



www.gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk

December 1st 2023 Issue 4 Autumn Term 2



Bring a Decoration!

It certainly felt very festive waking up to a layer of snow this morning and I'm sure there was great excitement as advent calendar windows were opened and elves started appearing in homes!

School council did a magnificent job at picking out our school Christmas tree with Mr Brown, Mrs Easdon and Mrs Hall.



The fairy lights have been added and it is awaiting a flurry of decorations and baubles. Children can each **bring in one small ornament to add to the tree**. If you would like them returned after Christmas, please make sure your child's full name and class are added somewhere.

Mrs Lamb



AUTISM HERO AWARDS
CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

A huge congratulations to **Mr Patterson** who has **won** the **Outstanding Education Award** at the **Autism Hero Awards** in London at the weekend. We are so proud!



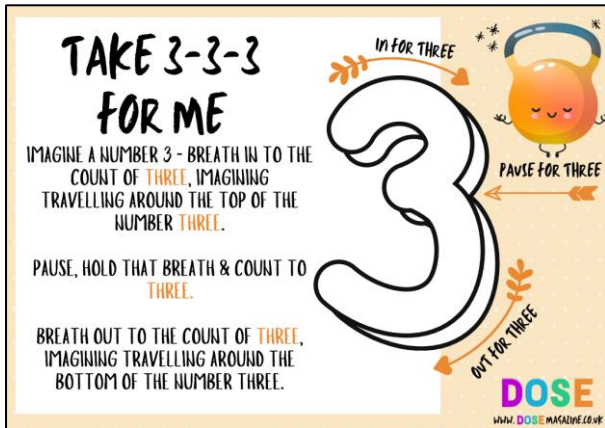
Reception - Year 4

Thursday 14th December

On **Thursday 14th December**, we will be taking all of our children from Reception to Year 4 to the Exchange Theatre in North Shields to watch the pantomime **Aladdin**! If you have not yet given consent for your child to attend and to pay a contribution, please do so via ParentPay. Children who are not attending will remain at school.

Wellbeing

In Monday's assembly this week we talked about wellbeing and shared a new breathing exercise that is displayed on our new wellbeing board in school (designed by school council and a few other helpers).



Check out dosemagazine.co.uk for loads of free resources!

In assembly we regularly talk about 'Gimme 5' where we ask the children to name 5 trusted adults they could speak to in school if they had a worry.

The children were also reminded about the Designated Safeguarding Leads in school (DSLs) and how it is their special job to keep the children safe.

The DSLs in school are

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Mrs Lamb | 3. Mrs Lambert |
| 2. Mr Hindess | 4. Miss Gasper |

We also talked about how all children have

- The right to feel safe
- The right to be heard
- The right to a childhood
- The right to be educated
- The right to be healthy
- The right to be treated fairly

You can find our Safeguarding Policy and our Child friendly version on our school website.

Christmas Shows

Wednesday 13th December

Nursery: doors open at 9:15 for a 9:30 – 10:00 performance

Tuesday 19th December

Reception Miss Coughlan: doors open at 10:30 for a 10:45 – 11:15 performance

Tuesday 19th December

Reception Miss Parsons-Munn: doors open at 2:15 for a 2:30 – 3:00 performance

Wednesday 20th December

Green: doors open at 9:15 for a 9:30 – 10:00 performance

Wednesday 20th December

Orange: doors open at 10:30 for a 10:45 – 11:15 performance

Wednesday 20th December

Yellow: doors open at 2:15 for a 2:30 – 3:00 performance

Thursday 21st December

Blue: doors open at 9:15 for a 9:30 – 10:00 performance

Thursday 21st December

Violet: doors open at 10:30 for a 10:45 – 11:15 performance

Thursday 21st December

Indigo: doors open at 2:15 for a 2:30 – 3:00 performance

Teas/coffees and biscuits will be available at the performance and raffles tickets will be on sale. The raffle will be drawn at the end of each performance.

Only **four** guests per household will be admitted. Babies in prams/pushchairs and toddlers will be admitted but will be counted as one of the four guests.

All guests must be seated during the performance.

Please queue from the bottom of the ramp so visitors and staff can still enter/exit via the main office.

Thanks



Christmas Jumpers and a Special Guest...

On **Wednesday 20th December**, we will be inviting all of our children to wear their Christmas jumpers and other festive clothing.



Our well-connected PTFA members have arranged a **special guest visitor** who will be making an important stop at our Gosforth Park Grotto on his way to the North Pole!

Wednesday 20th December is also Christmas Dinner day! If your child would like a Christmas Dinner check out parent pay for how and when to book.

Santa Dash Daily Mile



Also on **Wednesday 20th December**, we will be holding a festive version of our much-loved daily mile. We invite all of our children to wear Santa hats, reindeer antlers or any other funky headgear (don't forget your trainers!)

We cannot wait to share the photos on our school twitter page! @GosforthPark1st

Miss Walsh



As the weather turns colder we have revisited our winter weather plans in school.

In the event of icy conditions, Mr Brown will grit the pathway leading from the school gate down the main path, through the gate onto the main playground to the KS1, KS2, Reception and Nursery doors.

In the event of extreme ice or snow, Mr Brown will grit a pathway leading from the school gate down the main path into the main entrance which will be used by all Key Stages. In the event of extreme ice or snow we will alert you via Parent Pay as early as possible.

Please remember the following

- stick to the designated, gritted pathways in school.
- be prepared to collect your child during the day should conditions worsen.
- Ensure that the school has your up to date telephone numbers in order for telephone calls to be received.
- wear suitable footwear for the conditions when bringing and collecting children from school.
- ensure your child is wearing sensible footwear and warm coats according to the conditions.
- supervise your child before and after school, ensuring that children do not play on any ungritted areas outside of the school day (before 8.55am and after 3.30pm).

Our full gritting policy can be found on the school website.

Thanks

Mrs Lamb

KS2 Victoria Tunnel



On Thursday, **Violet Class** and **Indigo Class** had a brilliant time as we enjoyed a guided tour of the **Victoria Tunnel** and a WW2 workshop.

Our brave young historians ventured into the tunnel and learned about how it was adapted during WW2 as an air-raid shelter for the people of Newcastle.

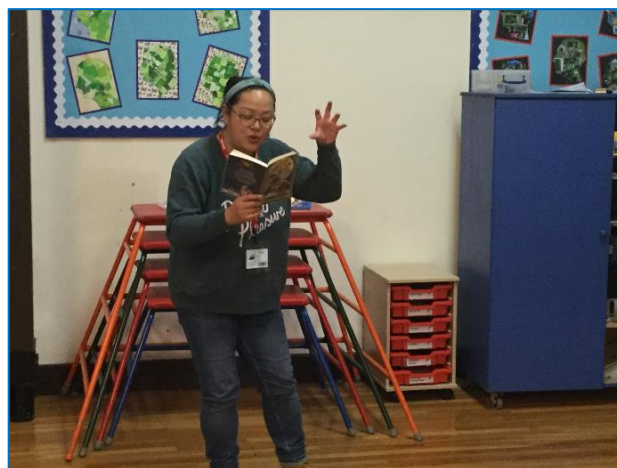
We also visited **Northern Print**, and used their printing press to create our very own 'Dig for Victory' posters. What a fantastic day!

Well done everyone- you were a credit to our school, as always. A massive thank you to all of the teachers and parent volunteers who gave up their time to help.

Mr Hindess and the KS2 team



We Love to Read!



As you may know – out of 79 schools across the city who took part – we were delighted to win the Summer Reading Challenge 2023!

Thank you to Newcastle Libraries for our shiny new trophy!

As part of our prize KS1 and KS2 had a visit from **Maisie Chan**, the author of 'The Tiger Warrior' series. She told us about Chinese zodiac and explained the inspiration behind some of her stories. We even got to hear some of her story 'Tiger Warrior- Battle for the Jade Rabbit'. One of the best parts was designing our own mythical creatures, who knows - perhaps our creations may appear in a future Maisie Chan novel.

Mrs Lambert

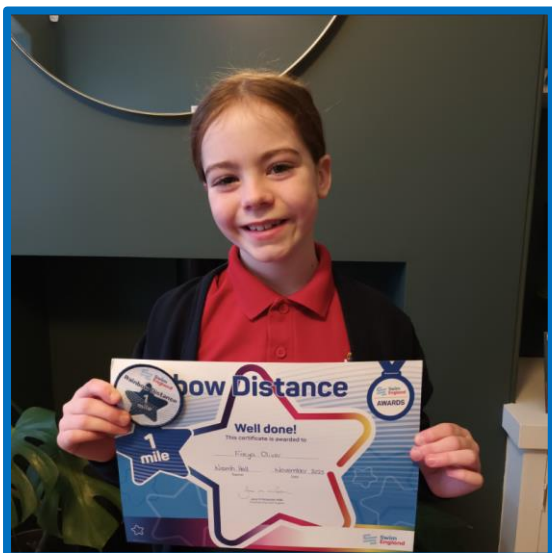


Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Jessica** who gained her yellow belt in ju-jitsu last weekend. Well done!



Congratulations to **Freya** who was awarded her one mile badge at swimming this week. Well done!



Healthy School

YOUNGmINDS
fighting for young people's mental health

Young minds is one of the UK's leading mental health charities fighting for children and young people's mental health. At first glance, it may look like the website is only geared towards teens and young adults but there is a parents section where you can navigate through to find great advice for all ages. You don't currently need to have concerns about your child's mental health for a website such as this to be important and useful. For example, there are some great tips in a parent's blog section which provides tips to help children develop the skills to cope with life's challenges as they navigate their way through childhood and beyond. There is also a good section on 'Early Help' and signposts on where to get further help if needed. Find out more at

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/>

Mrs Wells

Applying for Places

Please apply on time to avoid disappointment.

Nursery Application forms for places in September 2024 will be available on the school website and from the office from Friday 12th January 2024

The closing date for applications is 15th March 2024.

Offer letters will be emailed out on 22nd March 2023.

The deadline for accepting a place is Friday 19th April.

Reception Applications for September 2024

Applications open: 1 September 2023

Applications close: 15 January 2024

National offer day: 17 April 2024

Further information can be found at

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/apply-school-place/applying-reception-places>

Parents are able to visit the school on the following dates. Please phone the school office to book a place.

Wednesday 29th November 5:15 – 6:15pm

Mrs Lamb



Rainbow Wraparound

We are recruiting! Please check out the vacancy section on the school website, or on northeastjobs.org.uk. If you have any questions about the role – catch me on the gate for a chat!

Mrs Lamb

Sickness Bugs

Please be reminded that if you child has suffered from diarrhoea or they have been sick they should not return to school for at least 48 hours (2 days) from their last bout.

Many thanks



We know that many of our children will have written to Santa this year and that electronic devices will be a popular request. Please see below a handy list of top tips to stay safe online.

Miss Coughlan

Christmas Holiday

We break up for Christmas on **Friday 22nd December**, returning on **Monday 8th January**.



Thank you so much to everyone that came to our wreath making workshops at the weekend - all your wreaths were stunning and we managed to raise over £600 for the school.

A massive thank you to Angela from Willows Fleurs for your expert guidance, and to Asda and Morrisons for their very generous snack donations.

We really appreciate everyone's support and look forward to seeing the wreaths hanging on people's doors.



Our next PTA meeting will be held in the school hall on **Monday 22nd January** from 6:15pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

Pre-Loved Uniform

PRE-LOVED ITEMS WE CAN SELL		PRE-LOVED ITEMS WE CAN NOT SELL
OFFICIAL SCHOOL JUMPERS	£2.50	NON – OFFICIAL JUMPERS
OFFICIAL SCHOOL CARIGANS	£2.50	NON – OFFICIAL CARIGANS
OFFICIAL SCHOOL POLOS	£1.50	NON – OFFICIAL POLOS
GIRLS CHECKED DRESSES	£1.50	GREY BOYS TROUSERS
GREY PINAFORES	£1.50	GREY TAYLORED GIRLS TROUSERS
GREY SKIRTS	£0.50	GREY BOYS SHORTS
GREY GIRLS SOFT TROUSERS	£0.50	DAMAGED OR MARKED ITEMS
SCHOOL BAG (NEW STYLE)	£2.50	
SCHOOL BAG (OLD STYLE)	£1.50	
OFFICIAL PE T-SHIRT/SHORTS	£0.50	

Items are sold from 1 Park Drive, Melton Park NE3 5QB, with a drop off box at the front door. Please REMEMBER items, particularly red, must not be marked as they are unable to be sold on. You can text me Natasha Davy (Parent) on 07736276653. All money made comes back to school to be spent on playground equipment for our wonderful children.

Attendance

Our whole school attendance to date this academic year is **97.4%** up on **96.4%** last year.

Our classes of the week are **Yellow Class** with **98.7%** and **Orange** and **Violet Class** with **97.8%**

Well done everyone!
Mrs Lamb

TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS

On your next login you should be able to **complete a gig** to help you track your progress. Make sure you keep playing in studio mode, you need to play 10 times to show your rock status. It would be great to have some more Rock Heroes and Legends at GPFS.

Well done to **Ava U** and **Rory G** for being our top coin earners this week.



Green class are our top coin earners again this week, super job! We've had a lot more of you active this week so thank you for all your hard work. Lots of our top coin earners are returning stars! Keep practicing if you want to be your class' top earner!

Our top coin earners this week are:

Blue – Jasmine

Violet – Amelia F

Indigo – Toby S

Yellow – Jack B

Orange – Alfie R

Green – George K
Miss Pope

Advanced Notice of Dates 2023-2024

Updates will be added in red

Summer Holiday	
Wednesday 13 th December	Nursery Christmas Assembly 9:30 – 10:00 (up to 4 guests per family)
Thursday 14 th December	Reception to Year 4 Aladdin at The Exchange Theatre
Mon 18 th – Fri 22 nd December	Year 4 Swimming
Tuesday 19 th December	Reception Miss Coughlan Christmas Assembly for Parents 10:45 – 11:15 (up to 4 guests per family)
Tuesday 19 th December	Reception Christmas Assembly for Parents 2:30 – 3:00 (up to 4 guests per family)
Wednesday 20th December	Christmas Jumpers, dinner and special guest...
Wednesday 20 th December	Green Christmas Assembly for Parents 9:30 – 10:00 (up to 4 guests per family)
Wednesday 20 th December	Orange Christmas Assembly for Parents 10:45 – 11:15 (up to 4 guests per family)
Wednesday 20 th December	Yellow Christmas Assembly for Parents 2:30 – 3:00 (up to 4 guests per family)
Thursday 21 st December	Blue Christmas Assembly for Parents 9:30 – 10:00 (up to 4 guests per family)
Thursday 21 st December	Violet Christmas Assembly for Parents 10:45 – 11:15 (up to 4 guests per family)
Thursday 21 st December	Indigo Christmas Assembly for Parents 2:30 – 3:00 (up to 4 guests per family)
Friday 22 nd December	Last Day of Term
	Christmas Holiday
Monday 8 th January	School reopens
Tuesday 6 th Feb	Safer Internet Day
Friday 16 th February	Last day of term
	February Half Term Holiday
Monday 26 th February	School reopens
Monday 11 th –Friday 15 th March	Science Week
Friday 15 th March	Red Nose Day
Wednesday 20 th March – Friday 22 nd March	Year 4 Robinwood
Thursday 28 th March	Last day of term
	Easter Holiday
Monday 15 th April	School reopens
Monday 6 th May	May Bank Holiday
Friday 24 th May	Daft Day
Friday 24 th May	Last Day of Term
	May Half term Holiday
Monday 3 rd June	Training Day
Thursday 11 th – Friday 12 th July	Mr H Onsite Residential for Year 3 children
Friday 19 th July	Last day of term

Staff Training Days

Staff Training Days for GST schools this academic year will be:

- Monday 3rd June 2024

Rainbow Wraparound

Please contact us via

wraparound@gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk

or for any ad hoc bookings

Rainbow Wraparound: 07926 946 565.



If you don't already, please give us a follow on Twitter. Our school account is @GosforthPark1st

**Festive dates for your
diary, all in one place!**

PTFA CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

Christmas Performance Dates

13.12.23

Nursery 9:30 – 10:00

19.12.23

Reception Miss C

10:45 – 11:15

Reception Miss PM

2:30 – 3:00

20.12.23

Green 9:30 – 10:00

Orange 10:45 – 11:15

Yellow 2:30 – 3:00

21.12.23

Blue 9:30 – 10:00

Violet 10:45 – 11:15

Indigo 2:30 – 3:00

Raffle tickets, tea and
coffee, cans and mince
pies will be available to
purchase before each
Christmas Show.

Please donate
raffle prizes to
the school office
by Monday
11th December

Emergency Christmas Eve Bags

Everything you need

for family fun this Christmas Eve.



- Reindeer food
- Hot chocolate
- Christmas biscuit provided by
'Exclusively Biscuits'
- Create your own tree decoration
- Christmas activity

On sale via Parent Pay for £5 until *FRIDAY

1st December* and available to collect at
Christmas performances

We have also organised a
special festive visitor to come
into school on Wednesday
20th December...
More details on Parent Pay.

Aladdin Panto
Trip
14.12.23

Thank you so much for your
continued support and have a
Merry Christmas!



VIKINGS CHRISTMAS HANDBALL FUN DAY

FREE

TRY HANDBALL

FOR CHILDREN AGED 3-15

**SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER
1PM - 2.30PM**

THE LAKESIDE CENTRE,
KILLINGWORTH, NE12 6SA



- FUN HANDBALL ACTIVITIES
- SPONSORED BIKE RIDE AGE 14+
- RAFFLE AND CAKE SALE

**ALL FUNDS RAISED WILL GO BACK
TO CHILDREN'S HANDBALL**

TO SIGN UP, SCAN THIS QR CODE
OR EMAIL NEWCASTLEVIKINGS@GMAIL.COM

Sponsored by

Hay & Kilner

NEWCASTLE
VIKINGS
HANDBALL CLUB



The 12 Online Safety Tips of Christmas

FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

Christmas is almost upon us once again, and soon some lucky children will be excitedly tearing the wrapping off a new mobile phone, tablet or games console. For some of them, it will be the first time they've owned a device that connects them to the online world. Even for older children, a new device means new corners of the digital landscape to explore – and, unfortunately, new risks to be aware of.

We've put together our top tips so that you can guide your young ones in enjoying their new digital gifts safely and responsibly throughout the year to come. Merry Christmas!

1. ALWAYS SET A PASSWORD

If your child's new device has a password protection feature, use it! It'll help to keep their private information safe and will deny others access to their device without permission. Your children's passwords should be something memorable to them – but something which other people can't guess (it's also a good idea for parents to write it down in case it gets forgotten!).

2. SET UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS'

This really is an essential when your child gets a new device, so they're protected from the outset. Most phones, tablets and consoles allow you to customise their settings to determine which games your child can play, how they can communicate (and who with), what content they can access and so on. It will give you peace of mind that they can't inadvertently do something they shouldn't.

3. PAY ATTENTION TO AGE RATINGS

One of the first things children want to do with any new device is play games and explore apps. Before they download anything or install a new console game, check its age rating. Many popular games and apps have content that's not suitable for younger ages. The safest long-term solution is to adjust the device's settings so they can only download and use games and apps appropriate for their age.

4. KEEP NUMBERS AND DEVICES PRIVATE

Make sure your child understands that they should never share their phone number with someone they don't know or accept a friend request from them. They should also appreciate that it's a good idea to mainly keep their device out of sight, never lend it to a stranger, and never put it down somewhere that other people could steal it or take it to use without asking.

5. HAVE 'THE MONEY CONVERSATION'

Before your children start using their new device in earnest, talk to them about in-app purchases and other ways that money might be spent through their device. Once they understand, you might want to agree on a spending limit and reassure them that they can come to you if they're uncertain, or if they have made a purchase by accident.

6. DISCOURAGE DEVICE DEPENDENCY

Of course, children who've just got a new device will naturally want to spend as much time on it as possible. But whether they're zapping bad guys, watching videos or connecting with friends, it's easy for them to get attached very quickly. Gently remind them that having family time, going outdoors and getting some exercise are still fun, too. And the device will be there when they get back.

7. EXPLAIN SECURE WIFI NETWORKS

Your home WiFi is protected by a password that only your family knows, whereas public networks (like those found in coffee shops, for example) can be accessed by anyone. It's important that your child grasps this difference because, if they're using a portable device on an unsecured network, then a hacker could access their personal information without them even knowing.

8. LIMIT SCREEN TIME

Using a device for too long, especially just before bed, can interfere with a child's sleep quality and reduce their concentration and overall enthusiasm. It might be helpful to agree on certain times of day when they don't use their device. Most devices' settings let you specify a screen-time limit, helping your child to stay fresh and focused in order to perform well at school.

9. ONLY PAIR WITH KNOWN BLUETOOTH DEVICES

Your child may want to connect to another device via Bluetooth, so they can listen to music wirelessly or share pictures and videos with nearby friends. But if they use Bluetooth to link with a device that they don't know, they're at risk of a stranger being able to see their personal information or having someone transmit a virus onto their device.

10. TURN LOCATION SETTINGS OFF

It's safest to disable the device's location services (if it's a portable device) so your child doesn't inadvertently make other people aware of where they are. You can usually do this via the device's privacy control settings. Turning location settings off not only means your child's whereabouts can't be tracked by others, it also significantly extends battery life.

11. STAY AWARE OF THE SURROUNDINGS

It's quite common to see adults not looking where they're going while engrossed in their phone. Children are even more easily distracted. In some cases, children have been hit by cars or cyclists because they were staring at their device and lost track of where they were. Remind your child that screens and walking don't mix. If they need to use their device, they should stop in a safe place first.

12. BE THERE IF THEY NEED TO TALK

Even when you've made a device as secure as you can, there's still a possibility of your child seeing something that bothers them, or someone they don't know attempting to contact them. If this happens, listen to their concerns, empathise and reassure them. Once they've explained what happened, you can decide if you should take further action like blocking or reporting another user.



National
Online
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 16.12.2020