



December 2020


Newsletter 11 – 11.12.20

PTFA UPDATES

Walk to the North Pole!

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in our sponsored walk to the North Pole. The children are doing amazingly! Many of you are completing miles at home too- thank you!



	Distance walked to date	
Nursery	191	 Distance to North Pole 2,428 miles
Reception	176	
Year 1	247	
Year 2	270	
Year 3	262	
Year 4	461	
Total so far	1,607 miles – 821 miles to go!	



We would be grateful if children could **return their sponsor forms** and money to school on either Friday 18th December or Monday 4th January please. Thank you!

Class Hampers

The raffle will be drawn next Wednesday so purchased tickets **MUST** be returned to school by **Tuesday 15th**

December in order to be entered into the draw. Please remember to write your child's name on the back of the ticket and place that half back into the envelope before you send it back!



DFE UPDATES

You will already be aware that the Department for Education (DfE) has announced that schools may end the school term on Thursday 17th December, if they wish to. GST schools have agreed that we **will remain open** to children on this day, as planned, in order to support our families and their childcare needs. We will break up for Christmas on Friday 18th December and will maintain the usual home time arrangements.

In the event that someone in your household tests positive between the end of term and 24th December, please contact the school via the admin e-mail address as usual.

REQUEST FOR DONATIONS

Nursery, Reception and Year 1 are in need of spare boys' and girls' knickers and girls tights aged 3-4, 4-5, 5-6 and 6-7. These can be left in boxes outside classrooms and will be quarantined before being used. Thank you!



If your child is sent home in school knickers or tights, we would be grateful if you could please either wash and return them or replace them. Thank you.



CHRISTMAS Elf Craft Stall

The children (and staff) really enjoyed the Elf Craft Stall on Monday and Thursday this week. I received several letters from Reception children warning me that a naughty elf had been in my office whilst I was out!!

Film Nights

The class film nights on Wednesday and Thursday were wonderful and a festive end to the term. Thank you to the PFTA who provided refreshments and to the staff for staying after school to support the event.



Class Parties

Class parties take place next week for Nursery- Year 3. Children can wear party clothes to school if they wish but no not need to bring anything with them as refreshments etc will be provided. Donations for party food can be made via ParentMail. Thank you.

Christmas fun day

Today has been an AMAZING day in school! My office is next to the courtyard so Mr Booth and I have thoroughly enjoyed watching each class play in the snow today! Children will each bring a small memento home with them, next week, to remember their Covid-Christmas celebrations of 2020! Thank you for your support to allow this event to happen.

Hardship donations

As previously explained, a parent kindly suggested that our school set up a fund for families that are struggling at this time of year. This fund has enabled all children to participate with the Christmas activities happening in school (Elf Craft Stall, festive surprise, film night, class parties, Christmas lunch etc). If you would like to make a donation (of up to £10) you can still do so via ParentMail. Thank you in advance for generosity and to those of you who have already kindly donated. We have been blown away by the kindness of our parents and carers. Thank you all so much! **Please note there is no requirement to make this donation. It is only for those parents who feel able to do so.**

Any parents who are currently experiencing financial difficulties are invited to email Mrs Pygall and she will arrange for these costs to be covered for your child. This will be completely confidential. In addition, please also remember that you can also contact the PTFA to see if they have any Christmas jumpers or pre-loved uniform that could be donated or school can use the donations to cover these costs.



COVID-19 UPDATES

Please remember to wear masks and distance from others on the yard. Thank you.



ALL STARS

Unfortunately, Chinyere and her family are sadly leaving Newcastle at the end of this term. We would like to thank Chinyere for her help in re-establishing All Stars, leading worship through Open the Book and her support of the school throughout the family's time here.

Susan and Rachel and now seeking another parent to help them continue to run All Stars (virtually for now but hopefully face-to-face before too long). If anyone is interested in helping or finding out more, please contact them for further details via email susan_abraham@hotmail.co.uk Thank you!

RARING 2 GO!

Raring2go! magazine has just been published electronically which may be helpful in planning days out (or not!) over the holiday. Hopefully next year we will get back to normal with a printed magazine in the Spring (mid March). In the meantime, digital information will carry on via the website, social media and e-newsletters.

<https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/newcastleandgateshead/winter/>



NURSERY PLACES

We are now receiving applications for new Nursery starters for April 2021 for any child who has turned three. If you would like to find out more information, please contact Mrs Francis. We would love to meet your little ones!



Please remember that admission to our Nursery does not guarantee a place in our Reception class as the application process is entirely separate.

SAFEGUARDING

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.

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>

HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

I would like to thank all our children, staff, parents, governors and other community members for the support that has been shown for our school this term. The children have been a delight to be around and, this term, they have made astounding progress; settling back into school routines brilliantly! Our staff have worked their socks off. They have juggled home learning and face-to-face teaching, children's wellbeing and covid risks amazingly and I cannot thank them enough for their positivity and commitment to the school. I hope they all have a well-earned break over the holidays and I know they will return to school in January full of ideas and enthusiasm for spring term.

If I do not see you before, I would like to wish you all a safe and restful Christmas and all the very best for 2021. See you all on Monday 4th January!

With my very best wishes as always,

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.

Monday 14th December	Year 4 Outdoor Games morning	9:30am	Please wear PE kits
	Year 3 Christmas party	1:00pm	Please wear party clothes to school and pay for party food via ParentMail (£2 per child)
	Board games will be returned		
Tuesday 15th December	Year 2 Christmas party	1:00pm	Please wear party clothes to school and pay for party food via ParentMail (£2 per child)
	Deadline to return named, purchased raffle tickets to school along with money (in envelope provided).		
Wednesday 16th December	Nursery & Reception Christmas parties (part time children invited to stay all day)	1:00pm	Please wear party clothes to school and pay for party food via ParentMail (£2 per child)
	Raffle drawn		
	Gosforth Voices & Gosforth Band Party	3:45-4:30pm	Please register via link in Newsletter 3
Thursday 17th December	Year 1 Christmas party	1:00pm	Please wear party clothes to school and pay for party food via ParentMail (£2 per child)
	Raffle prizes sent home with children		
	Christmas crafts sent home from school with children		
Friday 18th December	Children invited to wear Christmas jumpers and headwear to school (please wear the rest of uniform as normal)		
	Christingle Service in school for children and staff with Rev'd Jane Nattress (Gosforth, St Nicholas')	2:00pm	Please collect children at the end of the school day as usual.
	School closes for Christmas holidays	3:20pm	
21st Dec - 1st January 2021	Christmas holidays		School closed to children
January 2021			
Monday 4th January	School re-opens to children	8:40am	
	Please return PTFA sponsor forms and money for the Walk to the North Pole		
	Please return Christingle candle boxes filled with loose change as donations for the Children's Society.		
15th January 2021	Deadline for Reception applications for September 2021	noon	
February 2021			
15 -19th February	Half Term		School closed to children
March 2021			
April 2021			

2-16th April	Easter holidays		School closed to children
Monday 19th April	Staff Training Day		School closed to children
Wednesday 21st - Thursday 22nd April 2021	Y4 Residential		
19th March	GST Deadline Applications for Nursery places for September 2021		
26th March	GST Letters of offer for Nursery places		
May 2021			
Monday 3rd May	Bank holiday		
June 2021			
31st May - 4th June	Half term		
July 2021			
Friday 23rd July	School closes for summer		

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