



February 2025

Newsletter 11 – 14.2.25

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 compared to those with the lowest attainment.
- National data shows us that children not meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths also had lower attendance.
- 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.

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.

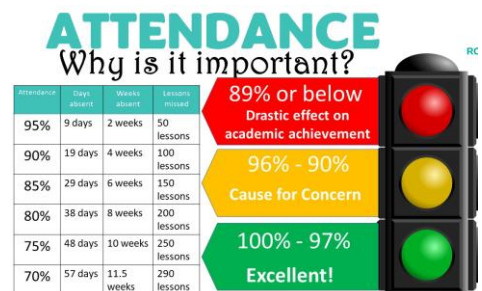
WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

	Whole School Attendance (excluding Nursery)	Highest class attendance!	Second place	Third place
Wb 3.2.25	95%	Nursery (100%)	Year 4 (97%)	Reception (96%)
Wb 10.2.25	94%	Reception (96%)	Nursery (96%)	Year 3 (95%)

Did you know ...?

- 95% attendance = two weeks absence
- 90% attendance = 4 weeks absence
- 85% attendance = 6 weeks absence
- 80% attendance = more than half a term of absence
- 75% attendance = more than 9 weeks of absence

Please remember that I am unable to authorise absences during term time for family holidays. We would be grateful if parents/carers could also inform grandparents, family and friends, who may be looking to book birthday or Christmas trips away, that these do not fall under exceptional circumstances and will not be authorised.



If you need any support regarding attendance, please do not hesitate to come and speak to us as we can help you access support from the school nurse, attendance officer or other appropriate services.

We recognise that children may have a legitimate reason to be absent from school, and we are also aware that some families face difficulties which may impact on their child's education, therefore, the traffic light system has been put in place to support families by highlighting concerns at an early stage.



We hope that you will continue to support our school by promoting school attendance and by informing us if you feel there are any issues that are preventing your child from attending school regularly.

If you would like to discuss this further, please get in touch (grant.short@clennelleducationsolutions.org).

MINUTES MISSED

During this fortnight, 2 hours 25 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. Our first lesson of the day is reading so children arriving late miss vital learning.



For children who arrive late, more than once in a week, we run a Friday lunchtime catch-up session with class teachers.

PUPIL ABSENCES

	Whole School absence (excluding Nursery)	Absence caused by holidays	Other absences
Wb 3.2.25	5%	0.5%	4.5%
Wb 10.2.25	6%	1%	5%

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	Staff
Demonstrating Love	Harry Ollie	Grace Margot	Nura Evie	Ayesha Henry	Indi Rory	Jacob D Elias	Miss Cooper Mrs Coates
Demonstrating Determination	Amyah Milana	Amanah Jacob	Haniya Ani	Eisa Alistair	Mia Max Co	Rosa Theo	Miss Bowers Mrs Egdell

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 engaged highly with TTRS in the past fortnight. Well done everyone!

	Children Need to Learn	Highest engagement this fortnight	Highest accuracy this fortnight
Year 2	x 2, x 5, x 10 (and corresponding division facts)	Mika Eisa Lyla	Mika Musa Eisa
Year 3	x 2, x 5, x 10, x 3, x 4, x 8 (and corresponding division facts)	Mia Nuh Elli	Max Cr Nuh Indi
Year 4	All tables to 12 x 12 (and corresponding division facts)	Elias Albatool Daniel	Theo Elias Daniel

Current rank of ARFS among nearby schools	5	Mean studio speed (seconds per question)	2.88
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HANDWRITING HEROES

As a school, we continue to have a real drive to improve handwriting, letter formation and presentation of work. 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
Hadi Sanjhbati	Masa Anabelle	Melissa Ava	Joshua Elvis	Elias Livie

SECTION 3: SOCIAL ACTION



SCHOOL COUNCIL

School council have been brainstorming which types of clubs they would like to participate in both at lunchtime and afterschool. They are busying consulting with their classmates and will feed back suggestions at the next school council meeting.

Hopefully this will give us an insight into the interests of all of our children and help us to develop a more varied offer with regards to clubs.

WORSHIP COUNCIL

Worship council met last week to discuss creating and leading our own lesson for collective worship about The Lord's Prayer. Currently, the worship council often leadings the school in saying The Lord's Prayer during collective worship. They have shown great leadership and bravery in doing this! Well done! They are looking forward to speaking to their peers about the components of The Lord's Prayer and choosing the song for worship as well!



PLAY LEADERS



Given the recent sunny weather, our Play Leaders have begun to hold bigger games between classes. They have been particularly supportive in helping the Reception children use the equipment carefully and brought order and organisation to tidy-up time. Well done Play Leaders!

YOUNG LEADERS

This week in Young Leaders, we considered our Global Community and discussed how needs and wants differ from place to place. We compared life in London to life in Kolkata and looked at differences in wages, housing and lifestyle.



GREEN TEAM

Green Team had a rather wet visit to the park this week and there was LOADS of rubbish to collect including a broken scooter, several deflated balls, a bike seat as well as the usual bottles and packets. We filled a whole bag in 15 minutes!



We have expressed an interest in hosting "Coral the Clownfish" to collect crisp packets (to be made into blankets for the homeless community) but The British Ironwork Centre have been overwhelmed with applications. We will keep our fingers crossed that we are selected.

LIBRARY CHAMPIONS

LIBRARY
CHAMPION

Our library champions have had a productive week helping to tidy and organise the books in the library. They continue to do an amazing job!

SECTION 4: SCHOOL NEWS!

FILM NIGHT



Huge thanks to our PTFA for organising Film Night and to our staff for staying with their classes. We hope your child(ren) enjoyed it. Our PTFA supports the school in many ways and gives financial donations so we can reduce costs to parents so your money is well spent. Thank you for your support.

SCHOOL MEALS

After half term, we will be moving to a new school menu. Please see the website for further information.



A polite reminder that children must be school meals or packed lunch all week and are not able to switch between the two as stock orders are placed, by the kitchen staff, two weeks in advance. Thank you for your understanding.



PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

Mrs Francis is exploring the possibility of starting a weekly playgroup for pre-school age children and their parents/carers. For those of you with young children, we would love to know your thoughts. Please get in touch with Mrs Francis at Kathleen.francis@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk to allow her to gather your thoughts and consider if this would be something that parents/carers and the local community would find beneficial.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We are now up and running on Facebook and Instagram so you can keep up to date with what's happening in school.



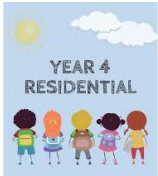
GOOD
VIBES
ONLY

I have been alerted to some social media platforms, such as Facebook or WhatsApp, being used as a forum for some members of our school community to comment on school issues, which is not appropriate. We would therefore like to remind you that using Facebook, WhatsApp and other social networking sites is not the correct forum if you have issues about the schools, staff, other parents or pupils as any negative remarks on these sites can be seen as defamation of character, harassment or slander.

If at any time you have an issue, your first port of call should always be the class teacher. If it remains unresolved, please contact me directly and, if you are still dissatisfied, you should put your complaint in writing to the Chair of Governors. This is in accordance with the schools' complaints policies.

We hope that you understand and appreciate our position on such matters and that you will support us by removing any comments of this kind and following the guidance we have set out in the future. We want to maintain the strong relationship that we have with parents and wish to work with you on this issue.

YEAR 4 RESIDENTIAL



As you know, we have secured a night, with Mr H, at Seahouses on Monday 12th May. The children will be travelling to Seahouses and have opportunities to take part in a number of activities provided by Mr H. Mr H will also be giving a short presentation to parents on Thursday 13th March at 4:30pm to share more information about the residential. All Year 4 parents are invited to attend.

DRUMMING

After half term, drumming lessons will swap from Years 3 & 4 to Years 1 & 2. These lessons take place in school on a Monday afternoon. Children do not need to bring anything additional – all resources are provided by the Newcastle Music Service.



SAFER INTERNET DAY

On Tuesday the 11th of February, KS1 and KS2 pupils all had the opportunity to attend workshops by GEM education to highlight the importance of Safer internet day. As a school, we take internet safety very seriously and the children were given opportunities to spot scams, seek advice from appropriate bodies and use different apps on the iPads to create information packs for other children. We also reiterated that any concerns or worries about being online should be reported to a trusted adult, Childline or CEOP.

1 MINUTE MATHS

We are excited to share that White Rose Maths Hub have created a new app that will support our children in their Maths fluency. The app is called 1-Minute Maths and is free to download. It promotes fluency in subitising, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and is suitable for all age ranges within our school. Quick recall and fluency in these areas are key to developing further mathematical skills such as problem solving and reasoning and it will be particularly useful for our Year 4 pupils who will take their Multiplication Tables Check in June.



DANCE FESTIVAL

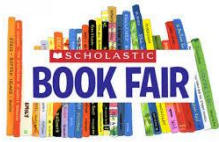
We have signed up to take part in the local authority Dance Festival at Whitley Bay playhouse in April. Mrs Francis has consulted with Years 3 & 4 and selected children to take part (parents/carers of relevant children have been informed via ParentMail). These children will attend weekly rehearsals every Thursday 3:15-4:15pm in advance of their performance.

There will be an opportunity for parents to watch the performance, along with other GST schools, at Gosforth East Middle School on 9th April. More info will follow from Mrs Francis in due course.

MEND WITH A FRIEND

Thank you to the wonderful volunteers who came along on Monday to repair some of our Christmas costumes. We will be welcoming more volunteers next Monday (17th February) too. We will provide coffee and biscuits to any willing volunteers and we would be grateful of any time given to help. Not only is this an opportunity to help us out but it is also an opportunity to get to know fellow members of our school family. If you are interested in helping, please let Mrs Coates know.



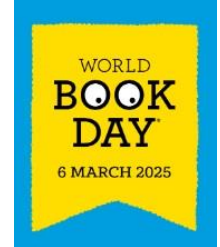


BOOK FAIR

We have the Scholastic Book Fair in school from Wednesday 12th March until Tuesday 18th March. As in previous years, parents will be able to purchase books from the fair after school on these dates. We will only be taking card payments this time. More info to follow.

WORLD BOOK DAY

Thursday 6th March is World Book Day. Children are invited to come to school dressed as a book character of their choice. There is no need to buy a costume – many book characters are children who wear everyday clothes. There will be book related activities in school that day so please ensure children know which character they are and which book their character is from.



Mrs Coates will send World Book Day vouchers home nearer the time. These can be spent in over 400 independent bookshops and retailers across the UK including The Works, WHSmith, Waterstones, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Asda. They can also be used at our Book Fair to get £1 off any book.

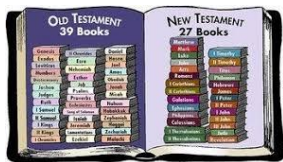
Years 3 & 4 will be watching the Magic Flute at the Theatre Royal that day so will need to wear something appropriate to walk, sit and travel in.



STAFFING UPDATE

As you know, Mrs Conner left our school for a promoted post before Christmas. We have now appointed Mrs Claire Richardson to work in Years 3 and 4 to cover Mrs Ellwood & Miss Armstrong's planning time each week. She will be popping into school on Monday to meet children in Years 3 & 4. We know you will join us in welcoming Mrs Richardson to our school.

Mrs Palmer (supply teacher) will continue to cover in Year 1 and Year 2 on Fridays to release staff for planning time. Miss Armstrong has now been appointed as Year 3 Class Teacher for the remainder of this academic year. Miss Dodds will be covering in Year 2 until Mrs Crozier returns from her maternity leave.



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

This fortnight, Collective Worship has focused on the New Testament with a focus on the miracles and parables of Jesus.



CAKE SALE

Year 4 will be hosting the next Cake Sale on Thursday 13th March. We would be grateful of any donations, please. Please remember to label home made items with a list of ingredients. Thank you.

SEND COFFEE MORNING – REMINDER

On Wednesday 19th of February at 9:00am, Mrs Ellwood would like to invite all SEND parents/carers to a drop-in coffee morning where she will be sharing information about provision in school and signposting parents/carers to local SEND groups and services available. If you are interested, please email Mrs Ellwood to confirm attendance by Monday 17th February. Thank you.



STEM WEEK – REMINDER

British Science Week will be celebrated 10 – 14th March 2025. Mrs Egdell is currently in the process of planning activities and trips for this week. If you have a science based job or interest and would be willing to come into school to talk to a group of children or a

class, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Mrs EgdeU to arrange a suitable time and discuss activities in more detail. Thank you. (Emily.egdell@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk)

CHILDREN'S CANCER RUN – REMINDER

You can now sign up online and select our school name when you enter. As per last year, all participants can join their school team fundraising page, which is a great tool for encouraging the school community to come together. Once children are registered, please 'edit display name' and change their display name so that it does not include their full name. So for example, just first name or initials. If you do not do this then it is possible for external participants to see a child's full name and the school they go to.



SAFEGUARDING



Mrs Massey, Mrs Francis and Mrs Ellwood are our school's Designated Safeguarding Leaders (DSL). Mr Brown is DSL for Wraparound care.

Children are regularly reminded who they can talk to if they are worried about something in school.

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





DIARY DATES

New dates are in red, for your information

February 2025			
Monday 17 th February	Nursery Forest School	pm	Children should wear uniform tops with joggers and bring wellies and waterproofs to put on later in the day. Please make donations via ParentMail.
	Mend with a friend	1:15pm-3:15pm	Please join us!
Tuesday 18 th February	Swimming Gala at Gosforth Pool	pm	Selected Year 4 children only
Wednesday 19 th February	SEND parents/carers coffee morning	9:00	In school
	Gosforth Band	3:45pm-4:45pm	Archibald First School
Thursday 20 th February	Year 4 Ceilidh at GEMS	2:00pm	Selected children only
Friday 21 st February	Staff training day	All day	School closed to children
Monday 24 th February – Friday 28 th February	February half term holiday		School closed to children
Monday 24 th February	Wonde vouchers issues to families in receipt of Pupil Premium funding.		
Friday 28 th February	Deadline for Nursery applications for April intake		
March 2025			
Monday 3 rd March	Year 4 Forest School	pm	Children should wear uniform tops with joggers and bring wellies and waterproofs to put on later in the day. Please make donations via ParentMail.
Wednesday 5 th March	Gosforth Voices	3:45pm-4:45pm	Grange First School
Thursday 6 th March	Years 3 & 4 Magic Flute at The Theatre Royal		More info to follow via ParentMail
	World Book Day		Children invited to come to school dressed as a character from a book, if they wish.
Friday 7 th March	Year 4 Bikeability	am or pm session	More info to follow
Wednesday 12 th March	Year 4 Beamish visit	All day	More info to follow
Wednesday 12 th March – Tuesday 18 th March	Scholastic Book Fair	After School	More info to follow. World Book Day vouchers will be accepted.
Thursday 13 th March	Year 4 cake sale	3:15pm	Please could the parents/carers of Year 4 children send donations of cakes with ingredients displayed? Thank you.
	Year 4 Residential meeting	4:30pm	Year 4 parents and carers invited to attend.

	for parents and carers		
Monday 17 th March	Year 2 visit to Newcastle Castle		More info to follow via ParentMail
Friday 21 st March	Red Nose Day		Children invited to wear red and 'do something funny for money'. Donations can be made via ParentMail.
17 – 28 th March	Year 4 swimming every afternoon		More info to follow via ParentMail
17-21 st March	STEM Week		Activities in school. If any parents/carers have a career/interest in science, technology or maths, please contact Mrs Egdell.
Wednesday 19 th March	Year 1 visit to Newcastle Mosque	am	More info to follow via ParentMail
Friday 21 st March	Gosforth Voices Tour		Children will need be dropped off at Brunton First School at 8:45am. They should be collected from Brunton First School at 3:20pm.
Friday 28 th March	Nursery & Reception Mothering Sunday Service (in school)	9:00am	Parents/carers welcome to attend.
	Years 1 – 4 Mothering Sunday Service at St Nicholas' Church	1:30pm	Parents/carers welcome to attend.
Monday 31 st March	Year 4 children are hosting a Mothering Sunday Cream Tea.	Pm	More info to follow.
	SEND Reviews	From 3:30pm	Please book via ParentMail
April 2025			
Tuesday 1 st April	Dance Festival at Whitley Bay playhouse	TBC	See ParentMail for further info
Thursday 3 rd April	Year 3 cake sale	3:15pm	Please could the parents/carers of Year 3 children send donations of cakes with ingredients displayed. Thank you.
Thursday 3 rd April	Meeting for parents/carers of Year 4 children about the Y4 Multiplication tables Check (in school)	4:30pm	Places can be booked via ParentMail.
Monday 7 th April & Tuesday 8 th April	Parent-teacher consultations	From 2:30pm	Please book via ParentMail
Tuesday 8 th April	Stay & Play or parents and carers of children in Reception	2:00pm	
	Meeting for parents/carers of Year 1 children about the Y1 Phonics Screen Check (in school)	5:30pm	Places can be booked via ParentMail.
Wednesday 9 th April	Dance performance at GEMS		
Wednesday 9 th April	Stay & Play or parents and carers of children in Nursery	2:00pm	
Friday 11 th April	Years 1 – 4 Easter Service at All Saints' Church	1:30pm	Parents/carers welcome to attend.
Monday 14 th – Friday 25 th April	Easter holidays		School closed to children
May 2025			
Thursday 1 st	Year 2 cake sale	3:15pm	Please could the parents/carers of Year 2

May			children send donations of cakes with ingredients displayed. Thank you.
Monday 12 th – Tuesday 13 th May	Year 4 residential at Seahouses with Mr H		An information session will be held in school on Thursday 13 th March at 4:30pm.
Wednesday 14 th May	Year 3 Watersmeet, Hexham	All day	More info to follow via ParentMail
Sunday 18 th May	Children's Cancer Run at Newcastle Racecourse		Please save the date!
Wednesday 21 st May	Year 2 Geography fieldwork – Whitley Bay		More info to follow
Thursday 22 nd May	Year 1 cake sale	3:15pm	Please could the parents/carers of Year 1 children send donations of cakes with ingredients displayed Thank you.
Friday 23 rd May	GST Daft as a Brush Day		Children invited to wear something “daft” and make a donation via ParentMail.
Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th May	Half term holiday		School closed to children
June 2025			
Monday 2 nd June	Staff training day	All day	School closed to children
Friday 6 th June	Pentecost Service		Parents/carers welcome to attend.
Wb 9 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screen Check statutory assessment		Places can be booked via ParentMail
Wb 16 th June	School Sports Week		If any parents/carers have any connections to sports coaches/providers, please let Mrs Francis know.
Tuesday 17 th June	Year 4 Leavers Service at Newcastle Cathedral	am	More info to follow via ParentMail
Thursday 19 th June	Reception class cake sale	3:15pm	Please could the parents/carers of Reception children send donations of cakes with ingredients displayed? Thank you.
Friday 20 th June	Big Gig (Choir)		More info to follow
Monday 23 rd June	Year 2 visit to Grace Darling Museum	All day	More info to follow
Wednesday 25 th June	Year 1- 4 Music Concert at All Saints' Church.	pm	More info to follow
Thursday 26 th June	Year 3 sleepover at school	All day	More info to follow
30 th June – 11 th July	Year 3 swimming every afternoon		More info to follow
July 2024			
Tuesday 8 th July	Year 4 visit to Vindolanda & Roman Army Museum		More info to follow via ParentMail
Thursday 10 th July	Nursery class cake sale	3:15pm	Please could the parents/carers of Nursery children send donations of cakes with ingredients displayed Thank you.
Tuesday 15 th July	Whole school trip to Tynemouth	All day	More info to follow via ParentMail
Friday 18 th July	Year 4 Leavers' Service (at school)	9:15am	Please save the date
Monday 21 st July – Friday 29 th August	Summer holiday		School closed 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

-  Apply through the childcare service: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>
You will need to confirm your identity.
-  If successful you will receive an eligibility code – '50xxxxxxx'
-  Take this code to your childcare provider with your NI number, child's date of birth and complete a Parent Declaration form.
-  Your childcare provider checks the code is valid – and if valid - confirms when you can start and reminds you to **reconfirm – every 3 months**
-  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** 

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.



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



COMMUNITY HUB NORTH



Children & Families Newcastle is part of a community network providing activities and services across four localities in the city for babies, children, young people and families. We are part of the North Community Hub. Community hubs link to other buildings in the locality to create a network of venues that offer activities and services.

The community hubs also offer a range of services including – health visiting, family support, community midwifery, mental health support, children's therapies, youth provision, training opportunities, childcare and employability services. To find out what is available near you, telephone your local Community Hub at Fawdon Children's Centre, Cairns Way, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 2SN. Telephone 0191 2115773 Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm.

<https://www.newcastlesupportdirectory.org.uk/north>



PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING

The school is given £1480 Pupil Premium funding, per eligible child, in order to further strengthen our offer to families. We do this by ensuring these children get additional support in school and by funding events (such as educational visits and other activities) to ensure all children in school have access to equal opportunities.

We would encourage all families to check their eligibility for this funding

https://www.newcastlelea.org/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en

If you are unsure or need help, please see Ms Lowe.



UNIFORM LIBRARY & EXCHANGE

We have a pre-loved “Uniform Library” in the main entrance for anyone who needs to borrow, exchange or replace any uniform items. This is not only to help cut costs to families but also aims to have a positive environmental impact by reducing waste and pollution caused by textiles. Please come along and help yourselves. Cash donations can be made to the PTFA at the school office. Thank you.

Donations of outgrown uniform can also be made at the school office. Please ensure items are clean and name labels are removed. Thank you!

