



## February 2021

### Newsletter 15 – 12.2.21



#### THANK YOU!

Thank you all so much for your continued messages of care and concern over the last couple of weeks. I am delighted to say that I am now feeling much better and intend to be back to school, full time, after half term. I am really grateful for all the flowers, gifts and cards that have received from staff, governors, colleagues and parents. Thank you all!

The staff would also like to express their thanks for the many unexpected gifts of biscuits, donuts, coffee etc. – it has helped them get through a challenging term!

#### COVID-19 UPDATES

##### Home Learning

Well done everyone who has continued to keep up their engagement with home learning- you are all doing amazingly! We really do understand the pressures of trying to juggle home learning as well as work and other duties so please know that whatever you do with your child is fantastic. If all you manage is 10 minutes reading with your child each day, you are doing brilliantly.



As you know, we regularly ask for feedback and try, where possible, to respond to suggestions. We would be really grateful if parents of children who are at home could complete the questionnaire on ParentMail please. The deadline for feedback is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February at midday. Thank you.



##### Wellbeing

As you know, wellbeing is, quite rightly, high on everyone's agenda at the present time. GST schools are recommending two apps that you might like to look at with your child. These are "Chill Panda" and "Mindful Powers".

##### Online Catch-Ups

As you know, children at home in Year 1-4 have, this week, had an opportunity to "catch up" with their friends and class teacher, via Teams. Thank you to all of those of you who joined the meetings. We'd be really interested to hear your thoughts about how well these worked, via the ParentMail questionnaire please. Thank you in advance.

Dependant on feedback, we are hoping to run these again after half term. If you have already signed up to these you do not need to do anything further and will be included in the next round of "catch ups". If you did not sign up to these but would now like to be involved, another ParentMail consent form will be sent to you on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.

	Date	Time	Bring
Year 1	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	12:15pm	Something that makes you smile!
Year 2	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	12:15pm	
Year 3	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	12:15pm	
Year 4	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	12:15pm	

May we also politely remind families that attend of some of our expectations that they consented to via ParentMail, and, additionally, ask that families **do not allow siblings in the space where your child is participating, particularly younger siblings:**

#### **Expectations of parents/ carers:**

- ensure appropriate clothing is worn by the pupil at all times.
- webcams must be kept on at all times to ensure that their child is the person in the session.
- agreed working space must be approved by the parent/ carer before each session. This should be conducive to learning and should not reveal any personal information (**ideally the background should be a blank wall**)
- there must be no other screens on in the visible background
- not record the session or share the session with any one whatsoever under any circumstances.
- the **parent/ carer must be within earshot of the lesson** and always aware that the session is taking place, so that they may intervene, especially if their child is about to say or do something inappropriate for the session.
- some children may need the person in the room to help keep them focused and safe, particularly if it is a new activity.
- only your child, not any members of their family, may participate – any queries for teachers should be placed via email and any work should be shared through Tapestry, not these meetings.

For these sessions to go ahead, it is absolutely essential that these expectations are met as we have a duty of care for all children within the catch up. Thank you for your understanding.

#### **Full Reopening of School**

As you will no doubt be aware, the Prime Minister has indicated that schools may fully reopen from 8<sup>th</sup> March. We will, of course, keep you up to date with information as we receive it. We are really hopeful that this will happen as soon as possible.



#### **PARENTS' VIRTUAL COFFEE MORNING**

Usually by now, as a school we would have hosted lots of events for parents and carers which we are currently unable to do. Mr Tolan, Family Support Officer, is currently in the process of setting up a virtual coffee morning for parents and carers of each class for after half term. Mr Tolan has a wide range of expertise and is employed by the school to support families in whatever way he can.

This can be done together with other families or, if you would rather speak to Mr Tolan privately, as a form of virtual 'drop in' chat. The topic is dictated by the families who attend. If you would be interested in attending, please email him on [daniel.tolan@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:daniel.tolan@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk). Thank you

## LENT

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February, which is during half term, you are invited to join us in celebrating Shrove Tuesday and to mark the beginning of Lent from Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February. Lent is given high priority in our school as a time of preparation and for being our best possible selves. It would be amazing to join together as a school community at this time.



Many of you will, traditionally, give up something at this time in order to help you to be closer to God. This year, we want to put a 'positive spin' on life during Lent and are asking members of our school community to think about something they may **do** or take up during Lent (e.g. write a message to a family member each day, leave doorstep gifts for neighbours or say a prayer for a friend each day) so that we may bring joy to others, especially in these challenging times. Please let us know what you decide to take on so we can share our Lenten promises – you can do this via Twitter or emailing your class teachers. Thank you!



## SMART WATCHES

Could we please ask that children do not wear watches with cameras to school please? As you will understand, there can be endless issues with children taking and showing pictures on them and that this has safeguarding implications. Thank you for your understanding.

## CLOTHES REQUEST FROM RECEPTION

Reception would like to request any donations of underwear and tights, particularly for girls, as stocks are running very low for when accidents inevitably happen! We would ask for sizes 3-4, 4-5 and 5-6. We would also request that, if clothes are given to children in school, that they be washed and returned at your earliest convenience. Thank you in advance.



## POLITE REMINDER

Children are not allowed to wee in the bushes or playground during school and we would be grateful if parents and carers did not allow them to do this before or after school either. Thank you.

## DEBTS

Mrs Pygall will be following up any outstanding lunch, Nursery, Breakfast Club and After School Club debts in the coming weeks. If you know you have outstanding payments, we would be grateful if you could clear these over half term. Thank you.



## NURSERY PLACES- SEPTEMBER 2021

We are now receiving applications for Nursery places for September for any child that has turned 3 by September. The deadline for applications is Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

## RESIDENTIAL

Unfortunately, we have been forced to cancel Year 4's residential for this year. Given current restrictions, we would not be able to go on our date in April. We asked about the possibility of pushing it back later in the summer term before the children left Archbishop Runcie but Dukeshouse Wood had no availability. We are absolutely heartbroken that we cannot go. We will issue refunds to parents for their deposits after half-term.



We will then change our existing booking so that the current Year 3 may go on the residential in Summer 2022 and we are in communication with Dukeshouse Wood about this. Once we have a date, we will let parents know. Thank you!

Mrs Massey and Mr Booth 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.

[illegible]

- 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>

Wishing you all a safe and happy half term.

With my very best wishes,

Mrs KE Massey

Headteacher





## “Love to learn, learn to love”

Please note that all activities in school are for children and staff only at this time.

February 2021		
15 -19 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term	School closed to all children
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	School re-opens to vulnerable children and those of critical workers.	
March 2021		
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> March-5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Y1-Y4 Catch Up Sessions	If feedback indicates demand for sessions.
<b>19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	GST Deadline for Nursery applications September 2021	
<b>26<sup>th</sup> March</b>	GST Letters of offer for Nursery places	
<b>29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Parents' Evening (phone calls)	TBC
April 2021		
<b>2-16<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Easter holidays	School closed to children
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Staff Training Day	School closed to children
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> - Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021</b>	<del>Y4 Residential</del>	Cancelled due to government restrictions. Refunds to be processed after half term.
May 2021		
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	Bank holiday	
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	<del>Children's Cancer Run</del>	Cancelled by organisation. However, the school is investigating ways to do something on site during school time for the children.
June 2021		
<b>31<sup>st</sup> May - 4<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Half term	
July 2021		
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	School closes for summer	



## Newcastle Cathedral Online Chorister Experience

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March**  
10.30am until 11.30am

Fun songs and musical games for Years 2, 3, and 4, and a chance to find out more about the unique and valuable opportunity of singing as a Newcastle Cathedral Chorister. Free of charge.

To register interest please contact  
Emily Stolting on  
[music@newcastlecathedral.co.uk](mailto:music@newcastlecathedral.co.uk)

