



February 2024

Newsletter 11 – 16.2.24

SECTION 1: ATTENDANCE

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 attainment have higher rates of attendance.
- National data shows us that children not meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths had an overall absence rate of 4.7% (so their overall attendance was 95.3%).
- The overall absence rate of children not meeting the expected standard was higher than among those meeting the higher standard (4.7% compared to 2.7%).
- For the most vulnerable pupils, regular attendance is also an important protective factor and the best opportunity for needs to be identified and support provided.
- Research has shown there are clear links between regular absence from school and harm for children (90% of young offenders have been persistently absent as young children) and serious violence (83% of knife possession offenders had been persistently absent for at least one year).

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. Thank you.



WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

	Whole School Attendance <small>(excluding Nursery)</small>	Highest class attendance!	Second place	Third place
Wb 5.2.24	93%	Year 4 (97%)	Year 3 (96%)	Year 2 (94%)
Wb 12.2.24	95%	Year 4 (98%)	Year 3 (96%)	Year 2 (94%)

Our school target for attendance is 97%.



Please let Mrs Coates know, via ParentMail, if your child will be absent by 9:00am at the latest. Thank you.

If your child is not in school when the register closes at 9.15am (even if this is for a medical or dental appointment), they are marked as absent for the whole morning session. Therefore, we would encourage parents to make medical appointments outside school time, wherever possible please. Thank you.

If you are experiencing any difficulties and need support with your child's attendance, please contact school as soon as possible. Mrs Gurkin can visit you at home or meet you in school to offer support and advice.

We will now be taking appropriate legal action for children who are deemed persistent absentees (under 90% attendance). Please see the attendance policy on our school website for further information.



MINUTES MISSED

During this fortnight, 260 (4 hours and 20 minutes) minutes 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.

PUPIL ABSENCES

	Whole School absence <small>(excluding Nursery)</small>	Absence caused by holidays	Other absences
Wb 5.2.24	7%	1.5%	5.5%
Wb 12.2.24	5%	1%	4%

As you know, there is no entitlement in law to time off in term time. Children who are absent from school fall behind in their learning, they miss school events and many find it difficult to catch up. In addition, school staff have to divert their attention away from other children in order to support those that have fallen behind due to a holiday related absence.

For this reason, any request for leave of absence due to holidays in term time will not be authorised. In the case of all unauthorised leave of absences, incurring 8 or more unauthorised sessions (4 days), an application for a Fixed Penalty Notice will be made to the Local Authority.

SECTION 2: SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS!



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). 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	Ziyad Josiah	Ada Zephy	Maliha Ayesha	Max Cr Samuel	George Abbie	Emma Samuel Isaac
Demonstrating Determination	Otis Lucas	Yashika Masa	John Mika	Rory Teddy	Franki Rosa	Aleeza Emilia

TIMES TABLE 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.



The following children have either earned a new TTRS title or engaged highly with TTRS during the last fortnight. Well done everyone!

	Children Need to Learn	Highest accuracy this fortnight	Highest engagement this fortnight	Average Daily Minutes this fortnight
Year 2	x 2, x 5, x 10 (and corresponding division facts)	Henry Thanuja Elvis Esim	Ebuka Henry Joshua Mabel	4
Year 3	x 2, x 5, x 10, x 3, x 4, x 8 (and corresponding division facts)	Frankie Georgie Rehan Rosa	Franki Rehan Georgie Theo	1
Year 4	All tables to 12 x 12 (and corresponding division facts)	Zain Alfie Yaz Zidan	Aleeza Zain Monty Samuel	3
Current rank of ARFS among nearby schools		14	Mean studio speed (seconds per question)	3.99

HANDWRITING HEROES

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



Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Rudi Ira	Ayesha Marwa	Samuel Harmony	Leo Scarlett	Evie Alfie

SECTION 3: SOCIAL ACTION

SCHOOL COUNCIL

At the beginning of the next half term, the school councillors will be thinking about 'Zero Discrimination Day'. They will be preparing a presentation for the rest of the school about equality and how everyone should be accepting of all the amazing differences that we have. We will be linking this to No Outsiders and how our school accepts everyone!



GREEN TEAM IS BACK!

Now that the weather has (hopefully) improved, Green Team will recommence their duties after half term.



LIBRARY CHAMPIONS

The Library Champions have been busy looking at a delivery of new books for our school library. We will be adding them into our Accelerated Reader baskets next week.



We are looking for a group of volunteers to help our Library Champions complete our Library book sorting – if you have any time to give, please contact Mrs Crozier (Emily.Crozier@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk). Thank you.

PLAY LEADERS

Our play leaders have their new high visibility jackets so they can be clearly seen on the yard.



They are doing a great job of leading games and activities for our younger children.



COMIC RELIEF



Red Noses will be available to buy from the school office from Friday 1st March. These must be pre-ordered via ParentMail. The ParentMail order form will be available from Monday 26th February to place orders and make payment. We will not accept cash. All orders must be via ParentMail please.

SECTION 4: SCHOOL NEWS!



PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

Thank you to everyone who voted in the recent election for Parent Governor for our school and to all of the candidates for putting themselves forward for this important role. We received 52 votes overall. I am delighted to announce that, with the highest number of votes, Fatima Begum will join our Governing Body as Parent Governor. On behalf of the whole Governing Body, I would like to extend our warmest congratulations to Fatima. We are looking forward to working with her to ensure the very best outcomes for all of our pupils.

Fatima's supporting statement was as follows:

My name is Fatima Begum and my son Sami is in reception. I have a long-standing interest in education; I am currently in my 18th year of teaching in the secondary phase and will soon begin a role with an exam board as assessment developer. I have worked across a number of schools in the North East (two of which are graded Outstanding), working as a classroom teacher, second in department, head of department and as part of the extended leadership team. This has allowed me to deepen my understanding of how a school operates across a range of layers, including working with my link governor and writing department policies around assessment, teaching and learning and health and safety. It has also allowed me to continue to develop my skill to discuss ideas with others to work as a team. As an experienced practitioner, I am dedicated to staff development, leading CPD in my department, delivering training to trainee teachers and being in charge of whole school CPD, skills I hope to share with the school as the role of a governor. As an experienced leader (of staff, students, curriculum and budgets) I believe I bring my skills of leading with integrity, honesty, openness, accountability and reliability to help strengthen the school further and help it grow to meet its goals.



I hope with your support I can share my experiences to act as a critical friend to Archbishop Runcie School.

STAFFING UPDATE



I am delighted to announce that, after a robust recruitment process, we have appointed Mrs Kathleen Francis as our Deputy Headteacher. Mrs Francis will continue to be the Nursery Teacher and EYFS Leader in addition to her new role.

Additionally, Mrs Coates has decided to reduce her hours in the office after Easter. We have therefore appointed Mrs Allison Bannon to cover a Wednesday in the school office.



CLUBS

Young Leaders, Choir and Green Team will continue next half term in the lead up to Easter.

Lee Sterry's football coaching will recommence after half term. Children in Years 1 and 2 will need to bring trainers on a Friday and children in Years 3 and 4 will need to bring a change of clothing, football boot/trainers and shin pads on a Thursday if they wish to join in.



READING RECORDS

There has been a significant decline in the number of comments we are receiving in children's Home Reading Records. Children are encouraged to read at home every night in order to develop their fluency. Please record a short comment in Reading Records on the correct day explaining how well your child read and their understanding of the text. Reading Records are checked weekly by staff.



Over the next term, Mrs Crozier will send out a form for parents and carers to complete to gather parent views on Reading Records.

Staff record their comments in their Reading Assessment files so will not necessarily record their comments in Home Reading Records unless they have something specific they would like children to do to consolidate their learning.

GST PHOTO COMPETITION

Gosforth Schools Trust are holding a Photography Competition across all 9 First Schools and 2 Middle Schools. Children from all year groups are invited to submit a photograph which shows "Signs of Spring" before Friday 26th April. Please remember to include your name and class! There will be a winner selected from each age phase.



STEM WEEK



Mrs EgdeU is in the process of arranging STEM week in school (8th-17th March). As usual, we are looking for visitors to classes to talk about Science in the real world. If any parents, carers or friends of our school are able to give some time to talk to children or lead science activities in school, please let Mrs EgdeU know

(Emily.egdeU@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk). Thank you in advance – I'm in no doubt that STEM week will, as always, be a really successful and engaging week in school.

WIND

We try to get children outside to play as much as we can, however, as part of our school Risk Assessments, we do not take children out to play or to Forest School in strong winds due to the risk of falling branches or children being blown over. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.



PARKING

Please do not park outside the main school gates as it is important that emergency vehicles can access the site at all times. Thank you.

ASDA remain happy for our parents and carers to walk in their carpark and walk to school. Huge thanks to those of you who already do this.

PTFA



The Valentines cake stall was a hit! They raised a total of £69 in just 15 mins! Thank you to everyone who donated cakes to make this possible.



Please save the date – Mr Francis (husband of Mrs Francis!) will be hosting a Family Quiz Night on Friday 21st June, 5:30 - 7:00pm. More info to follow!

On Friday 8th March, Mrs Coates will be holding a Mother's Day Pop-Up-Shop in school. Children will be able to bring cash to school to choose a gift for their parent or carer. All gifts will be £2.00 (cash please) and will be gift-wrapped. We will be seeking donations of small gifts e.g. smellies, chocolates, candles on Friday 1st March please.

We would be really interested to hear about any suggestions of future events. Please email archbishopruncieptfa@gmail.com Thank you.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

It has been a busy couple of weeks with several classes leading worship for recent liturgical events. Year 4 led worship on Shrove Tuesday, reflecting on the importance of the upcoming season of Lent and the reasons we eat pancakes. Year 3 led worship on Ash Wednesday and the symbolism of the day for Christians around the world. On Wednesday 14th February (Valentines Day), Year 1 led worship on what Love meant to them and how we can show love in our daily lives. You may also be aware that this week was Random Acts of Kindness week so we have encouraged all members of our school community to show kindness and love to others for no reason other than to spread happiness. We hope you have been the beneficiary of such an act!



REQUEST

Please could carers of children in Years 3 and 4 email pictures of their child(ren) and a mother figure in their life to admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk by Friday 1st March. Many thanks!



WORLD BOOK DAY

Thursday 7th March is World Book Day. We would like to invite each family to create a "Book in a jar" to display in school. These can be brought into school on World Book Day – please make sure they are clearly named. Thank you! Winners will receive a book voucher. All children will receive a World Book Day voucher.



Children will be taking part in a range of book based activities throughout the day and are invited to come to school dressed as a book character if they wish. Please do not buy a costume – lots of book characters are ordinary boys and girls who wear everyday clothing.



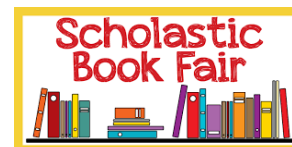
Additionally, we are inviting children to return to school at 5:00pm dressed in their pyjamas for a "bedtime" story and hot chocolate. Staff members will be here with their favourite book to share with children. Please collect children from classroom doors at 6:00pm.

As you know, Mrs Crozier and her team of Library Champions are transforming our school library. We are looking for a group of volunteers to help our Library Champions complete our Library book sorting – if you have any time to give, please contact Mrs Crozier (Emily.Crozier@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk). Thank you.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Start date: 13th March 2024

Final date: 19th March 2024



We are delighted to announce there will be 3 cases of book delivered to school containing a wide range of primary school titles. World Book Day tokens can be accepted at the book fair, £1 per pupil off any title on the fair. The Book Fair will be held in the Key Stage 1 cloakroom (up the ramp from the main yard).

Parents and carers can pay by cash or use the QR code displayed at the book fair to pay online by scanning the code on their phone. Our school can earn commission from each sale that can be spent on purchasing books for the school library and classrooms.

The book prices now start as low as £2.99 and 30% of the books are under £5, hence making the event inclusive to all pockets.

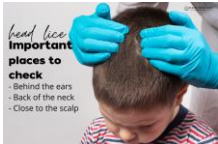
Meet the **TEACHER**

SEND REVIEWS & PARENTS EVENINGS

Parents of children on our SEND register can now book their SEND support plan review appointments via ParentMail. These will take place on Monday 26th February. Parents' Evening will take place the following week (Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th March). These appointments will be available to book via ParentMail from 6:00pm tonight.

FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS

Wonde vouchers will be issued to families in receipt of income based free school meals on Saturday 17th February. We are unsure how much longer holiday vouchers will continue to be issued for but will let you know as soon as we have further information.



HEAD LICE

Head lice have been reported in school. Please check your child's hair carefully as they can be very hard to spot! If you find any head lice in your child's hair, you should treat everyone in your household on the same day. For further info, please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

CHURCH LINKS

All children are invited to enter the All Saints' Easter Card Competition. Children have each been given a design sheet to complete and return to school by Friday 1st March.



WRAPAROUND BOOKINGS

Bookings for Wraparound Care are managed by Child Care Bookings for Schools. This will make managing and making bookings far easier for parents and carers. You can still 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



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>



SEND PARENT 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. The next meeting is March 9th at Gosforth Civic Theatre.



SCHOOL READINESS GROUP

Is your Nursery child starting Reception in September? Please see the attached flier about a drop in session to find out more about school readiness, school admissions and much more!



BEREAVEMENT

St Oswald's are hosting a session for parents and carers of children within GST around understanding bereavement and its impact on adults and children at Archibald First School, 2:00pm-3:00pm on Monday 4th March. To book a place please visit <https://forms.office.com/e/M0kPnH2FA3> You will receive a confirmation email to let you know if you have a space or not

SAFEGUARDING

Mrs Massey, Mrs Crozier and Mrs Francis are our school's Designated Safeguarding Leaders (DSL). Mr Brown is DSL for Wraparound care. 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>

For more information, you can read our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy on our school website.

With my very best wishes,

Kate Massey

Headteacher

Be courageous; be strong.

Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14



Gosforth Schools' Trust

Signs of Spring

PHOTO COMPETITION

Take a picture to show signs of spring.

COMPETITION
DEADLINE

APRIL 26

WINNERS
ANNOUNCED

MAY 03



Email or hand in your photograph to your school along with your name and year group. A school winner will be selected for EYFS, Years 1&2, Years 3&4, Years 5&6 and Years 7&8.

A GST winner will be selected for each group.



Show your
photography skills to win a prize.

DIARY DATES



New dates are in red, for your information

February 2024			
19.2.24	Deadline for Year 4 Residential payment		Mrs Coates has contacted those parents/carers who have not yet paid.
19.2.24 – 23.2.24	February Half Term		
Wb 26.2.23	SEND Reviews	3:30-6:00pm	Please book via ParentMail if you have not done so already
Monday 26 th February	Year 4 Forest School	pm	Children should wear school uniform tops, joggers and bring wellies and waterproofs to change into please.
March 2024			
Friday 1 st March	Non-uniform day in exchange for Mother's Day pop up shop		Please send donations of gifts into school with your child. Thank you
Monday 4 th & Tuesday 5 th March	Parent Teacher Consultations	2:30-6:00pm	Bookings will be live from 6:00pm tonight
Monday 4 th March	Year 3 Forest School	pm	Children should wear school uniform tops, joggers and bring wellies and waterproofs to change into please.
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day- children invited to dress as a book character and bring a "Book in a jar" to school.	All day	Please see info in Newsletter 11
	World Book Day Bedtime Stories	5:00pm	Please book places via ParentMail
Friday 8 th March	Year 1 & Year 2 Mothering Sunday Service	9:00am	Parents/carers welcome to attend (1 adult per family).
	Year 3 & Year 4 Mothering Sunday Service	2:45pm	Parents/carers welcome to attend (1 adult per family).
	Mother's Day pop up shop in school		All gifts £2.00 (cash on the day please)
Monday 11 th March	Year 2 Forest School	pm	Children should wear school uniform tops, joggers and bring wellies and waterproofs to change into please.
11 th - 22 nd March	Year 4 swimming	1:30-2:15pm	Please see info sent via ParentMail
13 th – 20 th March	Book Fair	3:15-3:45pm	See info in Newsletter 11
Thursday 14 th March	Healthy Active Lifestyle opportunity for Year 1 & Year 2 (Multiskills)	am	Children should arrive at school in PE kit please.
	Year 4 MTC workshop for Y4 parents	5:00pm	Please come along if you have a child in Year 4.
Friday 15 th	Red Nose Day		Red noses can be ordered via ParentMail

March			from 26.2.24
Monday 18 th March	Year 1 Forest School	pm	Children should wear school uniform tops, joggers and bring wellies and waterproofs to change into please.
Tuesday 19 th March	Year 3 visit to Cragside		More info to follow
	Royal Opera House workshop with Choir		Info has been sent to Choir members via ParentMail
Wednesday 20 th March	Year 2 visit to Newcastle Castle		More info to follow
	Workshop for Year 1 parents/carers about Phonics Screen Check	5:00pm	
Thursday 21 st March	Year 3 & Year 4 singing at Newcastle Cathedral	9:30am	
Monday 25 th March	Nursery & Reception Forest School	pm	Children should wear school uniform tops, joggers and bring wellies and waterproofs to change into please.
Tuesday 26 th March	Year 1 visit to St Mary's Lighthouse		More info to follow
Wednesday 27 th March	PTFA Easter cake sale	3:00pm	Donations gratefully received please
Thursday 28 th March	ARFS has talent celebration		If your child has won a badge, award or trophy in one of their out of school activities since Christmas, they can bring it into school so we can celebrate their achievements.
	Easter Service at All Saints' Church	1:45pm	Parents and carers invited to attend
29.3.24 – 12.4.24	Easter Holiday		School closed to children
April 2024			
Tuesday 16 th April	Year 4 visit to Beamish		Please see ParentMail
Monday 22 nd April	Year 1 leading Collective Worship	9:00am	Parents and carers welcome to attend
Wednesday 24 th April	Class Photographs		
Friday 26 th April	Deadline for GST Photo Competition		See info in Newsletter 10
May 2024			
Friday 3 rd May	GST Photo Competition winners announced		
Thursday 9 th May	Year 4 leading Ascension worship	9:00am	Parents/carers welcome to attend
Monday 13 th May	Year 1 leading Christian Aid Collective Worship	9:00am	Parents and carers welcome to attend
	Healthy Active Lifestyle opportunity for Nursery & Reception children	am	Children will wear PE kits already in school
Tuesday 14 th May	No Outsiders demo lessons, open lesson and staff training.		More info to follow
Friday 17 th May	Pentecost Service at St Nicholas' Church (led by Year 3)	1:30pm	Parents and carers invited to attend.
Sunday 19 th May	NE Children's Cancer Run	TBC	Please save the date! https://childrenscancernorth.enthuse.com/pf/

			kate-massey-357dc
Friday 24 th May	Year 4 leading Trinity worship	9:00am	Parents/carers welcome to attend
27.5.24 – 31.5.24	May Half Term		School closed to children
Thursday 16 th May	Year 4 Residential at Dukeshouse Wood		More info to follow
June 2024			
Monday 3 rd June 2024	Staff training day		School closed to children
Friday 21 st June	Family Quiz Night	5:30-7:00pm	More info to follow
Thursday 27 th June	Year 3 sleepover at school		More info to follow
July 2024			
Tuesday 2 nd July	Year 2 visit to Grace Darling Museum		More info to follow
Thursday 11 th July	Music Concert at All Saints' Church		More info to follow
Thursday 18 th July	ARFS has talent celebration		If your child has won a badge, award or trophy in one of their out of school activities since Easter, they can bring it into school so we can celebrate their achievements.
22.7.24 – 30.8.24	Summer Holidays		School closed to children
September 2024			
Tuesday 3 rd September 2024	School re-opens to children		

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

NURSERY 30 HOUR PLACES

Childcare **Choices** Applying for 30 hours free childcare through the childcare service

- 1** Apply through the childcare service: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> You will need to confirm your identity.
- 2** If successful you will receive an eligibility code – '50xxxxxxxx'
- 3** Take this code to your childcare provider with your NI number, child's date of birth and complete a Parent Declaration form.
- 4** Your childcare provider checks the code is valid – and if valid - confirms when you can start and reminds you to **reconfirm – every 3 months**
- 5** Every three months, reconfirm your eligibility through the childcare service (helpline below)

Your 30-hour eligibility code has a validity end date.
If you fail to reconfirm or become ineligible, you will stop receiving the extra hours. If you are unsure discuss with your provider immediately. This is your responsibility.

For support call Customer Interaction Centre on **0300 123 4097**



HEALTHIER TOGETHER

The Healthier Together website (<https://www.nenc-healthiertogether.nhs.uk>) provides accurate and trusted healthcare advice for parents/carers, young people and professionals in the North East and North Cumbria. You can find parental advice on illnesses, allergies, vaccines, child development as well as many other topics. You can also download the Healthier Together app.

The Healthier Together website also includes the Little Orange Book which provides advice for babies and children when they are poorly.

