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January 26th 2024 Issue 3 Spring Term 1



It's not every day you get a letter from the Rt Hon Damian Hinds!

We are so proud of our children's achievements and our wonderful staff team. We are honoured and proud to be part of your child's journey as confident readers with a love for books!

Mr Lamb,

I am writing to congratulate you on your school's outstanding achievement in the 2023 Phonics Screening Check.

We want to ensure every child develops a firm grasp of phonics as the basis on which to improve standards of reading. As such I was delighted to see your results.

With 98 per cent of pupils in Year 1 at Gosforth Park First School meeting the expected standard in the check, your school is in the top 2 per cent of all primary schools in the country.

The latest figures show that 83 per cent of pupils who met the expected standard in the check went on to achieve at least the expected standard in reading at key stage 2 in 2023, which underlines the importance of developing the ability to decode words effectively at an early age.

Your particular success in teaching phonics and early reading so effectively means your pupils are developing a firm foundation, from which they can become increasingly fluent and develop a lifelong love of reading.

I would like to thank you for your commitment and success in this vital area of a child's early education and congratulate you, your staff and pupils again on all you have achieved.

Yours sincerely,

Damian Hinds

Damian Hinds
Minister for Schools



PTFA Meeting

Next mtg which will be the AGM: Monday 4th March from 6:15 - 7:15pm in the school hall.



Huge thanks to those of you who were able to attend one of the RISE workshops on Wednesday. We hope you enjoyed meeting the lovely Gemma and Annie and that you enjoyed the session.

The next sessions are on **Wednesday 7th February from 9-10 and 2:30 – 3:30**. We'll be wheeling out Ernie the urn for teas and coffees and will have biscuits at the ready.

It would be great to have an indication of how many people we're expecting so Annie and Gemma can prepare resources.

If you're hoping to join us, please complete the form below.

Don't worry if you change your mind, you can still turn up and attend. Please pass on to grandparents and childminders that they are more than welcome to attend too.

Many thanks

Mrs Lamb

<https://forms.office.com/e/5DqkT4wYZe>

Looking After Your Mental Health Parent and Carer Workshop

RISE Education Mental Health Practitioners (EMHPs) work in schools and colleges across Newcastle and Gateshead to support young people (aged 5-18) with their emotional wellbeing and mental health. We also work with staff, parents, carers and other adults to support the mental health of children and young people and to signpost adults for further support for themselves.

Gosforth Park First School
Wednesday 7th February 2024
9-10am and 2:30-3:30pm

The workshop will focus on:

- Signs and symptoms of burnout in adults
- Recognising the different types of emotional rest
- Looking at the 5 ways to wellbeing and self care
- Signposting to mental health resources and services
- Tips and strategies that you can use to support your wellbeing

For more information about RISE please visit our website, YouTube channel and social media platforms:



Building works

The builders are making tremendous progress on this phase of the build with walls plastered and the first coat of paint going on in some areas!



As mentioned in January's first newsletter, the builders will soon beginning external ground works from the main gate to the new entrance. **This is expected to start on Monday 12th February lasting until Friday 8th March.** There will be no access along the internal road from our gates to St Oswald's at this time. Please pass on the news to children from GEMs who often use this internal road and to childminders and grandparents.

Mr Marley, Headteacher at St Oswald's, has been informed and will be letting his school community know too. We apologise for any inconvenience caused during this phase of the works.

Thanks

Mrs Lamb



Dear Parents

Unfortunately, one of our visitors had the back of their truck broken in to and tool bag stolen when parking outside of school. Please remember to lock your vehicles, do not leave valuables on display and please do not leave children unattended in cars.

The theft occurred on Thursday morning. If anyone saw anything suspicious, please let us know.

Many thanks

Mrs Lamb



Thanks to those of you who were able to attend the Robinwood meeting on Tuesday evening. At this meeting, all of the relevant forms which need to be completed were handed out. For anyone who couldn't attend the meeting, forms were sent home with the children this week. ***Please make sure these are returned on time.***

Thanks

Mrs Wilson

Pole to Pole

This week Yellow Class had an exciting surprise on Seesaw from Sofia Goulty. Her parents' friends work at the Meteorology Institute at the Amundsen-Scott Station in Antarctica. They sent us a video showing how they release weather balloons to test the atmosphere. Look what is written on it! It was amazing for all of us in KS1 to see Science and Geography in action and it really brings our Pole to Pole learning alive. Thank you!

Mrs Lambert



Online Safety

It seems we just get our head around one new APP when another pops up!

This week we have information below on the teen dating APP **MYLOL**. Although targeted at an older audience, we wanted to bring it to your attention as we know many of our children will have older brothers and sisters who may be aware of the APP. Check out the guide below for more information.

Thanks

Miss Coughlan

Applying for Nursery Places

Nursery Application forms for places in September 2024 are now available on the school website and from the office.

The closing date for applications is 15th March 2024.

Offer letters will be emailed out on 22nd March 2024.

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

We will be holding visits for parents on the following dates and times

- Thursday 25th January 10:00 – 10:30 am
- Tuesday 30th January 4:00 – 4:30pm
- Wednesday 31st February 4:00 – 4:30pm
- Thursday 1st February 10:00 – 10:30 am

We're so sorry we had to cancel some dates this week due to staff absence.

Please contact the school office to book a place.

Don't forget
parents
evening!

Parents Evening

Our next parent evenings will be held on the **week beginning 12th February.**

Telephone appointments are available on the afternoon of Wednesday 13th February.

Face to face appointments will be held on the following evenings.

Nursery: Tues13th /Weds 14th/Thurs 15th

Reception HPM: Tues13th /Thurs 15th

Reception SC: Tues13th /Thurs 15th

Green: Tues13th /Thurs 15th

Orange: Tues13th /Weds 14th

Yellow: Tues13th /Thurs 15th

Indigo: Tues13th /Thurs 15th

Violet: Tues13th /Thurs 15th

Blue: Tues13th /Thurs 15th

Bookings close on Friday 9th February at midday.

Many thanks

Mrs Lamb



Healthy School



A healthy breakfast is a really important start to the day and you may include a fruit juice or smoothie as a drink. Full of vitamins and minerals, they are undoubtedly beneficial but be mindful that they are also high in sugars. The NHS recommends that children should have no more than 150ml of fruit juice or smoothies per day, which is quite a small glass if you measure it out. It is always best to check the label of any juice or smoothie that you buy to ensure they don't include added sugars. As the high sugar content, released in the blending process, can increase the risk of tooth decay, it's always best to drink them at meal times.

Mrs Wells

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 **96.8%** up on **95.7%** last year.

Our classes of the week are **Green Class** with **97.5%** and **Yellow Class** with **97.4%**

Well done everyone!
Mrs Lamb

TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS

Our top studio speeds at GPFS are William C 0.93 seconds, Alexander Tucker 0.97 seconds and Alexander Dye 1.44, this is such a brilliant achievement rock stars! Keep pushing yourself to speed up your time especially as we near the multiplication check. We've had some more super gigs this week: Alexander T, Elsie G, Henry H, Amara C, Lola A and Sophia B have made excellent improvements on their previous scores. Our top earners this week are Aiden R-G, Alexander T and Jazmine I.



We have 60 new robots in school now that Reception have begun their NumBots journey. I hope you enjoyed your first week on NumBots reception. Well done to Miss Coughlan's class for being our top class this week – keep it up! We almost have a completely new group of top earners this week which is great to see, well done to all of you!

Our top coin earners this week are:

Blue – William Craib

Violet – Harper Duigan

Indigo – Elia Son

Yellow – Nihal Dhaliwal

Orange – Thea Turnbull

Green – Gracie Dale

Reception (Miss Parsons Munn) – Hugo Savage

Reception (Miss Coughlan) – Martha Hindess
Well done everyone, Miss Pope.

Advanced Notice of Dates 2023-2024

Updates will be added in red

Tuesday 6 th February	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 7 th February	Reception trip to The Great North Museum and Planetarium
Wednesday 7 th February	9:00 – 10:00 Parent/carer Workshop – Looking after your own wellbeing
Wednesday 7 th February	2:30 – 3:30 Parent/carer Workshop – Looking after your own wellbeing
Week Beginning 12th February	Parents Consultation Evenings
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
Wednesday 13 th March PM	Reception Classes 'Brush Up' tooth brushing workshop
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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

MYLOL

AGE RESTRICTION
13-19

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

FLIMSY AGE GATES

Although MyLOL states it is exclusively aimed at users aged between 13 and 19, there is no credible age verification system to prevent a younger child – or an older adult – from signing up to the platform. Coupled with the fact that it's impossible to establish a user's true identity on MyLOL, this raises a serious concern that the site could be used for grooming.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

MyLOL maintains that it monitors all uploaded images for nudity or sexual content. It also claims to be able to detect suspicious keywords. However, there have been numerous reports of explicit content being found on the platform, with users often posting provocative, semi-nude pictures of themselves and engaging in filthy or sexually explicit conversation.

POTENTIAL CYBER-BULLYING

MyLOL lets users 'vote' on other people based solely on their appearance, much in the same vein as the now-defunct site Hot or Not. This feature could easily lead to distress and bullying, especially if a young person's profile pics receive an unfavourable response. Various reviews of MyLOL have noted that bullying frequently becomes an issue in the platform's chat groups and private messages.

IN-APP SPENDING

MyLOL is free to join and use, but it also offers paid-for memberships. Users who have paid money get their profile promoted at the top of the site and in search results. They can also earn additional credits for increased engagement with the platform – such as sharing, replying to messages and voting. At the time of writing, the monthly membership fee was \$9.95 (just under £8).

DATA COLLECTION

According to its privacy policy, MyLOL collects user data including email addresses, contact details and interests. While the company says it is committed to protecting users' privacy, the small print states that information may be shared externally. MyLOL claims to follow procedures to keep data secure, but does not specify what these procedures are, or whether such information is encrypted.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

MyLOL makes it easy to connect with strangers. In fact, the site's rewards feature encourages users to send private messages to people they don't know. There have been several media stories of adults posing as teens on MyLOL to connect with minors, which could lead to extremely dangerous situations, such as a young person meeting up with someone who has been posing under a false identity.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS ONLINE DATING

It's vital to talk to your child about the possible dangers of platforms like MyLOL – particularly the threat of online predators. Remind them of the risks of sharing intimate images and information with strangers and emphasise that most people don't realise they're being 'catfished' until it's too late – it really isn't wise for a young person to meet up with someone they've only spoken to online.

EXPLAIN PRIVACY RISKS

Before your child begins using a service such as MyLOL, it's important that they understand the potential pitfalls of giving out their personal data on this type of platform. Explain to them, for example, that they shouldn't divulge any personally identifying information to people who they don't know, as scammers can be quite convincing when attempting to steal someone's identity.

RESTRICT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child has access to a bank card or other payment method, they may be enticed into signing up for MyLOL's premium features. Having their profile boosted and receiving more attention could be especially tempting if their friends also use the site. You could consider altering their device's settings to disable internet purchases, or at the very least keeping an eye on their online spending.

SET UP LOCATION ALERTS

If you're worried that your child may be planning to meet up with someone they've met on MyLOL, you could consider utilising GPS or WiFi location tracking technology to follow their whereabouts in real time. You can even set up a virtual boundary or 'fence' and opt to receive an alert to your phone if your child enters or exits a specified area.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



The National College

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#WakeUpWednesday

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