



# March 2017



## ***This Half Term***

Topics are well underway and all of the children are really busy. Foundation Stage topic is 'Pets' and the children were treated to a workshop from Scales 'n' Tails Animal Encounters when they got the opportunity to experience and hold a range of animals. Key Stage 1 are learning about Christopher Columbus and are already very knowledgeable. They have taken part in some exciting role play activities. Next week their learning will change direction and they will be completing a topic on Judaism. The Key Stage 2 topic this half term is about South Africa, using the modern classic story Journey to Jo'burg by Beverley Naidoo as a stimulus. Thank you for all the different ways in which you contribute towards making our topics such a success for the children.

## ***Nursery Applications***

Just a reminder that the closing date for Nursery applications is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Application packs are available from the School Office or by email [admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk). If you know of anyone with pre-school age children who may be eligible for Nursery this year (children who will be 3 years old before 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017) please ask them to get in touch with us as soon as possible.

***Please spread the word!***

## ***World Book Day***



World Book Day was a fun day. The PTFA Book Swap was also a great success - thank you to the parents who organized and ran it. And thank you to everyone who took part and made it such a success! 10 lucky children won a voucher each to spend at the forthcoming Book

Fair.

## ***Daft As A Brush***

Daft As A Brush is the charity adopted by Gosforth Schools' Trust as a focus for fundraising. This morning three representatives of the charity came to talk to Key Stages 1 & 2 about their work. The children were already quite knowledgeable and asked lots of pertinent questions. As part of their recent topic on Spain Key Stage 2 took on the Virgin Money Make £5 Grow challenge, a fun, free enterprise programme that engages pupils in core areas of the National Curriculum. The children raised £244 profit from the challenge which they decide to donate to Daft As A Brush. Our visitors were delighted to be presented with a cheque this morning.



## ***The Big Pedal***



The Big Pedal is the UK's largest inter-school cycling and scooting challenge that inspires pupils, staff and parents to choose two wheels for their journey to school. Powered by Sustrans and funded by the Bike Hub, the 2017 challenge will run from 20 to 31 March and is open to everyone.

On each day of the challenge schools compete to see who can record the greatest number of pupils, staff and parents cycling or scooting *to* school. A school's best five days will determine their final position, but they can log journeys on all ten days if they wish.

Please help us take part in the challenge by cycling or scooting to school. Parking further away from school and scooting or cycling the rest of the way also counts! Each class will count up each day the number of child, parent or staff journeys to school.

All schools will be entered into daily prize draws for rewards including bike and scooter stunt shows, equipment and storage if over 15% of the school cycle or scoot on each day of the challenge!

### ***SIAMS Inspection***

Our Section 48 (SIAMS) Inspection went well last week. The children were brilliant ambassadors for our school! We are told we should receive the report within about a week so will look forward to sharing the outcome with you when we receive it.

### ***Book Fair***

Our Scholastic Book Fair will run after school on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday next week. If you are able to help run it on any day please contact Mrs McCloud in the School Office. Thank you.

### ***Calling All Mums!***



On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March, at 9.00 am, we are holding our annual Mothering Service, to which all mums (or other appropriate adult) are invited. Key Stages 1 and 2 are taking part and it is always a very special occasion. In order to comfortably accommodate everyone we can only offer one seat per family. Please do not ask for more as sadly we do not have room. *If you are also a Foundation Stage parent you are invited to their service, at 10.00 am on the same day. We have deliberately arranged the service times so you have an opportunity to attend both.*

### ***STEM Week***

Several parents have volunteered to share their knowledge and expertise with the children during the last week of term. We are very grateful for your support. We are putting together a timetable that will give the children insight into possible future careers and hopefully inspire their thinking!

### ***School Funding and Budgets***

This is the time of year when we are busily constructing our school budget for the next financial year. Despite what we hear in the press school budgets are shrinking fast as services become increasingly expensive and our overall income is reduced year on year. Over recent years we have implemented significant cost reduction plans and are seeking to make further savings this year whilst maintaining education of the highest quality for our children. Even with savings made, and very careful management of the resources available to us, we struggle to make the budget balance year on year and this year is no exception. Governors are constantly looking at how we can make savings yet continue to provide the wide range of activities in the curriculum we are accustomed to. We are very lucky to have generous parents and friends who support our school in many ways. The PTFA is highly successful in its fundraising activities and is increasingly supporting the budget through the provision of essential resources. Please continue to support the PTFA fundraising events where you can. We are very grateful for your support.

### ***Mrs Harrison***

As many of you are already aware, Mrs Harrison is absent from school following an accident at half term. Her full recovery may take some time. In the meantime, we have employed a supply teacher, Mrs Hinsche, to cover Mrs Harrison's absence. She has quickly got to know the class and is continuing the work where Mrs Harrison left off. I'm sure you all join in wishing Mrs Harrison well.

### ***Lunch Menus***

We have just received posters advertising the new menus from the caterers. These are displayed in school for the children's benefit and on the main cloakroom window for parents' information. The menu operates on a three week cycle and so the posters will be changed weekly.

### ***NECCR Children's Cancer Run***

Looking ahead a little way, the North of England Children's Cancer Research Run will be held in Gosforth Park on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May. We have registered to take part once again and will be talking to

the children about the run. It is quick and easy to register online by visiting [www.childrencancerrun.co.uk](http://www.childrencancerrun.co.uk) and clicking on 'Run for your school' to link your entry to our school group. There are early bird rates for anyone registering for the run before midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

### ***School Gates***

Following a number of accidents and complaints about behaviour after school Mr Laidler will be locking the playground gates at 3.30 pm each day. We appreciate that this is disappointing for some families but hope you will feel able to use the park next door to school. We understand that there are some ongoing concerns about the park and we are in touch with the local police about this and will be meeting with them to discuss our concerns in the near future.

### ***Easter Holiday***

School closes at 3.15pm on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April and reopens on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April. Dinner money for the half term will be £46 (£10 per week). To help the office staff and the banking process please pay on a Monday only.

### ***Dates for Your Diary***

Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> March	PTFA Film Night - "Trolls"
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> March	KS1 visit from Mrs van der Velde, Gosforth Synagogue Scholastic Book Fair (Mon - Thurs)
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> / Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Newcastle University Memory Study - Rec, Y1 & Y4
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Nursery applications closing date
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> March	9.00 am KS1 & 2 Mothering Service 10.00 am Foundation Stage Mothering Service
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> April	STEM WEEK
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Forest School Day N, Y1 & Y2
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> April	Forest School Day R, Y3 & Y4
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Nursery offer letters posted PTFA Cake Stall & Easter Hunt after school
	School Closes for Easter Holiday - reopens Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April

ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE CHURCH of ENGLAND (VA) FIRST SCHOOL



2016 - 2017

# March Newsletter

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**Disclaimer**

From time to time we send out leaflets and letters signposting parents to activities and organisations in the local area. These are purely for information and not necessarily endorsed by the school. The school cannot accept any responsibility for such activities.