



# January 2023

## Newsletter 9 – 20.1.23

### WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

	Whole School Attendance <small>(excluding Nursery)</small>	Highest class attendance!	Second place	Third place
<b>Wb 9.1.23</b>	96%	Nursery (100%)	Year 2 (99%)	Reception (98%)
<b>Wb 16.1.23</b>	96%	Reception & Y1 (99%)	Year 2 (96.3%)	Nursery & Y4 (96%)

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.

If you are experiencing any difficulties and need support with your child's attendance, please contact school as soon as possible.

We are keen to gather parent/carers views on strategies to improve attendance. Please see the questionnaire on ParentMail.

### MINUTES MISSED

This fortnight, 441 (7 hours and 21 mins) minutes of learning time have been missed in school due to lateness.



### ABSENCE DATA

	Whole School absence <small>(excluding Nursery)</small>	Absence caused by holidays	Other absences
<b>Wb 9.1.23</b>	3.56%	1.57%	1.99%
<b>Wb 16.1.23</b>	3.53%	0.3%	3.5%



## 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).

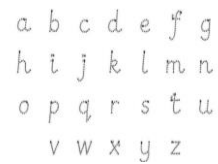


In school, we have been looking to see children demonstrating these core values. The following children have been nominated by staff and/or peers for showing these values in school. Well done everyone!

	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
<b>Demonstrating Love</b>	Nyah Shloka	Nnamdi Ava	Esim Alicia	Nialah Daniel	Jake Mabel	Zoe Hugo
<b>Demonstrating Determination</b>	Billie Rosa	Isla Daniel	Mabel Rio	Lydia Scarlett	Layla J Sammy	Oliver Austin

## HANDWRITER OF THE WEEK

We are having a real drive in school to improve handwriting, presentation of work and spelling. Each week, the 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
Rohan	Elias	Bobby	Denver	Rohan
Logan	Hayden	George	Max	Fatima

## NEU STRIKE ACTION

Many of you will have seen the news this week that the National Education Union have voted for strike action due to concerns not only about pay, but also about recruiting new teachers into our profession. Many schools have seen a significant decline in the number of high-quality applicants for teaching and teaching assistant jobs which is very worrying for the future of education.

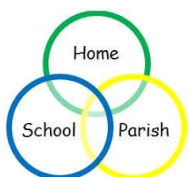


Due to proposed action, there may be disruption to schooling in a number of schools during February and March which might include the closure of some or all classes. I am currently working with the staff, unions and Local Authority to plan for the strike days and I will keep you informed as soon as I know which classes may be affected.

I will write again with further updates next week.

## MEDICAL TRACKER

We have now started using Medical Tracker to inform parents and carers of minor accidents at school. Our intention is, in time, to use this app for administration of medication too. We would, as always, welcome any feedback. Thank you



## CHURCH LINKS

It is lovely to have a range of worship leaders from All Saints' Church – we have welcomed back Mr Shipton as well as welcoming Rev'd Miriam Jones and Jaddai (Youth Worker) along too.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Year 2 led Collective Worship linked to Epiphany last week. It was lovely to celebrate the “ahah” moment of the magi.



We have been thinking about Christianity as a living, world faith during collective worship this week. We have learned about the church in the Arctic, China and Egypt so far. It has been really interesting to look at some similarities and differences in traditions and outlooks.

## PE DAYS

As you will already know from Class Topic Webs, PE days have been slightly adjusted for some classes for this term:

<b>Nursery</b>	Monday
<b>Reception</b>	Monday
<b>Year 1</b>	Thursday
<b>Year 2</b>	Friday
<b>Year 3</b>	Friday
<b>Year 4</b>	Thursday



Children in Years 1 – 4 should arrive at school in their PE kit on their PE day please. A polite reminder that this is navy jogging bottoms and sweatshirt/hoodie and/or royal blue shorts and a yellow T-shirt. Children should wear well fitting trainers that they can fasten themselves please. Please do not send children to school in their own clothes for PE.



## PARKING

Parking around school remains a significant issue for our school. I have been alerted to a parent being verbally abused and intimidated by a resident due to parking outside their house on one of the terraces. Obviously, this is very distressing for our young children to witness and this is completely unacceptable. The incident has been reported to the police.

Whilst this behaviour is in no way warranted, I would like to remind parents and carers to park courteously and legally around school, this includes **not blocking driveways and garages**. Thank you.

## NO DOGS ON SCHOOL SITE

A polite reminder that dogs (except assistance dogs) should be left outside the school gates please and not brought on to the yard under any circumstances. This includes small dogs and puppies that can be carried. Many thanks for your understanding.



## HARDSHIP SUPPORT



Please find below details of support available to all families living in Newcastle who may be struggling because of the huge cost of living increases. Steep rises in energy prices are outstripping wage and benefit increases and putting enormous pressure on daily life. Some are facing an unacceptable choice between heating and eating. A direct link is available here: <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/cost-living-support>.

Please remember that School is always here to help and support our families, so if you have any concerns at all, please speak to Mrs Massey, Mr Booth or the School Office. All conversations remain confidential.

## WEBSITE UPDATE

You may have noticed that [our school website](#) is having a refresh! Please do have a look and let us know if you think of anything useful that could be added or if you are unable to find anything. Thank you!





## NEWCASTLE SUPPORT DIRECTORY

Please see the attached Newcastle Support Directory for children and families and SEND local offers.

### PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Thank you to those parents and carers who responded to the questionnaire last term. We had 55 responses. Please see a summary of those responses below.



<b>1. How well has your child managed the transition to their new class?</b>	Responses were almost universally positive with two suggestions about parents meeting staff before the end of the school year and the timing of welcome meetings. This feedback will be considered in future plans.
<b>2. Following parental feedback last year, we increased our Parent/Teacher Consultations to meet twice this term (pastoral focus in September and progress in November). How useful was it to meet with the Class Teacher twice?</b>	Most parents said they weren't sure how useful the two meetings (rather than one) were or that they wouldn't mind if it didn't go ahead. If future, we will offer one meeting only in Autumn Term.
<b>3. You may be aware that we have moved to ReadWriteInc (RWI) Phonics Scheme. If your child is currently learning phonics (Reception, Year 1 and selected Year 2 children), what do you feel are the benefits and strengths of the RWI system?</b>	<p>The overwhelming majority of responses were positive. Parents felt benefits included structure, rapid improvements in their child's reading, parent workshops explaining RWI and how it is taught in school.</p> <p>A very small number of parents felt some books were not terribly interesting! E-books were popular amongst children and parents, in particular the quizzes after reading.</p>
<b>4. If your child is reading beyond phonics and is accessing Accelerated Reader, what do you think are the benefits and strengths of the system?</b>	<p>Of those who responded, all were positive except two parents/carers who felt they found out their child had moved on from phonics a bit late. Those who did write said it was good and that children had a wide choice of books.</p> <p>We will endeavour to ensure parents and carers are kept well informed when their child moves off phonics.</p> <p>A couple of parents said that their child rushed to do the quiz.</p>
<b>5. In September, we held welcome meetings for each Year Group. Do you have any feedback from these meetings?</b>	<p>Feedback of those who attended was extremely positive. There were queries about timing and childcare (meetings were held at 5:30pm).</p> <p>We are, unfortunately, unable to hold parent workshops during the day due to teachers teaching commitments but will ensure we give as much notice for meetings as possible.</p>
<b>6. We have also held several workshops for parents and carers in school since September. Which, if any, have you attended?</b>	<p>We had fewest responses for this question. Again, some queries about timing and childcare (meetings were held at 5:30pm after After School Club). We are, unfortunately, unable to hold parent workshops during the day due to teachers' teaching commitments and available space in school but we will ensure we give as much notice for meetings as possible.</p> <p>There were no further workshops requested.</p>



<b>7. We currently set weekly homework via IXL and weekly spellings linked to learning in school (Years 1 to 4 only). What do you feel are the benefits/could be better?</b>	<p>The responses were mostly positive. Parents like the online element and that tasks link to current learning.</p> <p>There was a query about a child being unable to access because they were unable to use a mouse and one comment about negative scoring. Some parents requested paper based tasks such as handwriting rather than/as well as computer based activities.</p>
<b>8. During Autumn 1, we provided lunchtime clubs for children in Years 1 to 4. If your child attended, what did they enjoy most?</b>	<p>All comments were positive except some comments about some clubs getting booked up quickly. We will continue to let parents and carers know when booking for clubs will begin to give equal opportunity to all. There was a request for more sports clubs but, due to lunches and After School Club, the hall is used at lunchtimes and immediately after school.</p>
<b>9. We regularly talk to our children about our school values, vision, mission and ethos in school. How well do you understand these as a parent/carer?</b>	<p>Responses to this question were all very positive! Comments were very strong about the values but a couple of parents felt less confident articulating the vision and mission.</p> <p>Suggestions to further develop parent/carer understanding with continued communication around these areas will be considered.</p>
<b>10. As you will be aware, we have a wraparound facility for both breakfast and after school club. If your child attends either, please answer the following questions.</b>	<p>Responses were mixed. Half of parents/carers prefer half-termly bookings, the other half prefer monthly.</p> <p>Feedback on the care/activities offered at wraparound was very positive.</p> <p>Further development suggestions included an alternative booking system. Ms Lowe will look into this!</p>
<b>11. Overall what is currently working well for your child at school? What could be further improved?</b>	<p>There were so many positive responses – thank you! (Staff were usually number one!).</p> <p>There were a couple of queries around wanting more sporting opportunities (see above).</p> <p>One parent said the fortnightly newsletter can be too wordy(!!) but we try to include as much information in this as possible to avoid daily emails! This is in response to previous feedback.</p> <p>A few parents/carers would like more opportunities to come into school (which hopefully we can continue to increase) and one parent asked for air filters in classrooms (which is not a financially viable option).</p>
<b>12. Would you recommend this school to another family?</b>	<p>97% of parents and carers said they would recommend our school. Thank you! ☺</p> <p>Reasons included the small size, the family feel, nurture, the close community, happy children, each child being known and loved, Christian ethos/values, relationships with staff, inclusivity, strong teaching/lessons, well resourced, children enjoy it, EYFS.</p>

It was wonderful to read your responses over the holidays. Thank you to everyone who took the time to give feedback. It is very much appreciated.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

Mrs Massey, Mr Booth, Miss Willett and Mrs Francis 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>

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

## DIARY DATES

New dates are in red, for your information

Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Reception Vision Screening	am	Details were sent out via ParentMail in November.
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Gosforth Voices rehearsal	3:45-4:45pm	Grange First School, Gosforth, NE3 2NP
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Christingle Service at St Nicholas' Cathedral for Year 4 children	1:30pm	Please complete permission form on ParentMail
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	School Council Meeting	2:45pm	
	Year 1 – 4 PE activities in school		All children need to wear PE kit please
<b>February 2023</b>			
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> February	Gosforth Band rehearsal	3:45-4:45pm	Archibald First School, Gosforth, NE3 1EB.
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Year 3 leading Candlemas Worship	9:00am	Parents and carers of Year 3 welcome to attend
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	NSPCC Number Day		Children invited to "wear a number" to school. Donations to NSPCC can be made via ParentMail.
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Gosforth Voices rehearsal	3:45-4:45pm	Grange First School, Gosforth, NE3 2NP
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Selected Year 1 children to visit Gosforth Park First School as part of "Gosforth Gets Going"	10:00am	Parents/carers of selected children will be contacted via ParentMail. Children who have PE should wear suitable clothing please.
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Deadline for Spring 2 wraparound bookings		Please book via ParentMail
	Choir Competition at Durham Cathedral <b>TBC</b>		More info to follow
	Closing date for summer term Nursery applications		
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 1 leading Worship	9:00am	Parents and carers of Year 1 welcome to attend.
	Year 3 visitor from People's Kitchen	11:00am	
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Gosforth Band rehearsal	3:45-4:45pm	Archibald First School, Gosforth, NE3 1EB.
	PTFA Film Night	3:15-5:15pm	No After School Club
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	School Council Meeting	2:45pm	
20-24 February	Half term		School closed to children
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	School reopens to children		

<b>March 2023</b>			
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Gosforth Voices rehearsal	3:45-4:45pm	Grange First School, Gosforth, NE3 2NP
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	World Book Day		
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Welcome Meeting for parents and carers of children starting Nursery in summer term	5:00pm	
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Teacher Consultations	pm	
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Gosforth Band rehearsal	3:45-4:45pm	Archibald First School, Gosforth, NE3 1EB.
10-19 March	British Science Week		We will be looking for parents and carers to visit school to lead science themed activities! Please contact Miss Waters if you are interested in joining us.
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Nursery Forest School	am	Children must wear long sleeved tops and trousers. We will be outdoors regardless of the weather so please send clearly named wellies, waterproofs, hats and gloves (and possibly a named change of clothes!) £1 donations can be made via ParentMail Please send children in their usual PE kit on their PE day. Thank you.
	Year 4 Forest School	pm	
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 Forest School	am	
	Year 2 Forest School	pm	
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Reception Forest School	am	
	Year 3 Forest School	pm	
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Gosforth Band rehearsal	3:45-4:45pm	Archibald First School, Gosforth, NE3 1EB.
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Years 3 & 4 Mothers' Day Service	9:00am	Parents and carers of Years 3 & 4 welcome to attend.
	Years 1 & 2 Mothers' Day Service	2:45pm	Parents and carers of Years 1 & 2 welcome to attend.
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Nursery & Reception Mothers' Day Service	9:00am	Parents and carers of Nursery & Reception welcome to attend.
	Meeting for parents and carers of Year 2 children regarding end of KS1 assessments	5:30pm	Adults only please
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Gosforth Voices rehearsal	3:45-4:45pm	Grange First School, Gosforth, NE3 2NP
	Meeting for parents and carers of Year 4 children regarding Multiplication Tables Check & Residential	5:30pm	Adults only please
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Deadline for Summer 1 Wraparound bookings	-	Please book via ParentMail
	School Council Meeting	2:45pm	
27-31 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 4 swimming lessons each day	-	More info to follow
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 & 2 Multi skills (in school)	pm	Please wear PE kits
	Meeting for parents and carers of Year 1 children regarding Phonics Screen	5:30pm	Adults only please
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Reception Stay & Play	2:00pm	Reception parents & carers invited
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Nursery Stay & Play	2:00pm	Nursery parents and carers invited
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2 leading Palm Sunday Worship	9:00am	Parents and carers of Year 2



			welcome to attend.
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Deadline to accept Nursery place offers for summer term		
	Deadline for residential payments (Year 4 Dukeshouse Wood and Year 3 camping at school with Mr H)		Details will be sent via ParentMail
<b>April 2023</b>			
3.4.23-14.4.23	Easter holidays		School closed to children
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	School reopens to children		
	Reception places offered by LA		
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	School Council Meeting	2:45pm	
<b>May 2023</b>			
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2023	Bank holiday		School closed to children
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Additional Bank Holiday in light of the announcement of His Majesty's coronation.		School closed to children
11-12 May 2023	Year 4 Residential at Dukeshouse Wood		Details to follow
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 1 leading Christian Aid Worship	9:00am	Parents and carers of Year 1 welcome to attend.
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 leading Ascension Worship	9:00am	Parents and carers of Year 4 welcome to attend.
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Deadline for booking Summer 2 wraparound		Please book via ParentMail
	School Council Meeting	2:45pm	
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Nursery Forest School	am	Children must wear long sleeved tops and trousers. We will be outdoors regardless of the weather so please send clearly named wellies, waterproofs, hats and gloves (and possibly a named change of clothes!) £1 donations can be made via ParentMail
	Year 4 Forest School	pm	
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Year 1 Forest School	am	
	Year 2 Forest School	pm	
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Reception Forest School	am	
	Year 3 Forest School	pm	
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 3 leading Pentecost Worship	9:00am	Parents and carers of Year 3 welcome to attend.
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Staff Training Day	-	School closed to children
26.5.23-2.6.23	Half Term		
<b>June 2023</b>			
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	School reopens to children		
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 leading Trinity Worship	9:00am	Parents and carers of Year 4 welcome to attend.
Wb Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Phonics Screen		
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Nursery & Reception games (in school)	am	Children will wear PE kits in school
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Welcome Meeting for parents and carers of children starting Nursery in September 2023	5:30pm	
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Welcome Meeting for parents and carers of children starting Reception in September 2023	5:30pm	
19 <sup>th</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> June	School Sports Week		Children to wear sports clothing all week (School PE kit on their Sports Day) please

Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception Sports Day	2:00pm	Reception children to wear school PE kits please
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Sports Day	2:00pm	Year 1 children to wear school PE kits please
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Nursery Sports Day	9:30am	Nursery children to wear school PE kits please
	Year 2 Sports Day	2:00pm	Year 2 children to wear school PE kits please
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Year 4 Sports Day	2:00pm	Year 4 children to wear school PE kits please
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Year 3 Sports Day	2:00pm	Year 3 children to wear school PE kits
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 3 activities and sleepover at school with Mr H Outdoor Experiences	All day & night	More info to follow
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	School Council Meeting	2:45pm	
<b>July 2023</b>			
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> & Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Provisional Transition Days for GST		
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Deadline for wraparound bookings for Autumn 1		Please book via ParentMail
	School Council Meeting	2:45pm	
17-21 <sup>st</sup> July	Year 3 swimming lessons each day this week		More info to follow
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Year 4 Leavers Service	9:00am	Parents and carers of Year 4 welcome to attend.
	School closes for summer	3:15pm	
<b>September 2023</b>			
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2023	Staff training day		
<b>October 2023</b>			
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Staff training day		
30.10.23 - 3.11.23	October half term		
<b>December 2023</b>			
22.12.23 – 5.1.24	Christmas Holiday		
<b>February 2024</b>			
19.2.24 – 23.2.24	February Half Term		
<b>March 2024</b>			
29.3.24 – 12.4.24	Easter Holiday		
<b>May 2024</b>			
27.5.24 – 31.5.24	May Half Term		
<b>June 2024</b>			
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024	Staff training day		
<b>July 2024</b>			
22.7.24 – 30.8.24	Summer Holidays		
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024	School re-opens to children		

**Be courageous; be strong.**

**Do everything in love.**

1 Corinthians 16:13-14