



# Newsletter 2

19th September 2025

## Headteacher Message



The last two weeks have flown by and our children are well and truly back into the swing of things here - they have settled back into routines brilliantly. They continue to make us really proud with their amazing attitudes and behaviour and there has been a really positive atmosphere in school. I'm particularly impressed with our new Nursery and Reception friends who have settled in exceptionally well.

In the first week back, Mrs Coates sent a questionnaire to all families to check-in after summer and to see if any children needed any additional support. Only 60% of families completed this , however, it's not too late to pass on important information to classroom staff if you have not already done so.

It is beginning to feel a lot like autumn...! After what feels like months of sunshine, the rain has well and truly returned this week. So long as children have coats, waterproofs and wellies, we can still take them outside for a run around so please make sure children come prepared for the weather. Thank you.

A reminder that we are looking forward to seeing as many parents, carers and friends of the school on Friday 26th September at our Macmillan Coffee morning. Please spread the word. We would welcome donations of cakes, scones, biscuits and other baked goods to help make this a success. Thank you!

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.

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**"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.**

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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](mailto:jan.gurkin@clennelleducationsolutions.org)).

### **Attendance Headlines**

#### **Whole school attendance:**

- w/c 08/09/2025 - 95%
- w/c 15/09/2025 - 97%

#### **Highest class attendance:**

- w/c 08/09/2025 - Reception 99%
- w/c 15/09/2025 - Reception 99%

Well done Reception!

### **Absence Headlines**

During this fortnight, 65 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 08/09/2025 - 5%
- w/c 15/09/2025 - 3%

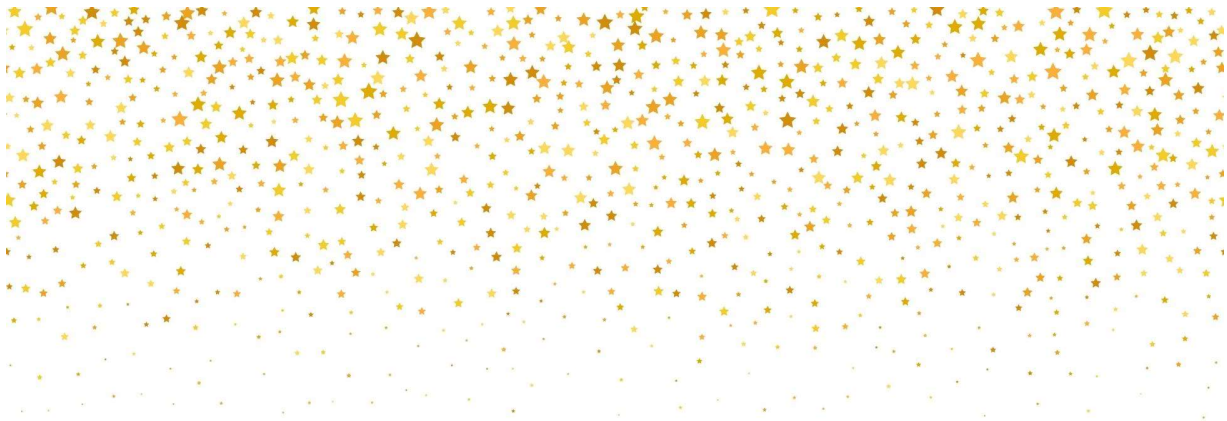
**Absence caused by holidays:**

- w/c 08/09/2025 - 1.5%
- w/c 15/09/2025 - 0.5%

**Other absences:**

- w/c 08/09/2025 - 3.5%
- w/c 15/09/2025 - 2.5%

School Celebrations!



## **Demonstrating Love**

### **Nursery**

- Matilda
- Charlotte

### **Reception**

- Lottie
- Grace

### **Year 1**

- Amanah
- Jude

### **Year 2**

- Evie
- Haniya

### **Year 3**

- Isla
- Melissa

### **Year 4**

- Teddy
- Eva

### **Staff**

- Miss Lawton
- Mrs Bannon



## **Demonstrating Determination**

### **Nursery**

- Henry
- Matilda

### **Reception**

- Milana
- Nooran

### **Year 1**

- Margot
- Grace

### **Year 2**

- Masa
- Nura

### **Year 3**

- Scarlett
- Eisa

### **Year 4**



- Hadin
- Henry

#### **Staff**

- Mrs Francis
- Mrs Lowe



#### **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-** Haniya

**Year 3 -** Mika

**Year 4 -** Henry

#### **TTRS - Highest accuracy**

**Year 2-** Carter

**Year 3 -** Felix

**Year 4 -** Esim

**Current Rank amongst nearby schools: 14**



Mean studio speed (seconds per question): 3.23

## 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
- Charlie

### Year 2

- Rudi
- Nyah

### Year 3

- Logan
- Musa

### Year 4

- Hannah
- Rahaf

## Social Action Groups



*2 - Green Team*



*3 - Play Leaders*



4 - Library Champions



5 - Worship Council



6 - School Council



## **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

School Council will be meeting with Mrs Francis next week. They are all very excited to get started.



## **LIBRARY CHAMPIONS**

The library champions have come up with some brilliant suggestions for improving our reading spaces in school, including changing up our library displays, making our classroom libraries feel more open and inviting and monitoring the reading shed on the yard to ensure our resources are being well looked after at playtimes and lunchtimes. Our library champions have also made some suggestions of new books they'd like added to the KS2 library. Well done, keep the ideas coming!



### **PLAY LEADERS**

We have really started to see Autumn arrive this week and bring with it some inclement weather, but this has not stopped our Play Leaders from committing to their cause! They have worked really hard to ensure the equipment is put away and spent time leading games on the yard when the field has been too wet to use. It has been great to see them helping out with activities when we have had to have indoor breaktime. Great work team!



### **GREEN TEAM**

Green Team has been out and about (despite the rain last week!) litter picking in the area around school. There was lots of rubbish to collect after the summer.

Green Team have supported Mrs Lowe with the implementation of the WOW challenge travel tracker each morning to record how their classmates have travelled to school.

We have also been helping Miss Cooper promote the new food waste bin in the lunch hall and make sure only food ends up in there... this is proving quite challenging!



## **WORSHIP COUNCIL**

Worship Council have met to think about which hymns we will sing at Harvest and think about what they would like to pray for during our Harvest Festival. I have been really impressed by their thoughtful, empathetic responses. Yesterday, they shared their ideas with Canon Shipton.



## **YOUNG LEADERS**

This week, Mrs Ellwood met with the Young Leaders for the first time and discussed their plans for the year ahead. There was lots of excitement from the large group and Mrs Ellwood shared the titles of the first unit in the training which was 'Leadership skills'. Our next session will look at what leadership skills are, which of them we possess already and how we can build upon them.





We are very much looking forward to kick-starting the Year 4 responsibilities on Friday 26th September with our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning. We would love to see as many of you there as possible - please help us spread the word! We would welcome donations of cakes, scones, biscuits and other baked goods to help make this a success (with ingredients listed, please). Thank you!



Today we have been wearing our jeans to raise awareness of and money for Jeans for Genes. Thank you to everyone who has donated to such a wonderful cause.



Around one in 25 children are affected by a genetic disorder. Jeans for Genes Day is an annual event that raises money and awareness for the genetic condition community to bring to light issues that impact them, celebrate their achievements and highlight the charities and organisations that support them.



We will be collecting for The People's Kitchen as part of our Harvest celebrations. The People's Kitchen is run entirely by volunteers so every penny donated goes directly to helping our vulnerable Friends who might be homeless, at risk, unemployed, lonely or living in poverty.

They are currently seeking donations of:

- **Tinned vegetables** - Plum tomatoes, chopped tomatoes, peas, carrots, sweetcorn, potatoes
- **Tinned fruit**- Peaches, pineapple, fruit cocktail, pears, mandarin oranges
- **Soup** - Any tinned or instant soups
- **Cooking ingredients** - Sugar, flour, dried rice, jam, coconut, cocoa, dried fruit, cooking oil, lentils, spices.
- **Snacks** - Pot noodles, pasta pots, crisps, biscuits, chocolate, sweets
- **Drinks** - UHT milk, coffee, tea, dilute orange juice, hot chocolate
- **Puddings** - Rice pudding, jelly, Angel delight, tinned or instant custard, syrup, evaporated milk
- **Tinned meat**- Ham, corned beef, chilli, curry, minced beef, bolognaise, stewing steak
- **Cooking sauces** - Indian, Thai, Chinese, Italian, Mexican, Coconut milk
- **Condiments** - Ketchup, brown sauce, mayonnaise, salt and pepper
- **Pasta & rice** - Lasagne, noodles, rice, pasta
- **Stock & gravy** - Gravy granules, stock cubes – vegetarian, beef, chicken, onion

- **Toiletries** - Soap, deodorants, shower gel, shampoo/conditioner, shave gel, toothpaste/brushes
- **Household** - Washing up liquid, Washing powder, J cloths, pan scrubs, non-scented washing powder, kitchen roll, carrier bags
- **Pet Food**- Wet and dry cat and dog food

Donations can be brought into school or made directly via their Amazon wish list:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/aw/ls/ref=aw\\_wl\\_sr\\_res\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&lid=W9L9OA4R7E10](https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/aw/ls/ref=aw_wl_sr_res_1_1?ie=UTF8&lid=W9L9OA4R7E10)

You can also donate by text - just text KITCHEN to 70490

## 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](mailto:admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk)
- All Stars - Tuesdays (fortnightly) 12:30pm email: [beckymcbride90@gmail.com](mailto: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/archbishopruncie>
- Gosforth Voices (Years 3 & 4) <https://www.newcastlemusicsservice.co.uk/ensembles>
- Gosforth Band (Years 3 & 4) <https://www.newcastlemusicsservice.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](mailto: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](mailto:archbishopruncie@childcarebookingsforschools.co.uk)

**Contact phone number:** 01444 523335



## Collective Worship

This week in worship, we have reflected on some of the skills that we need to be successful in the future. Last week, we thought about what it means to stay positive in challenging circumstances and talked about how Maya Angelou and the apostle Paul showed this skill. This week we have discussed the importance of aiming high and we have learned about role models such as Ruth Bader Ginsburg who had high ambitions to overcome injustice. We also discussed some well known characters from the Bible who had to aim high when they faced a challenge!





## Church Links





## This Autumn



Sunday 28th September  
Sunday 26th October  
Sunday 30th November  
at 3.00pm

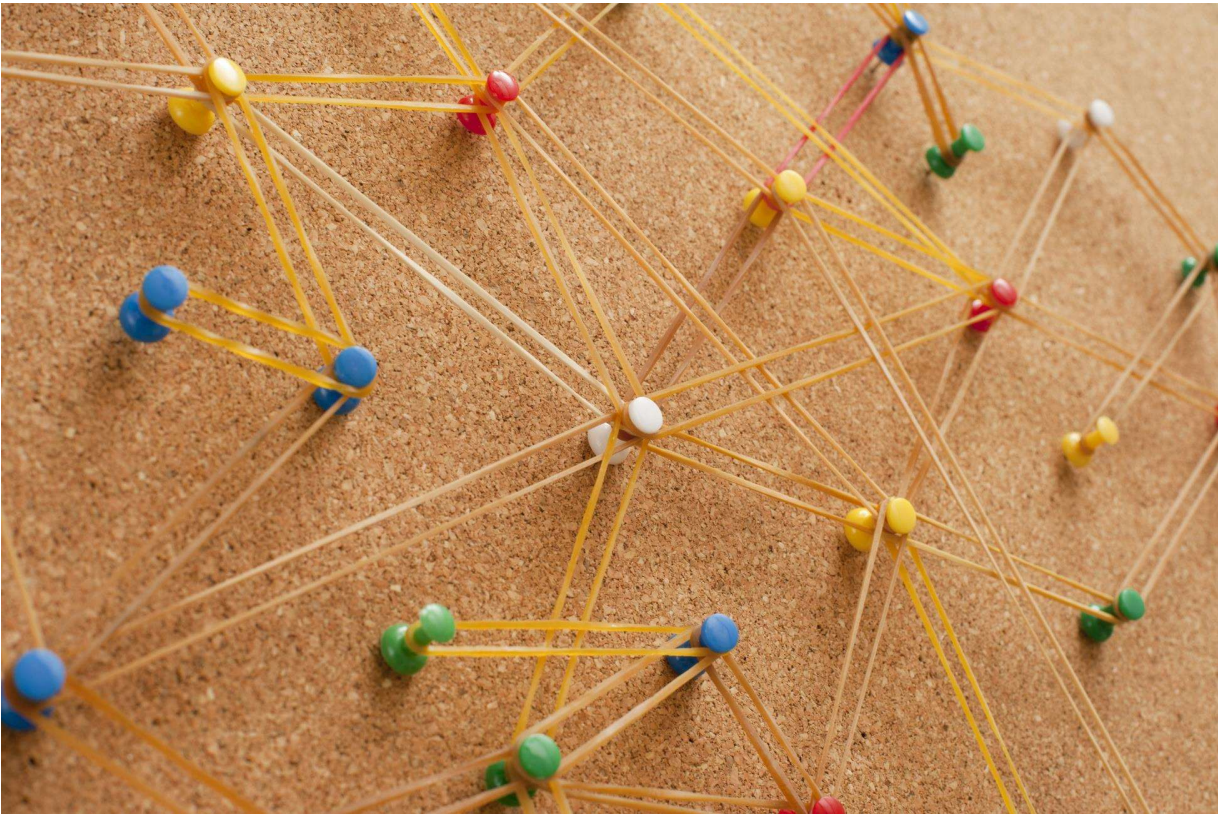
in the  
All Saints Centre  
West Avenue, NE3 4ES  
Tel 0191 2130450 for more details

Messy Church has restarted at All Saints' Church later this term. Messy Church is a form of church for children and adults that involves creativity, celebration and hospitality.

Please see attached poster for further information. It would be fantastic to have some children there representing our school!



School notices





## **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**

A reminder, playgroup runs every Wednesday from 1:30 - 3:00pm. Children aged 0-3 are invited to come and play in the school hall, accompanied by a parent or carer. Each session costs £3 per child and includes a snack and drink.

Playgroup is a great way to get to know our staff, other families and meet new friends. Everyone is welcome so please help us spread the word!



## **SCHOOL NURSE**

We have now bought in a School Nurse, Lauren Boll, to work with families in school once a month. Lauren will be in school on Friday 26th Sep, Thursday 23rd Oct and Friday 28th November 12:30 - 15:30. Initially, she will spend time in Nursery and Reception, getting to know the children and families but is also happy to support children further up the school. If you would like to arrange to meet with her, you can contact her directly via email: [myschoolhealthlauren@gmail.com](mailto:myschoolhealthlauren@gmail.com)<sup>1</sup>

Support can include:

- Behaviour
- Parenting Strategies
- Sleep
- Diet and Healthy Living

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<sup>1</sup><mailto:myschoolhealthlauren@gmail.com>

- Managing Additional Needs
- ASD the first 100 days
- Contenance and Toilet Training
- Accessing referrals and financial support



### **WOW WALK TO SCHOOL CHALLENGE**

*Did you know that 1 in 4 cars on the road each morning are on the school run? Encouraging our children to walk to school could reduce congestion outside our school gates and reduce carbon emissions.*

What are the benefits of walking to school?

- Children feel happier and healthier
- They arrive to school refreshed and ready to learn
- Helps reduce congestion and pollution at the school gates

Years 1 - 4 have now completed the WOW challenge for two weeks and already many of them are well on their way to earning their first badge! These will be awarded in Celebration Worship each Friday. Please remember that parking in ASDA and walking or cycling part of the journey counts as travelling actively on the travel tracker!







### **SEND COFFEE MORNING**

On Wednesday 24th September at 9:00am, we will be hosting our first SEND coffee morning of the year. This is a chance to get to know our SENCO, Mrs Ellwood, and engage in an informal discussion with both herself and other parents in our school community. Mrs Ellwood will be sharing some information about local support groups, inviting parents to complete a parent voice survey and will take feedback about themes for the coffee mornings throughout the year.

Please email Mrs Ellwood if you would like to attend - [margery.ellwood@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:margery.ellwood@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk)<sup>2</sup>



### **HARVEST FESTIVAL**

This year, our Harvest Festival will take place at All Saints' Church on Friday 3rd October. All children in Years 1 - 4 will attend and can either be collected directly from church at 2:30pm or they can return to school for usual collection at 3:15pm (or attend after school club). Please complete the ParentMail form to let us know where your child will be collected from.

Children in Nursery and Reception are welcome to come along with a parent or carer, if they wish. Please collect Nursery and Reception children at 1:00pm from school.

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<sup>2</sup><mailto:margery.ellwood@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk>

We are really looking forward to seeing lots of you in church for, what is always, a wonderful celebration.



### **FAMILY PARTNER**

We are delighted to let you know we now have an allocated Family Partner, Carly Burke. Carly can offer support through responsive groupwork and can provide information and can help families navigate support. Family Partners work closely with families and build trusting relationships. They liaise with support services and connect families into local activities and opportunities.

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







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.

## 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](mailto:admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk)<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup><mailto:admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk>