



Newsletter 10

30th January 2026

Headteacher Message



As we move through the spring term, it has been wonderful to see our children, across all year groups, settled and making significant progress. 2026 has already got off to a fantastic start at ARFS with our new Lacrosse club starting, Epiphany celebrations, plans for the PTFA, a visit from

the Director of Education of the Newcastle Diocesan Education Board, David Akers, enrolment of a GST coaching programme for our staff, a positive and complimentary audit of wraparound provision, Mrs Lowe's birthday celebrations, attendance at the Diocesan Christingle Service at Newcastle Cathedral and a highly successful safeguarding audit! Looking ahead to the rest of the term, we have slots more happening too - please check the diary dates (attached).

You may already have seen the recording which features ARFS on Facebook or our school website - many thanks to all involved in celebrating the fantastic work undertaken on our climate action plan.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to ensure a productive and positive term for every child.

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 19/01/2026 - 96%
- w/c 26/01/2026 - 95%

Highest class attendance:

- w/c 19/01/2026 - Year 3 99%
- w/c 26/01/2026 - Year 2 96%

Absence Headlines

During this fortnight, 230 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 19/01/2026 - 4%
- w/c 26/01/2026 - 5%

Absence caused by holidays:

- w/c 19/01/2026 - 1.5%
- w/c 26/01/2026 - 1.5%

Other absences:

- w/c 19/01/2026 - 2.5%
- w/c 26/01/2026 - 3.5%



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

- Meila
- Luca

Reception

- Billy
- Ayo

Year 1

- Heidi
- Marnie

Year 2

- Ani
- Rudi

Year 3

- Scarlett
- Ayesha

Year 4

- Thanuja
- Ivy

Staff

- Miss Cairns
- Mrs Bannon
- Mrs Francis
- Mrs Coates



Demonstrating Determination

Nursery

- Jacob
- Haris

Reception

- Lottie
- Grace

Year 1

- Phoenix
- Jad

Year 2

- Billie
- James

Year 3

- Arash
- Harry

Year 4

- George P
- Samuel
- Max Co
- Sienna

Staff

- Mrs Crozier



TIMES TABLES 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- Zephaniah

Year 3 - Dipti

Year 4 - Max Cr

TTRS - Highest accuracy

Year 2- Carter

Year 3 - Felix

Year 4 - Esim

Current Rank amongst nearby schools: 7th (Top 10 again - well done everyone!)

Mean studio speed (seconds per question): 3.17



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

- Izzy
- Josiah

Year 2

- Haniya
- Sami

Year 3

- Sacha
- Arash

Year 4

- Elli
- Joshua

Social Action Groups



At ARFS, our social action groups serve as a practical outworking of the school's theologically rooted Christian vision, empowering our children to become "courageous advocates" for change. These groups encourage children to live out our school values of love and determination by identifying and responding to needs within their local and global communities.

By participating in these social action groups, our children develop early leadership skills and a lifelong commitment to social responsibility, recognising that their voices and actions can truly improve the lives of others.



3 - Green Team



4 - Energy Champions



5 - Play Leaders



6 - Library Champions



7 - Worship Council



8 - School Council



9 - Hall monitors



SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Council have been looking at their role within school and thinking about how they would like to expand the theme of creating a healthy school. We have already begun weekly PE challenges and have discussed themed lunch days to encourage more people to eat a range of healthy foods. School Council will be asking Miss Cooper for a meeting to share their ideas.



PLAY LEADERS

Even though the weather has not been on our side this past fortnight, our Play Leaders have been working hard to engage our pupils in meaningful play during our time outside. We are also in the process of developing some activities that the girls can run during our indoor breaks to ensure that our breaks are used well, no matter the weather!



GREEN TEAM

Green Team were very excited to hear that we have been successful in our bid to North East Community Forest for some new hedge and tree planting on our school site.

Year 4 Green Team members spoke to us about the environmental impact of palm oil production as a driver for deforestation. We then watched a short film about palm oil and how we can find sustainable alternatives. We were shocked to learn how many everyday items contain palm oil!

Mrs Lowe gave us a brief outline of our upcoming visit to the Civic Centre on 5th February for the Net Zero Heroes event. We are really looking forward to representing our school and telling others about the work we have undertaken this year.



YOUNG LEADERS

We have been discussing our own leadership roles in Young Leaders this week and the roles and responsibilities that leadership brings. We have talked about the benefits of being a leader and the different ways in which we can do this in school.

We have also been starting to think about our local community and are looking forward to reaching out to some local leaders and hearing about their successes.



LIBRARY CHAMPIONS

This week our library champions have been helping Mrs Crozier with the new book order, very exciting! They have continued to keep the library tidy ensuring all books are organised correctly.

Clubs for Spring Term 1 (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

Any issues or complaints about external providers should be made directly to them, not to school, please.



10 - 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.](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>



11 - 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

We have been thinking about our school vision and what this looks like in different areas of our lives. We have talked about inclusion, staying safe (mentally, physically and emotionally) as well as using our 'moral compass' to make a difference to the lives of others. We have reflected upon the Equality Act and how we can make adjustments in school and beyond so everyone is included. We have also thought about future aspirations and careers where we could continue to fulfil this vision in order to enrich the lives of others. Our children never cease to amaze me with their thoughtful and considered responses.



Church Links



**All Saints
Gosforth**

Tree Planting

**7th February 2026
10am – 12 noon**

We will be planting trees at the West end of the green including:
8 trees of 100-200cm – e.g. Alder, Walnut, Rowan, Crab Apple, Lime, Field Maple, Silver birch.
15 'understory whips' of 40-60cm – e.g. Cherry, Plum, Wych Elm, Silver Birch, Yew, Hazel, Rowan.

If you can volunteer to help please contact:
post@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk.
Refreshments and a warm space inside the Centre will be provided.

Please come and talk to us if you would like more information.

Supported by



**Northumberland
Wildlife Trust**



**North East
Community
Forest**



BRUNDIBÁR
Arts Festival

A Voice Not Stilled

31 JANUARY - 8 FEBRUARY 2026

As we celebrate the 10th Brundibár Arts Festival, a milestone year, we are reminded that in today's divisive times our festival holds a vital role: to honour the losses brought by hatred and to affirm the unifying strength of art and remembrance.
Yet, music speaks louder than words, join us as this year's festival will be a musical feast!

- Alexandra Ralkhlina, Artistic Director

<p>SATURDAY 31 JANUARY OPENING CONCERT ST JAMES'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, 7.30PM</p>	<p>THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY A VOICE NOT STILLED ST JAMES'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, 7.30PM</p>
<p>MONDAY 2 FEBRUARY SHORT CONCERT SERIES: CONCERT 1 LITERARY & PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, 6.30PM</p>	<p>SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY SHORT CONCERT SERIES: CONCERT 4 ALL SAINTS CHURCH, GOSFORTH, 1.00PM</p>
<p>TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY SHORT CONCERT SERIES: CONCERT 2 LITERARY & PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, 1.00PM</p>	<p>SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY SHORT CONCERT SERIES: CONCERT 5 ALL SAINTS CHURCH, GOSFORTH, 6.30PM</p>
<p>TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY SHORT CONCERT SERIES: CONCERT 3 BRUNSWICK METHODIST CHURCH, 6.30PM</p>	<p>SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY CLOSING CONCERT KING'S HALL, NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY, 7.30PM</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY THE LAST MUSICIAN OF AUSCHWITZ FILM SHOWING TYNESIDE CINEMA, 7PM</p>	


Community Foundation North East MOTEL ONE Newcastle City Council The Joicey Trust



Valentines by Candlelight

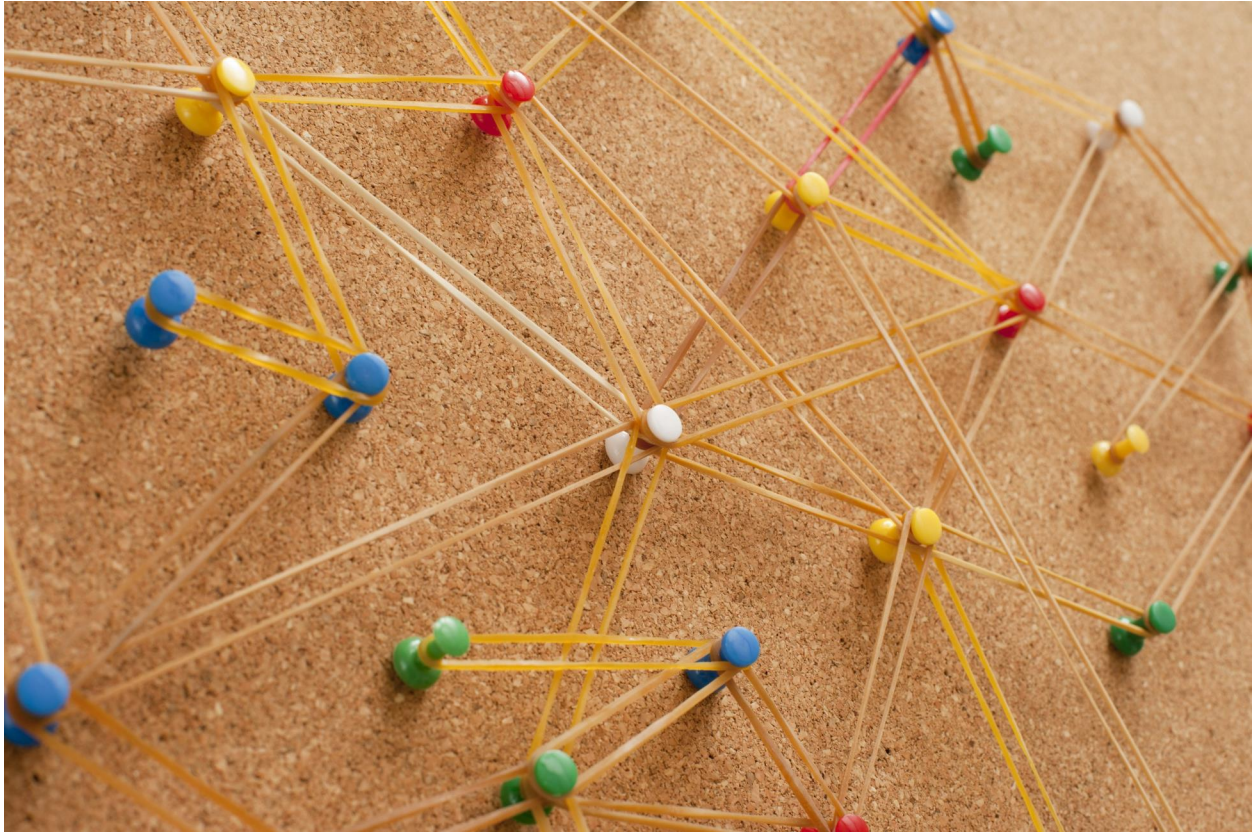
EVERREADY BAND
All Saints Church, West Avenue, Gosforth
7:30pm, Saturday, 14th February

An evening of music and romance by candlelight.



Scan QR code for tickets

School News



DONATIONS, PLEASE!

We are seeking donations of children's magazines and comic books, please. If you have any old comics that your child has finished with, please send them our way! These will be to further enhance our reading for pleasure offer so must be suitable content for children! Many thanks.



STRANGER THINGS

Stranger Things is a Netflix sci-fi horror series, set in the 1980s, that follows a group of young friends who uncover secret government experiments and a dangerous alternate dimension known as the "Upside Down". While it stars children, it is not appropriate for young children for several reasons, including:

- Violence
- Child trauma themes
- Mythical creatures that attack and consume the characters
- Language
- Substance use including references to taking illegal drugs
- Sexual themes

The show is recommended for ages 14+.



shutterstock.com · 1377672218



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

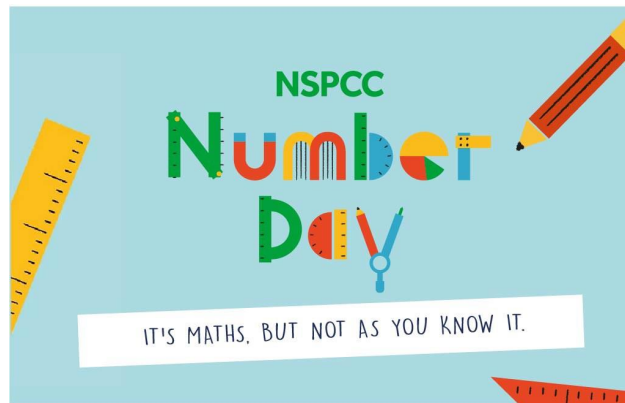
If you have a suggestion of something that we might benefit from, we'd love to hear from you!

Please make sure you get items delivered directly to school! Thank you



12 - 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.



NSPCC NUMBER DAY 2026

On Friday 6th February we will be celebrating the NSPCC annual fundraising Number Day!

We are inviting children to 'Dress Up for Digits' and come into school dressed up as a number! Throughout the day, each class will have the opportunity to take part in various maths challenges, games and deepen their understanding (and enjoyment) of all things number!

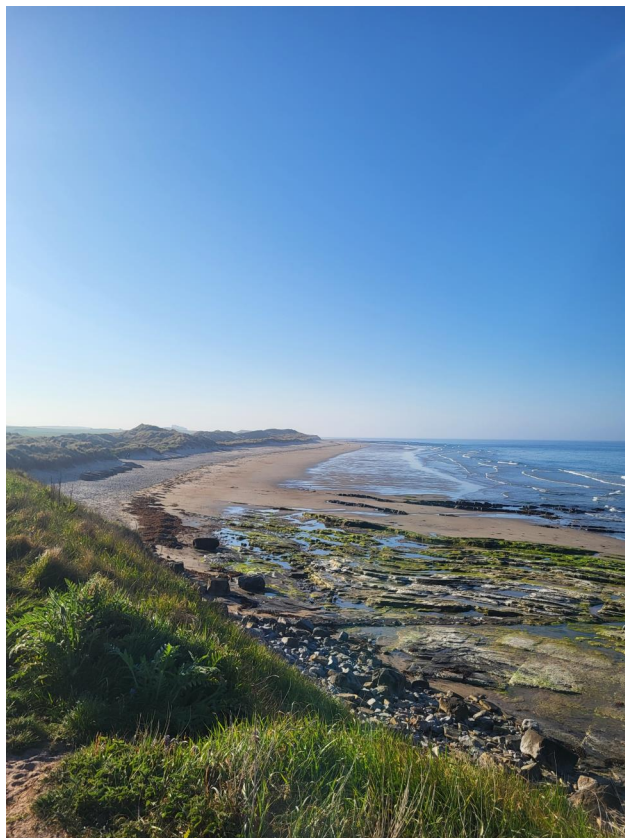
Donations can be made on ParentMail next Friday and will be paid directly to the NSPCC.



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 that you would like to discuss please feel free to drop in for a hot drink and a chat.



YEAR 4 SEAHOUSES RESIDENTIAL

Thank you to all the parents/carers who attended the meeting about the residential last week. We are excited to be able to, once again, offer our Year 4 pupils the fantastic opportunity to attend a one-night residential at Seahouses on Tuesday 5th May-Wednesday 6th May 2026.

Mrs Coates has sent out the presentation, permission letter and deposit link via ParentMail - a reminder that the deposit needs to be paid by **Friday 13th of February** to secure your child's place.

More information, including a packing list, will be send out prior to the Easter holidays.

Please contact Mrs Ellwood via email if you have any further questions - margery.ellwood@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk



UPCOMING PARENT WORKSHOP

On **Thursday 27th March at 2pm**, the Social, Emotional and Mental Health team from Newcastle City Council will be running a parent workshop on de-escalation and regulation.

We understand how difficult it can be to manage meltdowns at home and have invited the team in to share strategies on how best to support our families, offer advice to manage regulation and listen to any concerns that you may have.

This workshop is open to all families within our school community and will hopefully continue to strengthen the relationships between home and school.

Please email Mrs Ellwood if you require any further information - margery.ellwood@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk



PTFA UPDATE

Angela Nicholson has decided to step down from her role of Chair of the PTFA. Angela has been chair for 4 years but, now that her links to the school have moved on, she has decided to end her term. We are really grateful for Angela's time and support over the years - she has organised many enjoyable and successful events for our children and has helped raise money to support our school. I'm sure you will join me in thanking her and wishing her well for her future.

The new PTFA Committee will be meeting over the next couple of weeks and will, in due course, send their own newsletter with what is coming up and how parents, carers and other friends of the school can get involved.

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

- Nursery - Becky McBride
- Reception - Hannah Ballard
- Y1 - Shela Close
- Y2 - Cara Eckford
- Y3 - Hayley Cohen
- Y4 - Sarah McCrea

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

13 - Its not too late to sign up!



CAKE SALE

The next cake sale will be run by 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.





PERSONAL BELONGINGS

To foster a focused and equitable learning environment, could we kindly remind you that children should leave all toys and other personal items at home - please do not allow children to 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.

[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.



14 - Could you or a grandparent spare 20 - 30 minutes once or twice a week to help children with reading?

READING BUDDIES

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.

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 - What I Wish My Parents or Carers Knew

The Children's Commissioner has put together a fantastic guide for parents and carers. At around 26 pages it goes into a lot of depth including:

- Screen time.
- When bad things happen.

- Artificial intelligence.
- Conversation starters.
- Actions to take checklist.

Download the [Children's Commissioner - What I wish my parents and carers knew guide](#), at the bottom of the page you will find a PDF download and an activity pack.

Google - Under 13's Supervised Accounts

Google have once again found themselves in murky waters. You may be aware that a parent can create a Google account for under 13's, thereby letting Google know that this is a young child and therefore restrict some services. That account is supervised, it is managed by the parent, so far so good.

But until last week I didn't know that on the child's 13th birthday (in accordance with the DOB entered at the account creation stage), the child is sent an email from Google basically saying that they are old enough to turn off supervision, giving them instructions how to do so, and WITHOUT informing their parents, overriding any parental decision.

I only know this because I saw a post on LinkedIn, that post went viral and was picked up by the media. To be fair to Google they responded very quickly, but only due to public outcry, and the decision to turn off parental supervision is now firmly in the hands of parents, yet the policy to not empower parents with the decision has been in place for years, astonishing!

It might be worth letting your parents know about this, a lot of parents I speak to don't know that there is an under 13's option, and they definitely won't know if their child has turned 13 and supervision settings have been disabled. I have put some links below to help:

- [Create a Google account for your child under 13](#)
- LinkedIn - [Google emailed my youngest child today to tell him he is almost 13 and eligible to remove parental controls](#).
- LinkedIn - [Google changes their policy for parental supervision](#).



INTERNET SAFETY DAY

Safer Internet Day 2026 will take place on Tuesday 10th of February 2026, with celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'. We have invited GEM Education into school to lead sessions with children in Years 1 - 4.

We would also encourage parents and carers to discuss AI online with children. It is important they have the skills and confidence to make safe choices when they are using smart technology.

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>



15 - For family support, please scan.



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

Contact Us



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