



# ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VA) FIRST SCHOOL



## March 2019 - Newsletter 22

### ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Whole School <small>(excluding Nursery)</small>
90.7%	98.3%	96.6%	98.0%	★ 100% ★	95.7%	97.7%

Our school target for attendance is 97%. **Well done Year 3!!**

### HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

Spring seems to have arrived! The children have thoroughly enjoyed the sunshine this week and have told us all about their half term adventures with family and friends. It was lovely to bump into some of you out and about during half term too.



Staff have used half term as an opportunity to Spring clean... Mr Hunter has painted the Reception classroom and the staffroom which has really helped freshen them up! Staff pulled together, last week, to get the rooms organised and ready for the children and staff to return on Monday. Reception class still needs some new labels laminated and cut, if anyone has an hour or two to spare! Miss Leigh & Miss Baharie would be really grateful. They are also still hoping for donations of white or wicker baskets for storage please.

We are all very much looking forward to working with you, and your children, this half term- everyone has returned to school beaming and eager to find out what this half term has in store. The sunshine, at the beginning of the week, almost certainly helped everyone have an extra spring in their step!

### IMPORTANT E-SAFETY UPDATE

We feel it is important to share with you that many of our children have been talking about the "Momo Challenge" this week at school. The "Momo Challenge" is allegedly being spread, on Facebook and other media outlets including WhatsApp and YouTube, enticing children to perform a series of dangerous tasks including violent attacks and suicide. It is designed to look like familiar cartoons so children may not realise what they are watching.



We would urge you to be extra vigilant in monitoring what your children are accessing online please.

**Several of our children claim that they have already seen this online.**

Following queries from a number of schools relating to the recent media coverage of online challenges, Northumbria Police are raising awareness across the city about staying safe online. Northumbria Police are encouraging school staff and parents to familiarise themselves with the online safety guide for parents and carers for social media apps and platforms, which can be viewed online (see link below).

[https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/?fbclid=IwAROGdWKMq\\_ZkxDuGYmtQ7wYwYMOIU6LMALIDCY64rbDDNKJd7K0dhlcaJA](https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/?fbclid=IwAROGdWKMq_ZkxDuGYmtQ7wYwYMOIU6LMALIDCY64rbDDNKJd7K0dhlcaJA)

### PTFA NEWS



Our beautiful central courtyard is in need of some TLC (sweeping, replanting, weeding etc) so we are looking for some willing volunteers... If you have some time to spare and would be willing to help please contact the PTFA.



## BETTER READING PARTNERS

Thank you to everyone who attended our Reading Workshop this morning- we have already received some positive feedback. We will send out handouts in due course and will re-run the session later in the year if there is sufficient demand and will try to focus on older and more able children in that session.



## WATER BOTTLES

A reminder that all children are asked to bring named, refillable, sports top water bottles into school each Monday, from home, please. These will be sent home for washing every Friday and should **contain only water** (not juice please). We are trying to reduce our use of disposable plastic cups in school. We would appreciate your support in this matter please.

## SEVEN STORIES BOOK WEEK VISIT & WORLD BOOK DAY

On Monday, children in Years 1-4 will visit Seven Stories as part of our Book Week celebrations. The children will each be issued with a World Book Day voucher which they can exchange for selected books. Children are kindly asked **not to bring money** on the trip. **Several classes are still really short of helpers** for Monday. Please contact Class Teachers if you are able to help.



Parent helpers will need to make their own way there, unless arranged with staff otherwise. Please come to the school office at 8:45am for the Risk Assessment Briefing prior to departure.



On Thursday, children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character and bring the corresponding book along with them. Costumes do not need to be bought- there are lots of popular story characters who are children, so costumes could be created from things that you already have at home.

## STEM WEEK

GST are holding their annual STEM Week from 11<sup>th</sup> March until 15<sup>th</sup> March. STEM week is an opportunity to enthuse our children about all things STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths). We have booked "Technology Tom" to lead some exciting STEM workshops for children in Years 1-4. We would also like to invite any willing parents to talk to groups of children about their STEM related work (scientists, engineers, doctors, dentists, vets etc). If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Mr Renny (STEM co-ordinator) on [tom.renny@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:tom.renny@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk) or class teachers directly.



Last year, we had representatives from some local businesses who talked to children too. If you have any contacts, who you feel may be able to help, please share them with Mr Renny too!



## AHOY THERE!

Year 1 enjoyed a visit from Captain Raggybeard this week to launch their "Pirates" topic. They walked the plank, sang Sea Shanties, looked for treasure and Captain Raggybeard gave all of the children a mermaid's tear to take home (apparently they make good dreams come true)!

## YEAR 2 SHIPS IN BOTTLES

Year 2 worked with Artist, Zoe Parker-Smissen, on Monday to create models of Christopher Columbus' ship on Monday. They have spent this week finding out about life in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and the famous journeys of Columbus.



## SWIMMING LESSONS

A reminder that we would like parents of all Year 3 and 4 children to complete the swimming information on ParentMail please, so we can arrange swimming lessons for next term.



## STAFFING

We are expecting Miss Burns back next week, however Mrs Hail will continue to teach Year 4 until Miss Burns is fully recovered. Year 4 Parent Teacher consultations will be rearranged in due course.

Mrs Armstrong also plans to return on Monday, if her back pain continues to ease.



## THE ARFS BIG SPRING CLEAN!

Mr Hunter and I have been approached by Oliver S in Year 4, who has made a fantastic poster (to the right). Oliver has suggested that the Year 4 children carry out litter picking duties, alongside Mr Hunter, in our school grounds.



Mr Hunter has managed to borrow some child size litter pickers and the Year 4s are very enthusiastic about their new role! If there are any Year 4 parents who **do not give permission** for their child to be involved in this initiative, please let Mrs McCloud know asap. Thank you.

*The  
Season  
of  
Lent*



## LENT

As you know, we often talk to the children about being stewards of God's earth and playing our part in protecting the environment. For Lent this year, we are aiming to "give up" (or certainly reduce!) single use plastic in school. Having watched environmental programmes and discussed these with the children we are hoping to play our part in helping to reduce plastic waste.



Therefore, we would ask parents and carers to support us by endeavouring to:

- ensure each child has a refillable sports cap **water bottle in school**, rather than using disposable cups
- consider using **reusable food containers** for packed lunches and fruit snacks, rather than disposable food packaging
- avoid sending disposable plastic cutlery or straws in packed lunches

## PE & SPORT

There has been lots going on this week;

- Tuesday was the Y3 & Y4 Quicksticks tournament- we made it to the quarter finals so our team did brilliantly and made us all really proud! Thank you to GCMS for the loan of their hockey sticks!
- Swimming Gala Trials are taking place as I type! More information to follow.
- Lee Sterry has led PE sessions for Reception children this afternoon and starts a lunchtime activity session next week, which will involve setting up games for children to join in with.
- Please could all children bring in named trainers for running (laces are OK if they can tie them themselves)



## YEAR 4 RESIDENTIAL

Following an extremely positive response from current Year 3 parents, we have now booked the Year 4 residential for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019 (one night only). The cost of the residential is £90.00 per person. This will include all food, a range of outdoor and adventurous activities, evening entertainment and all transport. The first instalment of £20.00 should be paid to school, via ParentMail, by 22<sup>nd</sup> March please. We will share more details in due course.

**PARENT COUNCIL**

Our next Parent Council Meeting is on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 9:00am. We now have the following members;

- Christine Halfpenny (Rec & Y3 parent)
- Greg Farrell (Y1 & Y2 parent)
- Sarah McCrea (Y1 parent)
- Camilla Stewart (Y3 parent)
- Chinyereugo Umemneku (N & Y2 parent)
- Helen Miller (Y4 parent and Foundation Governor)
- Craig Dallison (Y1 parent and Foundation Governor)
- Kate Massey (Headteacher)



As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or queries.

With my very best wishes,

*Mrs KE Massey*

Headteacher

**“Love to learn, learn to love”**

Colossians 3:23-24

## Dates for your Diary

New dates are in red, for your information.

Date	Event	Additional Notes
<b>March 2019</b>		
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> March- Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Book Week	Activities in school all week
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Y1 – 4 visit to Seven Stories	Parent helpers required please! Children to wear school uniform and bring packed lunches please Children will each be given a World Book Day voucher to exchange for a book. <b>Please do not send additional money.</b>
	9:00am Parent Council Meeting	
	Governor Meeting to discuss next steps in relation to NEAT consultation	
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Shrove Tuesday	
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Y4 Worship – Lent begins	Parents invited
	Reception animal handling session - visit from For Paws Pet Shop staff and animals	Please pay online £3.50 Please ensure we have up to date allergy information for all children!
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day	Children invited to dress as their favourite book character
	Y4 Iron Age hands on experience (in school)	Please pay online £3.50
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Reception eye tests	In school
	9-10:00am Parent Workshop on managing children's behaviour effectively	Please book places online
11 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> March	GST STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) focus Week	We would be grateful of any parents who would be able to come into school to talk about their STEM themed work. Please contact Mrs McCloud if you would like more information.
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Governors Teaching & Learning Cttee Meeting	
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	STEM visitor "Technology Tom" for Year 1-4	Please pay online £3.50 Parent helpers needed please
	Plastics Project Assembly	
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day for Comic Relief	Children invited to wear red for £1 donation
	Gosforth Voices Tour	
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 visit to Egyptian Exhibition at the Hancock Museum	Please pay online
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Let's Laugh Day	
	5:30pm Reasoning Workshop for parents	Please book places online
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Purim (Jewish)	Activities in school
	STEM Assembly	
	GST Board of Directors Meeting	
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	World Poetry Day	2:30pm Poetry Performance for parents of Y1-4 children
	Gosforth Pool School Swimming Gala	Selected children only
	Persian New Year	
	GST Moderation Meeting	Staff only
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Deadline for Nursery applications	
	9:00am Safeguarding Briefing for all parent helpers/volunteers in school	Please complete the ParentMail form
	First instalment for Y4 Dukes House Wood visit (Sept 2019)	Please pay via ParentMail
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	STEM workshop for Rec & Y1	
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	2:15pm Nursery Parents Stay & Play	Nursery parents invited
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	9:15 Reception Parents Stay & Play	Reception parents invited to all or part of session

	Full Governing Body Meeting	
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Y1-4 Mothers' Day Service 9:00am	Mums (or alternative carer) invited!
	N & Rec Mothers' Day Service 2:30pm	Mums (or alternative carer) invited!
	Nursery places offered	
<b>April 2019</b>		
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	GCMS Spanish event for Y4	Selected children only
	<b>Autism Awareness Week</b>	<b>Activities in school</b>
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Forest School- N, Rec & Y1	Please wear outdoor clothes with long sleeves and bring wellies if wet/sunhat and suncream if warm
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Forest School- Y2, Y3 & Y4	
	Autism Awareness Day	Activities in school
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	9:00am Year 2 SATs Meeting for Parents	Y2 Parents- please come along!
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	PTFA Film Night	
	Y3 Football Tournament BEFS	
	<b>No Art Club tonight</b>	
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Service at All Saints Church for children in Y1-Y4 2:00pm	<b>All Saints' Church</b> , West Avenue (off the High Street) Families welcome
	School closes for Easter	
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	School re-opens to children	
	Shakespeare Day	Activities in school
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Y4 Bikeability	
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>TBC</b> Year 2 visit to RNLi Grace Darling Museum at Bamburgh	Please note that this is not yet confirmed. More info to follow in due course.
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Deadline for acceptance of Nursery places	
	PTFA Easter Cake Stall	After school- please send cake donations to school on the day
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	PTFA Sponsored Walk	Details to follow
<b>May 2019</b>		
May	Year 2 Statutory Assessments	Y2 children must be in school please
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	International Laughter Day	
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	International Laughter Day	
	Governors Ethos Cttee	
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Governors TLA Cttee	
12-18 May	Christian Aid Week	More info to follow
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Themed lunch	Details to follow
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Worship (lead by Year 1) 9:00am	Parents welcome
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Greggs Children's Cancer Run- Newcastle Racecourse	Details to follow
	Wesak (Buddhist)	Activities in school
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Happy Shoes Day	Walk to school and wear your own shoes- donation of £1 please.
	World Day for Cultural Diversity	Activities in school
	Governors Finance Cttee Meeting	
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	GST Daft Day for DAAB	Details to follow
	School closes for half term	
<b>June 2019</b>		
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	GST Staff Training Day- school closed to children	
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	School reopens to children	
	Eid-UL-Fitr (Muslim)	Activities in school
	pm KS2 All Saints Schools Week visit	Details to follow
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	10:00am Pentecost Service- All Saints'	All welcome
10-14 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Phonics Screen	Y1 children must be in school please
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	9:15 Reception Parents Stay & Play	Parents invited to all or part of session

Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> June	GST Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Fair - open to all parents of children on the SEND register	Held at GCMS
	2:15pm Nursery Parents Stay & Play	Parents Invited
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	PJ Day for Ronald McDonald House Charities	Children invited to wear PJs for school for a £1 donation
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Big Gig (Gosforth Band & Gosforth Voices)	Northumbria Sports Central
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Y4 Leavers' Service	St Nicolas' Cathedral
	Govs TLA Cttee Meeting	
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	New Nursery Parents Meeting 5:00pm	
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	New Reception Parents Meeting 5:00pm	
	TBC Nursery visit to Railway Museum	More information to follow
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Non Uniform Day	Please send bottles or tombola prizes
	Y2 Big Sing 1:15-2:30pm	Details to follow
<b>July 2019</b>		
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Gosforth Pyramid Concert (Trinity Church)	For children in Gosforth voices & Gosforth Band
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Governing Body Meeting	
	Transition Day for all classes	Y4 children visit GCMS (all day)
	Y4 Parents Transition Evening at GCMS	Info to follow from GCMS
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	End of year reports sent home	
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	PTFA Summer Fair 3:00pm-6:00pm with BBQ	
8-12 <sup>th</sup> July	PE Week	If you know anyone who is involved professionally with any sports and could lead a session, please let Mrs Mann know!
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Drop in sessions to speak to teaching staff	No appointments required
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July		
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> July	N & Rec Teddy Bears Picnic (am) children only	Please bring a teddy bear and a healthy snack to share with your friends
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> July	N & Rec Sports day (1:30pm)	Parents invited
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Y4 Transition activities TBC	
Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 1-4 Sports Day (1:30pm)	Parents invited
	Year 4 Leavers' Disco after school	Details to follow
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Forest School- Y2, Y3 & Y4	Please wear outdoor clothes with long sleeves and bring wellies if wet/sunhat and sun cream if warm
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Forest School- N, R & Y1	
	Y3 & Y4 instrumental concert TBC	Parents invited
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Cakes in the Courtyard	All helpers and volunteers invited- please join us!
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	9:15am Y4 Leavers' Service	Y4 Parents and carers invited
	3:15pm Picnic in the Playground	Everyone welcome!
	School closes for Summer	
<b>September 2019</b>		
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Staff Training Day	School closed to children
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	School opens to children	
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> -Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Y4 Residential to Dukes House Wood	

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Colossians 3:23-24

# ELMER'S COLOURFUL CONCERT

Sunday 17th March  
2:00-2:45pm



Seven Stories, Ouseburn Valley,  
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, NE1 2PQ

**Tickets: £5**

visit: [www.sevenstories.org.uk](http://www.sevenstories.org.uk)  
call: 0300 330 1095 ext.300  
or scan with your phone's camera



Children under 7 and their families - No Visitor Centre admission required  
Wear bright colours to show your support for Elmer

**seven stories**  
The National Centre for Children's Books

 **Newcastle  
University**



**Captain Ted's**  
Children's Entertainment Centre

## **EASTER HOLIDAY CLUB!!!**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup>-Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April**

**Only £25 all day 8.30am-5.30pm, including  
snacks, lunch and tea.**

**8.30am-1pm £17.50 including snack and  
lunch**

**1pm-5.30pm, £17.50 including snack and tea**

**Including arts and crafts, movies,  
baking, fun and games!**

**Speak to a member of staff now to book your  
place!**

**Childcare vouchers accepted**

*a jolly good place to play*