



Dear Parents and Carers,

NEWS

Great North Children's Hospital Fundraiser

On Friday 19th October, we had our Pyjama Day to raise awareness of the work of Wards 4 and 14 at the Great North Children's Hospital. Thank you to everyone for your wonderful generosity. We know that the gifts will be very gratefully received and put to good use. Harry in Year 2 has had a look at everything sent in and has told us that it's just what the staff need for all of their patients at Christmas time! Harry still remembers exactly what he was given last Christmas when he was on Ward 4, so we know that your generosity will make a lasting impression for children who find themselves on Ward 4 and 14 this Christmas!



Let's do Lunch



Thanks to all of the Red Class and Blue Class visitors who came into school last week to enjoy having lunch with the children. There was great excitement each day as children came up the corridor and spotted their adults, we hope that you enjoyed the experience as much as they did. We also hope that you enjoyed sampling school food. Thanks to Susan, our cook, who is always so accommodating and makes great food for everyone every day.

Other dates for classes 2-7 are on the school calendar on our website and more information will follow closer to each week.

Gosforth Voices Perform at The City Hall for Daft as a Brush

On Sunday 14th October the Gosforth Voices participated in the School Proms at the City Hall for Daft as a Brush. This was a wonderful occasion and a great opportunity for our young singers in the Trust. Schools, ensembles and choirs from Newcastle, Gateshead and South Tyneside took part and did so with confidence and skills which impressed the large audience. It was a long day with lots of waiting around but our children behaved impeccably, both on and off the stage. Well done everyone – we are already looking forward to next year!



Eco Warriors

The Eco Warriors are back in action and have started working on the next Green Flag application by making sure that everyone is learning about the environment and that the school is as green as it can be! They will keep you up to date with their work as they go!

GST School Council

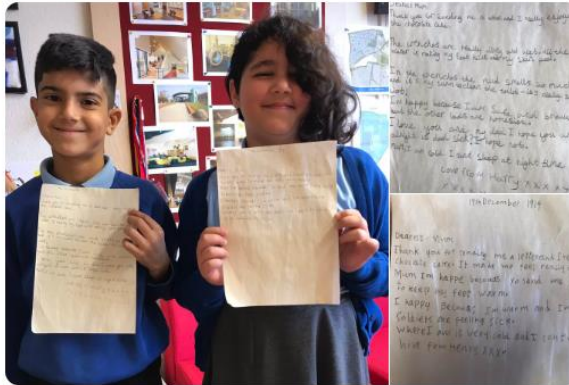
Each school in the Gosforth Schools' Trust has two representatives who work together several times across the year to develop our school-to-school work, to organise events for charities and to plan curriculum opportunities and initiatives too. This year's group met on Thursday at Gosforth Central Middle to plan and make a film about the Trust. We will keep you up to date with their news and share their outcomes with you as we go through the year. Thanks to Mrs Tawn for participating and accompanying our own GST members, Ben and Charlotte.



Twitter



Broadway East First @BroadwayEast1st · 17m
More great writing from @Class6BEFS



We have (finally!) sorted out our problems around using Twitter on school devices and so all classes are now able to tweet their news. The school account will continue to be active and we also have accounts for some of our clubs in school. Please follow us if you can and remember that we are always interested in seeing how children are supporting their learning at home!

Clubs in School

Some clubs have already started, if they haven't yet, they will be up and running after half term. We try to give children an opportunity to join in with one of their choices and sometimes we change groups part way through the year to allow as many as possible to participate.

Tribute to Jim Connan

You might have noticed that Mr Brown has installed a new sign to the outside fence. This is a lovely and fitting tribute to Jim Connan, our longstanding lollipop man who died suddenly last year. We hope that Jim's family will take comfort in seeing the sign and knowing that he is remembered as a gentle and thoughtful man who always had a smile and a kind word to greet the children every day. Thanks to Rebekah Stephenson, a parent at Gosforth Park First, who has collected/arranged donations to pay for the sign and organised the purchase.

Harvest

Our Harvest assembly takes place on Wednesday this week at 9.15am. Unfortunately, as mentioned in the Harvest letter, we only have space for one visitor per family (and preschool children). We hope that you enjoy the service which is led by Year 4 children and involves lots of singing! We will keep collecting donations until Wednesday when we hand them over to St Oswald's and the Salvation Army.



PE and Sports News

Well done to groups who have taken part in the Y2 Multiskills Lifestyle Festival this term. We have various other fixtures in the diary, especially for the spring term. Mrs McMillan is working hard to establish this year's play leaders and we will be working with the PE team from Newcastle to make sure that the training is effective in structuring play and helping to work towards our aim of at least 30 active minutes each day. All classes have been out running on the days when there are no timetabled PE lessons and we all continue to encourage children to participate in as many sports as we can provide. If you can keep some fitness activities going over the half term holiday, tweet us with your pictures!

PTFA News

The PTFA held the annual general meeting earlier this month and have followed up with two more informal meetings in order to try and attract interest from other parents and carers. Thank you to everyone who managed to attend one of these meetings, I hope that you found it interesting and enjoyable. The PTFA team is not an exclusive group by any means and is always open to new ideas and offers of help. Please get in touch with us if you have missed the meetings but would like to be involved. Over the past few years the PTFA has given school very generous donations to purchase iPads and laptops for children to use across the school. Money raised has also helped with curriculum visits, transport, fun days, and many other resources and opportunities which school would not otherwise be able to afford. We are currently working towards being able to improve the Reception outdoor area with resources and furniture that we can use now and take with us when we relocate. Mrs Tawn has also just ordered new laptops and other hardware to support the computing curriculum. Huge thanks to anyone who has given time and money to support us!

Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings are taking place on Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th November. This is a really important opportunity for you to talk to your child's teacher and share information about how well they have settled into new classes and to talk about progress and learning. It is essential that you attend an appointment on one of the evenings. If you are unable to, please let your child's teacher know so that we can rearrange another mutually convenient time for you. Appointment sign-up sheets will be available in school from Monday 12th November – Friday 16th November.

FROM THE OFFICE

School Meals

There have been a lot of children recently bringing packed lunches to school when we have been told they are having a school meal. We ask that children do full weeks of either meals or packed lunches as it helps the kitchen plan staffing and food ordering. There is also a cost to the school if we have ordered your child a school meal and they have brought a packed lunch that day. If your child wishes to change meal choice, please give a week's notice to the school office.

ParentMail

We are now using +Pay on ParentMail, an online payment service which allows you to pay for school items quickly and easily on your smartphone, tablet or computer. We will inform you about items you need to pay through ParentMail, and you will be able to pay electronically, using credit or debit cards. If you have an Android or Apple smartphone, we would highly recommend you download the free ParentMail App so that you can make easy, online payments on the go. To do this, simply search for "ParentMail" in your App store. If you do not wish to make payments online, you can of course, continue to make cash, cheque and voucher payments. Please note, your bank statement will display either the school name or ParentMail, dependent on your payment method. If you need any additional information or assistance, please use the help site: www.parentmail.co.uk/help/parenthelp/ or please contact Mrs Dickie or Mrs Whatnell in the school office.

Dates

There are some new dates added to the list below and the school website calendar is also up to date, please keep checking to make sure that you don't miss anything important.

Tuesday 23rd October	No Outsiders workshop for Parents/Carers in Class 6 2.30pm
Wednesday 24th October	Harvest Assembly 9.15am
Thursday 25th October	Break up for half term for pupils
Friday 26th October	Training Day (school closed to children)
Monday 5th November	Back to school
	GST World War 1 Project Week
Wednesday 7 th November	Robinwood meeting for parents/carers 2.30pm
Friday 9 th November	KS2 to The Discovery Museum
Monday 12th November	School Bookfair Week
	Rookie Golf Club visit to Sandyford
Tuesday 13th November	No Outsiders workshop for Parents/Carers in Class 2
Wednesday 14th November	Winter Disco – details to follow from PTFA
Monday 19th – Friday 23rd Nov	Class 2 Let's do Lunch week
Wednesday 21st – Friday 23rd Nov	Y4 Robinwood Residential
Thursday 22nd November	No Outsiders workshop for Parents/Carers in Class 4 2.30pm
Monday 26th November	Parents' Evening 3.30 – 6.00pm
	No Outsiders workshop for Parents/Carers in Red Class 2.30pm
Tuesday 27th November	Parents' Evening 3.30 – 6.00pm
	No Outsiders workshop for Parents/Carers in Blue Class 2.30pm
Wednesday 28th November	No Outsiders workshop for Parents/Carers in Class 5 2.30pm
Wednesday 28th November	Gosforth Voices
Thursday 29 th November	No Outsiders workshop for Parents/Carers in Class 3 2.30pm
Monday 3 rd December	Governors' Meeting 5.00pm
Wednesday 5 th December	Christmas Fair 3.30-5.00pm
Friday 7 th December	Stay and Play for Reception Parents 8.55am
Monday 10 th December	Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal Day
Tuesday 11 th December	Reception Christmas Performance for Parents/Carers 9.15am
Wednesday 12 th December	KS1 Christmas Performance for Parents/Carers 2.00pm
	KS2 Christmas Performance for Parents/Carers 6.30pm
Tuesday 18th December	Snow Bear in school for R and KS1 with Chris Bostock
Friday 21st December	Christmas Carols and mince pies 1.30pm
Friday 21st December	Break up for Christmas Holidays
Monday 7th January	Back to School

I hope that you all have a lovely half term holiday and look forward to seeing everyone on Monday 5th November. Please remember that this Friday, 26th October is a training day and therefore school is closed to children.

Best wishes,

Helen McKenna
Headteacher