by ACFC coaches providing an introduction to football and creating a pathway into girls teams.

EVERY SUNDAY 9.00AM - 10.00AM
VALLEY GARDENS 3G
5-11 YEAR OLDS



FOR A FREE TASTER SESSION EMAIL:
SECRETARY@WHITLEYBAYSPORTINGCLUB.CO.UK

GIRLS FOOTBALL

The Wildcats is run in partnership with Whitley Bay Sporting Club and Andrew Cartwright Football and is GIRLS ONLY! If you have a girl (of all ages) that would like to join the sessions they can be offered a free session.



The [Food Standards Agency \(FSA\)](https://www.food.gov.uk) issued a warning earlier this summer about the dangers of ice slush drinks ('slushies') containing glycerol. The FSA advises that children under the age of 7 should not drink ice slush drinks containing glycerol at all, and that children aged 7-10 should drink no more than one 350ml slush drink with glycerol a day.



PLEA FROM GCMS

Gosforth Central Middle School have politely requested that parents and carers of children at ARFS do not use their school car park as a drop off point or car park to bring children to ARFS.

They struggle for parking spaces for their own staff as it is and any additional space that they have in and around their site needs to be prioritised for their parents/pupils. Thank you.

ASDA remain happy for our parents and carers to park there and walk the remainder of the journey.



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>



8 - For family support, please scan.



9 - 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