



www.gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk

December 16th 2022 Issue 7 Autumn Term 2

Theatre Trip

On Thursday, we had a brilliant time taking all of our children from Reception to Year 4 to The Exchange to watch the pantomime Dick Whittington (oh yes we did!)



Thank you to the Gosforth Park staff, parent volunteers and The Exchange theatre for such a special experience.

Clubs

Lunch clubs run by school staff will not be on next week. We will notify you in the New Year about when these will restart. Lexia reading club will be running as normal before school.

Calendar

Please see attached a copy of the school calendar for next year, including GST training days.

Reminder

Reception Applications for September 2023
Applications close: 15 January 2023



Christmas Jumpers and a Special Guest...

On **Wednesday 21st 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!

We will be asking for a voluntary donation of £2 on ParentPay.



On **Thursday 22nd December**, we are inviting your children to **wear their party clothes** all day to celebrate the last day of term in style!

Santa Dash Daily Mile



Also on **Wednesday 21st 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

Christmas Crafts Market

A big thank you to everyone who attended our Christmas Crafts Market at school today and helped to raise money for our PTFA.



Thank you to all of our teachers and children for making such wonderful crafts.

We will let you know which class raised the most money in next week's newsletter!

The Gosforth Park Team

Christmas Shows

Monday 19th December

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

Monday 19th December

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

Monday 19th December

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

Tuesday 20th December

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

Tuesday 20th December

Reception Mrs McClurg: doors open at 2:15 for a 2:30 – 3:00 performance

Wednesday 21st December

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

Wednesday 21st December

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

Wednesday 21st December

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

Topics and Holiday Research Projects

Our topics for next half term are:

Early Years – Space



Space challenges our childrens imaginations and creativity through an abstract but exciting concept. Their confidence grows as they are immersed within a classroom filled with limitless possibilities. They can role-play as astronauts and travel to far away planets, design and build spaceships and solve problems related to space missions that they have to complete!

KS1 – Home and Away



Our Key Stage One children will be learning about the different continents and oceans that make up our planet. They will be locating hot and cold places by comparing their distance to the equator. We will also be taking a closer look at weather patterns in the UK and understanding the difference between weather and climate.

KS2 – South Africa



Our Key Stage Two children will be learning about the vast and diverse country of **South Africa**. They will be exploring the human and physical geographical features of South Africa and also begin to understand the concept of *inequality* by comparing the distribution of resources and opportunities between people.

Please see the attached Topic Webs below for more information about what your children will be learning across all of our curriculum areas.

Mr Hindess

Space – Donations Request

In Reception next term, the children will be learning all about **Space**. If you are having a clear out before Christmas and have any of the following which you could donate, we would be very grateful.

- Space themed dressing up outfits or toys
- Spare gloves
- Spare underpants (linked to our book Aliens Love Underpants)
- Small cereal boxes
- Kitchen roll tubes (not toilet roll)
- Milk bottle tops
- Clear coloured sweet wrappers

Many thanks

The Reception Team



Newcastle Local Offer Newsletter

Please find attached a *Winter What's On* newsletter from Newcastle's Local Offer for children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

There are lots of links to great, inclusive activities happening in Newcastle over the festive period.

Mr Hindess

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 currently sold from 6 Burnside Road NE3 2DU, 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 Kate Watkins (Parent) on 07947846974

Staff Training Days

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

- Monday 31st October 2022
- Friday 23rd December 2022
- Friday 26th May 2023

Please see the dates for your diary below and the school calendar for 2022_2023.

In light of the announcement of His Majesty's coronation on Saturday 6 May 2023, an additional bank holiday has been announced on Monday 8 May and school will be closed on this day.

Attendance

Our whole school attendance to date this academic year is **96.8%** which is above this time last year (94.7%)

Our classes of the week this week are

Reception SC with **97.6%** attendance and **Indigo Class** with **96.9%** attendance.

Well done!

Mrs Lamb



Your efforts in TTRS are still amazing GPFS – we are all so impressed!

We have three new Rock stars to join our band this week – **Owen F**, **Seth B** and **Alexander D** – you will all make a fabulous rock band! Well done for all your hard work!



Orange class have been working super hard this week on Mathletics – you are our 'Mathletes of the Week'.

So lovely to see two brothers working hard together – well done **Noah M** and **Joshua M** you have earned more points than anyone else in school this week. **Mais E** you were just behind them in third place – wonderful efforts from you too!



Congratulations to Lola Anderson who achieved a distinction in her group dance exam last weekend. She is very proud of herself as this was her first exam!

Applying for Places

Please apply on time to avoid disappointment. We are currently full with waiting lists in all year groups.

Nursery Application forms for places in September 2023 will be available on the school website and from the office from Friday 13th January 2023

The closing date for applications is 17th March 2023.

Offer letters will be emailed out on 24th March 2023.

The deadline for accepting a place is Friday 28th April.

Reception Applications for September 2023

Applications open: 1 September 2022

Applications close: 15 January 2023

National offer day: 17 April 2023

Further information can be found at

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



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



Healthy School

Eating your Greens!

So, it's nearly time for that once a year, often feared and reviled by many, little green ball of goodness - the humble SPROUT! Sprouts can be rejected before they've even made it home from the supermarket and the fact that they can be very bitter is usually why. So how do we get our little ones to even try vegetables such as sprouts. Firstly, the bitterness can be subdued by butter and a small amount of bacon. The bacon can be cooked in advance and added to butter once cooled. It can then be used to melt on top of the bitter veg on the day. Sprouts or other greens such as cabbage or kale can also be shredded and fried gently with a small amount butter and bacon too. It really is worth a try. How about renaming them Shrek's snacks or Ogre buttons or get the children to help decorate them once cooked, using cocktail sticks to add sticky festive cranberries.

As a sprout hider as a child (think – under Dad's mash or into a nearby plant pot!) bacon and chestnut butter was my turning point and I'll now eat them without a fuss. So there is still hope!

Happy Christmas!

Mrs Wells



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

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.



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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

Festive dates for your diary, all in one place

Christmas Movie Nights

3pm - 4.30pm

5.12.22 - KS1

6.12.22 - KS2

7.12.22 - Reception

Tickets for this event are available via Parent Pay for £3.50 and this will include a drink and movie snack.



Children's Christmas Market
16.12.22

Christmas Dinner Day
21.12.22

PTFA CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

Christmas Performance Dates

14.12.22

Nursery 9:30 – 10:00

19.12.22

Indigo 9:30 – 10:00

Violet 10:45 – 11:15

Blue 2:30 – 3:00

20.12.22

Reception Miss Coughlan 10:45 – 11:15

Reception Mrs McClurg 2:30 – 3:00

21.12.22

Green 9:30 – 10:00

Orange 10:45 – 11:15

Yellow 2:30 – 3:00

We have also organised a special festive visitor to school on 21.12.22
More details to follow via parentpay.

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 02.12.22 and available to collect before and after school from 20.12.22

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

Thank you so much for your continued support.
Merry Christmas



Advanced Notice of Dates 2022-2023

Updates will be added in red

Monday 19 th December	Indigo Christmas Assembly for Parents 9:30 – 10:00
Monday 19 th December	Violet Christmas Assembly for Parents 10:45 – 11:15
Monday 19 th December	Blue Christmas Assembly for Parents 2:30 – 3:00
Tuesday 20 th December	Reception Miss Coughlan Christmas Assembly for Parents 10:45 – 11:15
Tuesday 20 th December	Reception Mrs McClurg Christmas Assembly for Parents 2:30 – 3:00
Wednesday 21st December	Santa Dash – Daily Mile – remember your festive hats and headbands!
Wednesday 21st December	Christmas Jumper Day!
Wednesday 21 st December	Special visitor for the children. Ho, Ho, Ho!
Wednesday 21 st December	School Christmas Lunch – if your child usually has a packed lunch and would like a Christmas Lunch, please book through Parent Pay by 18 th November.
Wednesday 21 st December	Green Christmas Assembly for Parents 9:30 – 10:00
Wednesday 21 st December	Orange Christmas Assembly for Parents 10:45 – 11:15
Wednesday 21 st December	Yellow Christmas Assembly for Parents 2:30 – 3:00
Friday 23 rd December	Training Day
Christmas Holiday	
Monday 9 th January	School reopens
Friday 17 th February	Last Day of Term
February Half Term	
Monday 27 th February	School reopens
Wednesday 22 nd – Friday 24 th March	Year 4 Robinwood
Friday 31 st March	Last Day of Term
Easter Holiday	
Monday 17 th April	School reopens
Monday 17 th April – Friday 28 th April	Year 4 Swimming – to be confirmed
Monday 1 st May	May Bank Holiday
Monday 8 th May	Bank Holiday
Thursday 25 th May	Last Day of Term
Friday 26 th May	Training Day
May Half Term	
Monday 5 th June	School reopens
Tuesday 27 th June	KS1 Sports Day – parents arrive from 2pm
Wednesday 28 th June	Reception Sports Day – parents arrive from 2pm
Thursday 29 th June	KS2 Sports Day – parents arrive from 2pm
Friday 21 st July	Last Day of Term