



## ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VA) FIRST SCHOOL

### January 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers

We are certainly experiencing the winter weather and aren't the children loving the snow! While Mr Laidler is able to grit a path way around the school he is unable to grit around the whole school so please take extra care during the icy and snowy weather and enjoy the snow! As it is the start of a New Year as well as wishing everyone a very Happy New year I have included some New Year's reminders in this newsletter to help our school provide the very best for our children. Thank you for continued support.

#### **Staffing update**

Miss Stokes has now settled back wonderfully into our Reception class and she would like to thank all parents for their kind comments and welcome.

Mr Laidler has been appointed caretaker of Regent Farm First School and while we are delighted for this promotion of a larger school, complete with caretaker home. We will be very sad to see him leave and I know he will be greatly missed by all as he is very much a part of our school team. We would like to thank him for his dedication to our school and children and wish him every success and happiness in his new position.

Mrs Massey unfortunately has been very poorly during the holidays with flu, chest infection and now bronchitis. She is continuing to improve and we will keep you up to dated. We are thinking of her and hope she gets better soon. In the meantime Mrs Jeanette Ward is covering. She is a local lady, who knows our school as she has covered several times previously.

#### **Nursery update**

We are delighted to welcome five new starters to our Nursery. They are settling well and we look forward to working with them and their families.

Children are entitled to 15 hours funded education from the term after they are 3 years old so as we have spaces in our nursery we are now admitting children the term after they are 3 years old in September, January and April. This will support the sustainability of the Nursery and School so if you do know anyone whose child does turn 3 between January and April or September and January please encourage them to contact us. This has also enabled us to increase staffing in our Early Years as follows and we welcome Miss Chiltern to our early years team, which is now as follows:

Reception teacher and Early Years Lead – Miss Melanie Stokes – full time.  
Nursery teacher – Mrs Paula Hinsche (part- time 5mornings)  
Teaching Assistant – Mrs Penny Foster -full time  
Higher Level Teaching Assistant– Mrs Jayne Senior Tuesday and Wednesday mornings  
Teaching Assistant - Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings (to be appointed)

We are also offering the 15 hours nursery education more flexibly in September and will do so in April if there is the demand. We will offer the following flexible options:

- Monday, Tuesday full days and half day Wednesday
- Half day Wednesday, and full days Thursday, Friday
- 5 mornings

- 5 afternoons

Again it would be helpful if you know any families with younger children to inform them of our flexible offer and encourage them to contact us. Alongside this we will offer the 30 hours free entitlement to those working parents who are entitled if there is the demand. So please support us and spread the word. Thank you.

### **The School yard**

While it is wonderful to see the children playing together in the school yard in the mornings and afternoons I have been informed by parents of a couple of health and safety issues which have resulted in accidents caused by playing with equipment in the yard before and after school. Therefore can I please stress that balls, scooters etc are not to be used in the yard as there are too many children and adults for them to be used safely. If your child does come to school on a bike or scooter please make sure that you keep it with you. Balls are too dangerous to play with while there are so many people and children are not allowed on the grass during the winter months while it is muddy so please can you support this. Also can I please remind parents that they are responsible for their children's safety and they should not be playing on the climbing equipment unsupervised. The children not allowed on the climbing equipment during school time if it is wet. I know you like ourselves hold the health and safety of our children very highly so we do ask you for your support. Thank you

### **Attendance Policy**

The staff and the governor Teaching and Learning committee are reviewing our attendance policy. I have attached a copy so please feel free to contact me with comments or questions. The policy highlights the importance of high attendance on the children's educational progress and therefore children's attendance is now being monitored on a weekly basis. The following information taken from our policy demonstrates the impact of absences:

- Less than 5 days absence = 98%+ attendance
- 14 days absence (approx.) = 93.5% attendance
- 20 days absence (approx.) = 90% attendance
- 30 days absence (approx.) = 88% attendance

If a child achieves 80% attendance this means that they have missed approximately 40 days of education over the academic year, averaging 1 day per week.

Therefore in order to support our children's education, as outlined in our policy, your child's attendance will be monitored on a weekly basis and catagorised as follows:

- GREEN 97% attendance and above.
- AMBER 93%- 96% (missing 8 days+ education)
- RED 92% attendance and below (missing 3 weeks+ education)

We will discuss your child's attendance with you if it falls in the amber or red category in order to establish how we can support. Your class teacher will discuss it initially and then either myself or Clarie Scott, our Family Support Advisor. We would ask you to ensure you arrive at least 5minutes before the start of school.

Being late can also impact negatively upon children's progress as both socially and academically as when they arrive on time they learn the importance of punctuality as well as arriving with their friends and ready to start their work. It is not only registration time as during register children will be either engaged in mental maths, computer maths, handwriting or grammar, vocabulary and punctuation activities. If you do arrive late you will need to take your child to the office where you will need to complete a Punctuality Form,

signing your child in and writing down the reason why they are late. We do hope you appreciate that we want to work in partnership, so your child can have the best possible education.

### **School Office**

Arriving on time will reduce the number of people using the office in the morning which will in turn support Mrs McCloud. A reminder that Mrs McCloud is on her own now in the Office so would appreciate it if parents only go to the Office in an emergency. Monies should be put in their boxes in Nursery and Reception by parents, and in your child's book bag with you informing your child in Years 1 to 4. Please speak to your class teacher if you have any queries, myself or Mrs McCloud can be contacted via e-mail (admin@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk). We do appreciate your support. Thank you

### **Funding Entitlement - Free School meals**

Funding mechanisms to school budgets have changed over the recent years. Whether your child prefers packed lunch, is entitled and takes a Universal Free School Meal (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) or has a paid school meal (Nursery and Years 3 and 4), it is important for all parents to check their eligibility and apply for a Free School Meal. If your child is entitled to a free school meal Pupil Premium funding will be paid into the school budget which can then be used to support your child's education. Parents may assume that they need not apply if their child is in Reception, Year 1 and 2 and entitled to a free school meal anyway but they do need to apply to access the additional pupil premium funding to support their child. Therefore in order to ensure children do receive the funding they are entitled to and the school receives the correct funding please could all parents check against the eligibility criteria and apply accordingly (if you have not done so already in previously). You can access the online form via this link (<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/education-and-learning/benefits-and-educational-grants/free-school-meals>) or an application form can be collected from the wall wallet in the main entrance to school. Thank you very much for your support.

### **Dates for the Diary**

Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	PTFA Cake Stall (after school)
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February & Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Teacher Consultations (PM and after school)
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	PTFA Film Night
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	School Closes for half-term holiday
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	School re-opens
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	World Book Day – Dress up and Book Swap (details to follow)
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Mothers Day Service at School (2.30pm)
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Sport Relief (details to follow)
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2 SATS meeting (3.30pm)

All Newsletters are posted on the school website for reference and a ParentMail will be sent when I update the Headteacher's Message Board on the website.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D. Henry

Headteacher