



Challenge, Equality & Opportunity

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are incredibly lucky every day to work in such a strong and supportive community and this past week has reminded us of how important this is. Your messages of support following Friday's tragic incident at Gosforth Park have been very appreciated and noticed. Thank you. It is unusual to have two schools serving the same community and our links with Gosforth Park are many. Some of our families have children in both schools and many of you know or are close to the Henderson family. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Henderson family and their friends, as well as with the staff and the wider school family at Gosforth Park First School.

We started Monday by talking about the incident and we have reassured all children that schools remain safe places to play and learn. We have also explored feelings in classrooms and have used a range of resources to support discussions and answer the children's questions in a clear and age appropriate way. I must tell you that your children are incredible. They have shown empathy, understanding and care as well as being able to continue with their learning and all other aspects of school life. If any children present as needing more support then we will be able to arrange that through school. Please let us know if you have any concerns.

Some parents and carers have asked us if our trees have been checked. We have a Service Level Agreement with the Newcastle City Council who provide grounds maintenance and arbour for us. The trees are all regularly checked and any issues resolved, including removing trees if they are found to be potentially dangerous for any reason. I hope that this information reassures anyone who is concerned.

News and Information from School

Training Day

Please remember that Friday 23rd October is a training day which means that school is closed to children. Staff will be in school for safeguarding training, curriculum planning meetings and First Aid training. Half term is the following week and school resumes on Monday 2nd November.

School Meals

We are currently serving a packed cold meal to children who are having a school meal. We have been working hard to be able to provide a hot meal again and we think that we will be able to do this for Reception and Key Stage 1 after the half term holiday. We will keep you up to date with our plans.

The packed meal always contains a piece of fruit and currently, most children in Key Stage 1 are not eating the fruit and so it is being wasted. Starting today, we aren't going to include the fruit in the lunch bag and instead we will give the fruit to the children in the afternoon by which time they are often hungry again.

Keeping Warm in School

Windows will continue to be opened each morning and even though we are now heating the school each day, some classrooms are quite cold. Please feel free to send in extra hoodies or jumpers if you think your child could do with an extra layer of warmth. A vest is a good idea too. Thank you.

Masks on the site

Thanks to everyone who has worn a mask when on the school site. This is not in the current guidance for school grounds and so we won't be enforcing it but we appreciate your efforts in keeping everyone safe.

Maggie

Maggie, our school dog, has been coming to school again and is loving being part of the hustle and bustle of the school day. However, for now, we aren't letting anyone stroke her in case any virus is transmitted from her fur from one person to another. She is not a surface we can spray and wipe! This week, Maggie made two socially distanced visits to Reception so that the children could meet her and ask questions about her. I think that they were very pleased to see her and find out all about her.

Staggered Starts and Finishes

Your cooperation with the new procedures is greatly appreciated. We think that the process is working very well. So much so, that we believe we can reduce the amount of time it takes to get everyone safely in and out each day.

From **Monday 12th October**, the pick up and drop off times will be as follows:

	Start times	Pick up times	Door
Blue Class	8.40 – 8.45	3.05 – 3.10	Blue Class
Class 4	8.40 – 8.45	3.05 – 3.10	KS2 Doors
Red Class	8.45 – 8.50	3.10 – 3.15	Reception Double Doors
Class 7	8.45 – 8.50	3.10 – 3.15	KS2 Doors
Class 3	8.50 – 8.55	3.15 – 3.20	Class 3 Door
Class 5	8.50 – 8.55	3.15 – 3.20	KS2 Doors
Class 2	8.55 – 9.00	3.20 – 3.25	Double Doors from the Yard
Class 6	8.55 – 9.00	3.20 – 3.25	KS2 Doors

We know that some of you will have to change arrangements with childminders, travel to work and so on, therefore we are giving you a week's notice to prepare. However, from talking to parents and carers I think the above will be preferable and easier for most of you. We will look again at these arrangements before half term and consider if we need to make any further changes.

Finally, please see below for a message from Karen Elliott, the Gosforth Schools' Chair.

I hope that you all have a restful and safe weekend.

Best wishes

Helen McKenna
Headteacher



We hope to have some news about work commencing on the new school build very soon. In the meantime, Reception are getting ready to lend a hand...

Dear Families,

I am sure you are aware of the tragic incident at Gosforth Park First School. I know you will all join with me in sending our condolences and sympathy to the family and to the staff and children of the school. As with any family of schools we share and feel deeply this loss. There are no words to express the sadness of losing a child and we can only begin to imagine the anguish that the family and the school must be going through. It will take time for all to come to terms with this and adjust to the changes. We stand as one in offering our support, care and love to all involved in the weeks and months ahead.

If you have any concerns about this incident please don't hesitate to contact me via your Headteacher.

Thank you

Karen Elliott

Chair of the Gosforth Schools Trust