



May 2020

Week 30 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you remain well and are managing to stay positive at home and/or work. We have been delighted to see some new followers on Twitter so we can keep in touch with you all. If you do not already follow us, please consider doing so. I'm sure those parents who engage with our Twitter feed will recommend it as a way of staying in touch with the school and maintaining a sense of belonging to our school family.



I realise that I only wrote to you last week, but in order to keep you all fully informed, I wanted to write again this week as there seem to be lots of updates to share...

THANK YOU!



Thank you to the mystery family who brought biscuits when returning their school books - what a lovely surprise! Thank you also, for all the thankful and positive emails and messages that we have received this week. Staff are working really hard so these are very much appreciated.

Thank you also for the donations of books that many of you have given to school in recent weeks. We will add them to Accelerated Reader boxes (after they've been appropriately quarantined!)

The Church of England have issued the following message to parents

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTnyICpSVMA> and this one to church leaders

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-y2OtEfGzw>

The "Thank you" issued to school leaders brought a tear to my eye!

VE DAY

You will be aware that today is a Bank Holiday to mark VE Day. It would be lovely to see some photos of how you have celebrated or commemorated this at home; perhaps a picnic in the garden, bunting or a street sing-a-long (from a safe distance of course!). Please share your pictures with us on Twitter @RuncieOf Thank you!



Our school is one of the only schools open to children of key workers today so I would like to send a huge thank you to staff for making this happen. We are really proud to serve our community and those who need us at this time.

HOLIDAY PROVISION

School will remain open during May half term for children of key workers and other families who need support, as we did at Easter. We are again really proud that, compared to only 60% of schools nationally, we have been open **every day** of each school holiday.



NEXT WEEK

Next week, our theme in school will be International Nurse Day and Christian Aid Week. We would love those of you at home to get involved too. Staff will be in touch on Monday, as usual, with suggestions of activities.



ONLINE & HOME LEARNING



As you know, using live lessons has been discussed at school, Trust and LA level. There are no schools in our Trust using live lessons or apps such as Zoom and the great majority of primary schools in the city have made the same decision.

We are currently providing an online curriculum, via class pages, which teachers have chosen for their children to best meet their needs. If you need packs to be printed at school, please remember that we can do this for you and post resources home. Please email

Mrs Pygall at admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk to request this. Many parents have already taken us up on this offer.

The Maths and English curriculum are with providers we use in school (White Rose and Talk for Writing) and topic areas are tailored by our staff. Teachers also write to children each Monday with a weekly class challenge. In addition, Oak National Academy and BBC Bitesize also provide daily online lessons for pupils by year group. Through Twitter, we will signpost parents to other websites which you might like to try. There are additional websites and links on class pages on the school website too.

The DfE and Local Authority fully support schools' decision to provide what they think is right for their pupils. We are always learning from best practice and share ideas daily within the Trust and receive daily updates from the LA.



Teachers are making regular contact with families by telephone to offer support and keep children motivated as well as keeping in touch with the school. We hope that most parents will be able to support some home learning but we do not expect nor want you to recreate school in your kitchens! We absolutely do not advocate asking children to sit for hours completing school work. Parents can take as much or as little as they feel is appropriate.

We have, this week, asked our parents to complete four feedback questions and we will adjust our offer in light of responses and government updates in due course. In response to feedback at the beginning of this week regarding class pages, these have been updated.

Everyone is different, has different demands on their time and their ability or patience to work through tasks with their children. You are all doing a great job and we know how difficult this time is for many of you. We also realise that each of you are in different situations. Anything that you do is a bonus but none of it is expected. We know children will return to school with gaps in their learning but Teachers will support children appropriately on their return. If you have concerns, please speak directly to class teachers or you can email staff too. **If your children are happy and safe you are doing a great job!**

From Monday, subject leaders will be tweeting activities that may (or may not!) be of interest to you. Please feel free to get involved as much or as little as you'd like to. We would love to see pictures in response to these tweets too! Thank you.

MATHS HOME LEARNING

As you already know, we have been recommending, over the past few weeks, the Maths resources on White Rose Maths Hub's website and we know that a significant number of you have found these useful. Specifically in terms of the Home Learning web page, the company decided to make the worksheets a premium resource. The videos and information will remain accessible to all parents but the worksheets themselves will not. We have decided as a school to buy a subscription so that you can access these resources for free.



You will find the worksheets under "class news" on the website. White Rose Maths Hub are uploading these one week at a time, so next week's are not up yet. As soon as teachers get access to them, they will upload them to their class page for you to look at day by day.

As ever, can we take this opportunity to remind you that this work is optional and does not need to be completed - we have invested in it so that you as families continue to have the ability to choose if you want to do them.

SCHOOL REOPENING

We are aware that, in the media, there have been many speculations around the reopening of schools, which is not helpful to any of us. Until the press conference on Sunday, we do not have any definitive information about how or when school reopening will take place. Unfortunately, we do not have any "inside information" that we can share!



When the guidance is clear, we will of course share our plans with you. Mr Booth and I are currently considering different scenarios of how we might manage reopening the school, depending on advice from the Local Authority and the Government, and most importantly the timescales for doing so. We can't begin implementing any changes until we are told that it is safe to do so and we are clearly not at that stage yet.

Our priority, upon reopening, will be the emotional wellbeing of our children and helping them adjust back into school life and cope with their experiences. Many will have spent the entire duration of lockdown in the same building as their parents so coping with separation will also need to be considered carefully.

You will no doubt be aware, the government are making an announcement on Sunday 10th May which will hopefully give us some further information and guidance around the next phase of lockdown measures across the country. Following Sunday, we will need time to read, understand and consider whatever is announced. I will need to liaise with GST, Diocesan and Local Authority colleagues before we can make a decision. This will take time! We will be in touch regarding any decisions, as soon as we can!! Please know that we are doing all that we can do.

We await Sunday with anticipation...

YEAR 4 TRANSITION

We know that parents/carers of children in Year 4 will be starting to think about transition into middle school. We don't know how this will look yet, but we will be talking to Mrs Webb and the Y5 staff at GCMS soon to try and work out the best way to make sure that the children can make a really positive and effective transition. Please tell your Y4 children that we will work this out with GCMS and we will make sure that everything is in place for their new start. Also, in the possible



event of Y4 children not returning to ARFS, as far as we are able to, we will make sure that there is an opportunity for them to celebrate their time at First School and say goodbye to the staff and the rest of the school.



RECEPTION ADMISSIONS

This week, Miss Wilkinson has sent our welcome packs to families who have accepted their offered places for Reception. We do not, at this stage, know what transition arrangements will look like but will, of course, endeavour to make this as smooth as possible and allow our new children to visit school when we are advised it is safe to do so. We are excited to welcome some new and some familiar faces to our school family.

READING BOOKS

As per last week's newsletter, we would be grateful if you could return your school reading books to the large container by the school carpark gate as soon as possible, please. These will be stored for a few weeks to minimise infection spread then labelled ready for children returning to school. If you have been clearing out books at home and would like to donate books, we would be really grateful. Thank you!



If you have run out of books to read at home you can try Oxford Owl to support reading. Oxford Owl is brilliant for free e-books just like the books we use in school as well as having loads resources and ideas for other curriculum areas too. <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/>



WORSHIP

Oak Academy are delivering acts of worship online. It hopes to offer people of all ages and faith backgrounds a chance to pause, think and reflect, and to rebuild lost habits of prayer and faithful reflection in the home. Please let us know what you think!

LOCKDOWN SONG

<https://worshipforeveryone.com/looking-to-the-rainbow>

"Looking to the Rainbow" is a brand-new song from Nick & Becky Drake for schools to perform during the Covid-19 lockdown. Children may like to start learning the words. You can send video clips of them singing to Mrs Francis (Music leader) via email kathleen.francis@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

As you already know, on Monday this week we asked parents and carers to complete a short questionnaire to help us shape our future provision during the partial closure. We are delighted that so many of you feel supported by the school, both emotionally and for academic work and that you acknowledge our best efforts in communication. Thank you for being so supportive of us at this time. As you can imagine, it is no mean feat pleasing everyone but we will endeavour to do as much as we can! The questionnaire is not yet closed so if you have not yet completed it there is still time to do so!

Results of the questionnaire were as follows

	Agree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree
I feel personally well supported by the school	92%	0%	8%
I feel supported by the school to appropriate home learning resources	91%	1%	8%
Communication from the school has been good throughout the COVID-19 situation	95%	1%	4%
I feel that the school is doing enough for me and my family.	92%	1%	7%

In light of this feedback, staff have updated staff pages to make them easier to navigate. As you will understand, class pages were not originally set up to provide home learning but we are making them as fit for purpose as possible. Please keep checking for updates too as staff will be adding to class pages regularly.

We will await the PM Briefing on Sunday before deciding on our further steps.

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.

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>

OPERATION ENCOMPASS

You may be aware that cases of domestic abuse have risen significantly in recent weeks. Domestic Abuse cuts across all levels of society, across all ages, cultures and races. Children exposed to domestic abuse are victims of child abuse. Operation Encompass was created to support children experiencing Domestic Abuse through timely information sharing between police and schools.



If you feel at risk, please speak up. You can speak to school staff directly, if you feel comfortable doing so, or you can contact

- **National Domestic Abuse Helpline** - 0808 2000 24724-hour
- **Women's Aid**- <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/information-support/>
- **Live Fear Free Helpline** - 0808 80 10 800 (24 hours a day)
- **Men's Advice Line** - 0808 801 0327 (weekdays 9am-5pm)

For general enquiries contact info@operationencompass.org or <https://www.operationencompass.org/>

Please keep in touch with us and let us know how you are all getting on. It goes without saying that we are really missing everyone and can't wait to get our school back together in some form but that can only happen when it is safe to do so.

Best wishes and stay safe

Mrs KE Massey

Headteacher



“Love to learn, learn to love”

1 Corinthians 16:14

May 2020			
May 2020	CANCELLED SATs for Year 2 children	All month	Year 2 children must be in school please
Monday 11 th May	CANCELLED Christian Aid Worship, led by Year 2	9:00am	All welcome!
Thursday 14 th May	CANCELLED Y3 Team Games festival at Walker Dome	1:00-2:45pm	Children may be slightly late returning to school
	CANCELLED Reception Stay & Play	2:00pm	Reception Parents invited
Friday 15 th May	CANCELLED Phonics Screen Workshop for Year 1 Parents	9:00am	
Sunday 17 th May	POSTPONED Children's Cancer Run	TBC	
Monday 18 th May	CANCELLED DAAB planting	10:30-11:30	Selected Year 1 children
Tuesday 19 th May	CANCELLED GST Teach Meet	3:45pm	Staff only
	CANCELLED Class Photos	TBC	
Thursday 21 st May	CANCELLED GST Y3 & Y4 Benchball competition at Brunton	TBC	Selected children only
	Ascension Day Worship, led by Year 3	9:00am	All welcome!
	CANCELLED World Day for Cultural Diversity	All day	Activities in school
Friday 22 nd May	GST Daft Day	All day	
	CANCELLED Y4 Times Table test	9:00am	
	Parent Workshop		
	Eid	All day	
Monday 2 th May-Friday 29 th May	Half Term		
June 2020			
Monday 1 st June	CANCELLED GST Staff Training Day	All day	School closed to children
1-5 th June	CANCELLED Year 1 Phonics Screen assessment	All week	Year 1 children must be in school please
Tuesday 2 nd June	Pentecost Worship, led by Year 4	2:30pm	
	CANCELLED Year 3 & Year 4- All Saints' Moses Activities	TBC	
Wednesday 3 rd June	Gosforth Voices	3:45-4:45pm	at Grange First School
Thursday 4 th June	GST Y3 & Y4 Tag Rugby at RFFS	TBC	Selected children only
	GST Inclusion Fair	1:00pm	More info to follow
Friday 5 th June	Roy Lawson visiting Years 3 & 4	TBC	More info to follow
Monday 8 th June	Year 2 visit to St Mary's Lighthouse	All day	Children will need to bring or order a packed lunch please
	No French	-	
Tuesday 9 th June	New Nursery Parents Meeting for children starting Nursery in September 2020	5:00pm	

Wednesday 10 th June	New Reception Parents Meeting for children starting Reception class in September 2020	5:00pm	
	Gosforth Band	3:45-4:45pm	at Archibald First School
11 th June	Year 3 School Nurse feelings & relationships session	1:30pm	
15-19 th June	CANCELLED Y4 statutory Times Tables test	All week	
Tuesday 16 th June	Year 3 & Year 4 playing at the Big Gig (out of school all day)	Performance at 1:30pm	Northumbria Sports Central- Y3 & Y4 parents invited.
Wednesday 17 th June	Gosforth Voices	3:45-4:45pm	at Grange First School
Thursday 25 th June	CANCELLED Year 4 Diocesan Leavers Service	10:45am	St George's Church, Cullercoats. Staff and children only due to space restrictions.
Friday 26 th June	Y4 visit to Vindolanda	All day	Children will need to bring or order a packed lunch please
30 th June	Pyramid Concert (Gosforth Voices & Gosforth Band)	4:00pm Rehearsal 6:15pm at Trinity Church	
July 2020			
Wednesday 1 st July	pm Y4 Skipping Event- GJA	TBC nearer the time	
	Nursery Stay & Play	2:00pm	Nursery parents invited
Thursday 2 nd July	GST Y4 Netball at Grange	TBC	Selected children only
	GST Transition Day	TBC	
Friday 3 rd July	Reports out		
	Y4 Bikeability all day	All day	All children in Year 4 need to bring a bike to school.
Saturday 4 th July	PTFA Summer Fair	TBC	
Monday 6 th July	KS1/2 Sports Day	1:30pm	Parents Invited
	PE Week (Mon- Fri)	All week	
	Drop in for parents	3:30-5:00pm	No need to book an appointment
Tuesday 7 th July	Drop in for parents	3:30-5:00pm	No need to book an appointment
Wednesday 8 th July	Y2 skipping at GJA	9:30-12:30	
	pm EYFS Sports Day	1:30pm	Parents invited
	Full Governing Body Meeting	5:30pm	
Thursday 9 th May	Y2 Team Games festival at Walker Dome	1:00-2:45pm	Children may be slightly late returning to school
Friday 17 th July	Year 4 Leavers' Service	9:00am	
	End of term picnic lunch for staff and children	Noon	Please pay via ParentMail
	Picnic in the Playground	3:15-4:15pm	
	School closes for Summer		
September 2020			
Monday 7 th September 2020	Staff Training Day	All day	
Tuesday 8 th September 2020	School reopens to pupils.	8:45am	
Sunday 20 th September	Children's Cancer Run	TBC	
Wednesday 30 th September- Thursday 1 st October	Y4 Residential	TBC	More info to follow

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