



January 2024

Newsletter 9 – 19.1.24

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 8.1.24	95%	Nursery & Reception 100%	Year 4 (97%)	Year 3 (94%)
Wb 15.1.24	96%	Year 3 (88.3%)	Year 4 (98%)	Year 1 (97%)

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, 285 (4 hours and 45 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 8.1.24	5%	1%	4%
Wb 15.1.24	4%	1%	3%

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	Ehi Isla	Ira James	Alistair Cai	Mia Mabel	Jacob C Rosa	Huwariya Lauren
Demonstrating Determination	Phoenix Grace	Ollie S Annabelle	Musa Harriet Marwa	Jesse Hannah	Thomas Abbie	Charlie Alfie

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)	Thanuja Teddy Joshua Henry	Thanuja Teddy Mabel Rory	2
Year 3	x 2, x 5, x 10, x 3, x 4, x 8 (and corresponding division facts)	Rehan Percy Theo Bella	Rehan Lydia Bella Percy	1
Year 4	All tables to 12 x 12 (and corresponding division facts)	Alfie Zidan Yusuf Zain	Zidan Yusuf Emilia Yaz	1
Current rank of ARFS among nearby schools		11	Mean studio speed (seconds per question)	4.02

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
Marcel Nyah	Scarlett Ryan	Eva Sienna	Livie Jerome	Victory Isaac

SECTION 3: SOCIAL ACTION



WORSHIP COUNCIL

Huge thanks to our amazing Worship Council who led our Carol Service at the end of term – I'm sure you will agree they were fantastic!

GREEN TEAM

Green Team will get back up and running after February half term once it is a bit warmer!



LIBRARY CHAMPIONS



Library Champions have made a super start after Christmas and our Year 4s are training up our Year 2 and 3 Library Champions. They have explained how the library works and how we can take care of the books as well as reflecting on their favourite books and giving recommendations to others.

PLAYGROUND LEADERS

This week, Year 4 have been trained as Playground Leaders who will set up and lead activities on the yard. Watch this space to see the next developments!



SECTION 4: SCHOOL NEWS!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope you all had a restful break over Christmas and 2024 has started well for you. Thank you for all the kind messages, cards and gifts that we received before Christmas. The children have returned to school really positively and we are looking forward to all that this term has in store! There are lots of dates attached, please make a note of them!



Mrs Ravel has made the decision to resign from her post of Deputy Headteacher at our school due to personal circumstances. Governors have now commenced recruitment for a Deputy Headteacher to start in school as soon as possible and will be recruiting a SENCo in due course.



READ WRITE INC

Each half term, Mrs Egdell assesses all children who access phonics. The children are then re-grouped accordingly. This may mean that, occasionally, some children are in the same group more than once and will, as such, repeat texts in order to develop their fluency and pace of reading. All children learn to read at different rates and progress is not linear; children will have periods of faster and slower progress during their lives and this is perfectly normal! You can support your child's reading progress by listening to them read every day. It is only by reading and re-reading texts several times that children will develop sight-reading and fluency.



PARKING

Please remember that parents/carers are invited to park at ASDA and walk the remainder of the journey to school.

If you choose to drive down Christon Road, please DO NOT park in front of garages/driveways (even if they look unused) or on double yellow lines or zig-zag lines. These are here to ensure your children have a clear view of oncoming traffic when crossing the road. If cars are parked in these areas, children cannot see if it is safe to cross. Additionally, please DO NOT use the junction by the Residents Association to turn in. Reversing into a road where children are crossing is highly dangerous.



I am aware of two cyclists being knocked off their bikes on Christon Road in recent weeks. Please take great care when driving around school.

Thank you for your cooperation, support and understanding.



METRO TESTING

As you may already be aware, Stadler have been carrying out tests on new Metro trains this week which have involved loud bangs and horns sounding. Stadler thanks you for the patience you have shown during the project to build and supply a new fleet of trains for the Tyne and Wear Metro and a new facility at Gosforth. The depot will be ready this month and Nexus plans to introduce trains into service this year.



DONATIONS

We are seeking donations of girls and boys pants, socks and tights in ages 5-6, 6-7, 7-8 and 8-9 please. Thank you.



We would be grateful if all spare items could be washed and returned to school as soon as possible, please.

PTFA



The PTFA have several events coming up – please see dates attached. The first of these will be a Valentines sale sake after school. We will be seeking donations of cakes and biscuits on 14th February to sell, please. In line with Natasha’s Law, please include a list of all ingredients in case of food allergies and intolerances. Thank you.



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Over the last couple of weeks in worship, we have reflected on Epiphany, journeys and light. We have thought about why light is important, Jesus as the light of the world, the Bible as a light and people as lights.

RECEPTION BUDDIES

Year 4 have been accompanying their Reception friends into the lunch hall, helping them choose and carry their lunch, use knives and forks then taking them out to play on “the big yard”. It has been amazing to see these new friendships developing and the confidence of our Reception children growing each day. Huge thanks to our amazing Year 4 children for being such good friends and role models.



CLUBS

Lunchtime Clubs started on Monday lunchtime and everyone seemed to enjoy their sessions! Clubs are always particularly popular in the winter months when it is cold outside! Children will go for lunch at their usual time then attend clubs after they have eaten. Please let Mrs Coates, in the school office, know if your child would like to access a lunchtime club. Huge thanks to our teaching staff for offering such a wide range of activities.

All Stars Bible Club restarted on Tuesday. This club will run fortnightly. Children who attend All Stars will need to eat their lunch at 12:00 before they attend the club at 12:30pm.

Choir continues to be a popular club on Wednesdays. Children who attend Choir will also need to eat their lunch at 12:00 before they attend choir at 12:30pm.

We will, of course, continue to remind children of clubs on offer and arrangements for lunch. Please get in touch if you have any questions or queries.



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



SAFEGUARDING

Mrs Massey, Mrs Crozier and Mrs Francis are our school’s Designated Safeguarding Leaders (DSL). Miss Wakefield 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



DIARY DATES

New dates are in red, for your information

Wednesday 24th January	The Children's Society Christingle Service at Newcastle Cathedral (Year 4 children only)	1:30-2:30pm	Please see ParentMail for further info
Monday 22 nd January	Year 2 Forest School	pm	Children should wear school uniform tops, joggers and bring wellies and waterproofs to change into please.
Monday 29 th January	Year 1 Forest School	pm	Children should wear school uniform tops, joggers and bring wellies and waterproofs to change into please.
February 2024			
Friday 2 nd February	Year 3 leading Candlemas worship	9:00am	Parents/carers welcome to attend
Monday 5 th February	Reception Forest School	pm	Children should wear school uniform tops, joggers and bring wellies and waterproofs to change into please.
Tuesday 6 th February	Safer Internet Day		Activities in school
Friday 9 th February	Deadline for Nursery applications for summer intake		
	NE Choir Competition at Durham Cathedral	am	Info has been sent to choir members via ParentMail
Monday 12 th February	Nursery Forest School	pm	Children should wear school uniform tops, joggers and bring wellies and waterproofs to change into please.

Monday 12 th February	Reception visit to Gibside		More info to follow (awaiting confirmation from Gibside)
Tuesday 13 th February	Year 4 Leading Shrove Tuesday Collective Worship	9:00am	Parents/carers welcome to attend
Wednesday 14 th February	Year 1 Leading Collective Worship	9:00am	Parents/carers welcome to attend
	PTFA Cake sale	3:15pm	Donations gratefully received please
Thursday 15 th February	Year 3 leading Ash Wednesday Collective Worship	9:00am	Parents/carers welcome to attend
	Gosforth Pyramid Ceilidh at GEMS	2:00pm	Selected Year 4 children only
Friday 16 th February	PE activities in school		Children in Years 1 – 4 to wear PE kit please.
19.2.24 – 23.2.24	February Half Term		
Wb 26.2.23	SEND Reviews		Please book via ParentMail
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			
Monday 4 th & Tuesday 5 th March	Parent Teacher Consultations		Please book via ParentMail
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 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.
	Year 3 & Year 4 Mothering Sunday Service	2:45pm	Parents/carers welcome to attend.
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.
Thursday 14 th March	Healthy Active Lifestyle opportunity for Year 1 & Year 2 (Multiskills)	am	Children should arrive at school in PE kit please.
Friday 15 th March	Red Nose Day		
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
Thursday 21 st March	Year 3 & Year 4 singing at Newcastle Cathedral	9:30am	
Monday 25 th March	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	PTFA Easter cake sale	3:00pm	Donations gratefully received please

March			
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			
Monday 15 th April	Nursery Forest School	pm	Children should wear school uniform tops, joggers and bring wellies and waterproofs to change into please.
Monday 22 nd April	Year 1 leading Collective Worship	9:00am	Parents and carers welcome to attend
May 2024			
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.
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
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**

Newcastle City Council

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.

