



ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VA) FIRST SCHOOL

April 2018 Newsletter

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 8th May - 8.15am - Cancer Training Run
Thursday 10th May - Reception trip to Seven Stories
Sunday 20th May – Children's Cancer Run at Newcastle Racecourse
Thursday 24th May - Break up for Half Term
Friday 25th May - Teaching Training Day
Monday 4th June - Return to School

Dear Parents/carers.

It is difficult to believe that we are beginning the final term of the academic year 2017-18. I am sure we will enjoy this and we think particularly of our year 4 children who are beginning their final term at our school.

We have popped the dates for your diary at the beginning of the newsletter so you can put them straight on your calendar. The newsletter is an update regarding school so please could you take time to read it so you do not miss any important information. Thank you for your continued support.

School Update

Our new caretaker Mr. Russell Hunter has settled very well indeed and has mentioned how welcoming the children and parents of our school are. Thank you for taking the time to speak to him and making him feel so welcome. He has already demonstrated that he will be a real asset, ensuring the school is operating smoothly and identifying areas which he would like to develop in the future. For safeguarding purposes he will lock the car park gates between the hours of 8.15-9.00a.m and 3.00-3.45p.m. At 9.00a.m and 3.45p.m once he has unlocked the car park gates he will then lock the gates from the playground area to ensure the safety of our children.

Home school partnership

Thank you to all parents who were able to attend the meeting on Monday 30th April at 2.00p.m to explore home school partnership and homework. It was really useful with many ideas provided. The staff are also considering home/school partnership and homework and we will be discussing homework with the children too. We will analyse the ideas to identify common themes and then consult further with parents. Thank you to those parents who could not attend the meeting but forwarded an e-mail instead. If anybody does wish to forward suggestions regarding home/school communication or homework please feel free to do so.

Lunchtimes

Thank you for your time adjusting to the new dinner procedures and processes. This is having a significant impact upon the efficiency of the office so it is greatly appreciated. Some parents have spoken to me regarding paying for the same days each week for the half term in advance. I am sorry after discussing this with Mrs McCloud we feel it is important to come in line with the Gosforth Schools Trust and it would have the added complication of different amounts of money being collected each day.

I would like to reassure parents that Mrs Battista adapts the menus according to the likes/dislikes of the children. For example if one of the two choices on offer is not popular she will make sure the other choice is one of the children's favourite meals. For example on Fishy Friday she also served tortilla pizza wraps which are very popular. Alongside the two choices there is also a selection of bread and a salad bar available each day so if the children did not like any of the dishes Mrs Battista would make them a sandwich to have with the rest of their hot meal. She is very happy to speak to individual parents who have any concerns so please feel free to pop into see her or if you come to see me then I will ask her any questions you may have.

If you have not paid for school meals yet this half term, please would you kindly do so (£56 taking into account the bank holiday and teacher training day). Mrs McCloud is still updating the ParentMail system and will send a ParentMail to you when the balances reported to you can be accurately relied upon.

ParentMail

Many of you are now completing Forms in ParentMail which is saving a huge amount of time in school for Mrs McCloud and teachers, as well as saving paper and printing costs. You need to have an account registered with ParentMail to receive and reply to Forms. Please be aware that you may still be receiving emails from ParentMail but not have an account registered. Mrs McCloud will send registration e-mails to all parents/carers who do not have a registered ParentMail account. This may be delivered to your Junk/Spam/Clutter folder so please check this folder and make sure that info@parentmail.co.uk is added to your address book. Once registered, forms will be delivered to you by e-mail, or you can access them through the ParentMail App or sign into ParentMail online.

Paper copies will still be provided if you are unable to access ParentMail. Please contact Mrs McCloud if you need any assistance with registering for ParentMail or are having difficulty using it.

Thank you for your increased use of electronic payments to school through ParentMail. To keep the charges low, please can I remind you to make payment by UK Visa /MasterCard or UK Maestro **Debit Card** **NOT CREDIT CARD OR PAYPAL.**

Families using the free ParentMail App has increased from 33% to 46% which is fantastic. You can download the App from Google Play or the AppStore for free



Events and Trips

Ted Thomas (Reception parent) and his team from the Environment Agency volunteered have in school for a day this half term working in the Early Years Garden. They have transformed the allotment area which we will be using to grow our own fruit and vegetables. If you are able to donate any children's gardening tools, plants, seeds, herbs, compost or large pots they will be greatly appreciated.

Some of the Year 1 children took part in a Zumba session at Gosforth Park First School last week as part of the sports initiative within Gosforth Schools Trust, "Gosforth Gets Going".

Key Stage 1 have also visited Gosforth Central Park to start their topic this half term, Parks. Volunteers from the Friends of GCP showed the children the different features of the park and how they look after it. They commented in social media how well behaved and polite the children were – a credit to our school!

On Monday, Year 4 took part in a Level 1 “Bikeability” session in school where they learnt about road safety. Later this week, eight children from Year 3 will take part in a tennis tournament at the Northumberland Tennis Club in Jesmond. We wish them well!

Extra-curricular clubs

Please can I remind parents that the school door will be opened 5 minutes before clubs finish. As well as ensuring Mrs McCloud is not repeatedly interrupted while working to open the door, it supports safeguarding when the office is unmanned.

Thank you again for your continued support. Please feel free to come into see me if you have any queries.

Kind regards

Mrs Denise Henry