



www.gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk

September 8th 2023 Issue 1 Autumn Term 1



What an amazing start to the term! It was lovely to see such smiley faces, raring to go on Tuesday morning and wonderful to meet so many of our new Reception parents at the coffee morning.

The children have settled well into their new routines and we are very proud of them all.

We are delighted that our intake has increased to 60 from reception this year and have been delighted with the initial works that have taken part in our side of the building this over the summer holidays. There has also been a lot of stripping out and demolishing of walls in the old BEFS building in preparation for the next phase of works. Keep an eye on Twitter/X for progress updates!

I know it's a bumper addition of the newsletter today but please read through carefully as there's lots of important information. Pop the kettle on and grab a cuppa!

Thanks
Mrs Lamb

We're teaching every child to read with Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised

A complete SSP validated by the Department for Education



We had huge success with the introduction of our new early reading scheme last year.

We would like to invite you into school so we can explain the scheme and share how we can work together to support all our children on their reading journey. We will be holding parent phonics briefings with Reception and Year 1 next week on:

Reception: 9 - 10am Thursday

14th September

Year 1: 9 - 10am Friday 15th September

We look forward to seeing you then,
Miss Gasper & Mrs Lambert



Now our new pupils have started, we will begin the process of rolling the children over into their new classes on our digital platforms (above). There will be some disruption in service until this is done and we get new passwords out to you. We will get these to you as soon as we can.



Rainbow Wraparound

It has been a very busy week in wraparound. It is lovely to see so many new faces. We are busy recruiting; however, we do need advance notice of bookings and cannot accept children who have not been booked. Bookings must be made during the booking window which opens on the 10th of each month and closes on the 20th of each month, for the following month.

| | Booking opens | Booking closes |
|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| October bookings | September 10 th | September 20 th |
| November bookings | October 10 th | October 20 th |
| December booking | November 10 th | November 20 th |
| January bookings | December 10 th | December 20 th |
| February bookings | January 10 th | January 20 th |
| March bookings | February 10 th | February 20 th |
| April bookings | March 10 th | March 20 th |
| May bookings | April 10 th | April 20 th |
| June bookings | May 10 th | May 20 th |
| July bookings | June 10 th | June 20 th |
| September bookings | July 3 rd | July 12 th |

Unfortunately, we have had to turn away some families who have missed the booking deadline. Parents must make their own bookings on the school cloud system. The only exception to this is families using vouchers. If you are emailing dates for voucher bookings, you must include

- Your child's name
- The day and date
- The sessions required (breakfast, until 5pm, until 6pm).

New parents please use the following link to access school cloud.

[SchoolCloud - Gosforth Park First School](#)

I will send an instruction sheet of how to use the system in book bags today.

Ad-hoc bookings received after the 20th date will still be considered on an individual basis.

If you would like to, you can book sessions in advance for the entire school year.

If you do wish to book the same sessions for the entire school year, please email me at wraparound@gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk and I will book them all for you and let you know the cost for each month so that you can allocate your vouchers or make payment via PayPal monthly.

Block bookings can only be made via email or through school cloud (not text message).

Please email wraparound@gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk for any wraparound queries, NOT the admin inbox, as this will delay any response.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thanks

Mrs Carrick

wraparound@gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk

Rainbow Wraparound: 07926 946 565.



School Dinner Money (KS2) for the term when remains at £2.20 per day, £11.00 for the week or if you wish to pay by the term it is eight weeks and £88.00.

If your child had packed lunches last year and is new to having school lunches, please let the office know.

We ask for a week's notice if anyone wants to change from packed lunch to school meals or vice versa so that the kitchen staff can order appropriately.

Please see our new school menus attached.

Free School Meals

Every child in Reception Year 1 and Year 2 is entitled to a free school meal but did you know...

Your child and their school may be able to get extra help, if you get one of the qualifying benefits.

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Free School Meals cont...

- Universal Credit - if you apply after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

We encourage all parents to apply for Free School Meals during their Reception Year, so Newcastle City Council can assess whether your child and their school can receive this extra help. This can help to pay towards the cost of trips and clubs for your child. **If you are successful in your application we will provide you with a free school jumper or cardigan.**

If you are eligible for free school meals, vouchers are issued during holiday times for the supermarket of your choice!

Newcastle City Council operates an Apply Once process for Free School Meals. During your child's academic life you will only ever have to apply once for Free School Meals while they attend a Newcastle school.

If your application is refused, they will continue to check your details on a weekly basis, unless you tell them to stop. This means we will know if you start to get a qualifying benefit. They will approve your child's free school meals application and contact you.

If you apply through the online portal, you will receive an immediate response to your application. School will be informed of your child's Free School Meal application on a weekly basis.

Please apply online here

https://www.newcastlelea.org/CitizenPortal_LI/VE/en

Thanks

Mrs Lamb



We have lots of reminders for this week's newsletter as we settle back into routines after the summer break.

Drinks and Playtime Snacks

Wow! What a fantastic, summery first week back. It's given us a good reminder that we all need our named water bottles (no Air Up bottles) in school to keep us hydrated. Another reminder about playtime snacks: Children up to year 2 are offered a free fruit or vegetable snack daily at morning break or you may wish to provide your child with their own preferred fruit or vegetable choice. Key Stage 2 children are also permitted to bring in their own fruit or vegetable snack. Please remember that any form of packaged biscuit bar or snack such as cheese biscuit dippers etc. do not constitute as a fruit or veg snack and so should not be brought in to school for morning break. There is a wealth of fruit and vegetable choice out there that you can choose from, and children are able to bring in small pots of pre-prepared fruit or veg too. Mrs Wells

Bikes and Scooters

It's been lovely to see so many bikes and scooters in the racks this week. Please remember to dismount any bikes or scooters at the main gate and walk them on to the school site to avoid any bumps with pedestrians (adults too please). Please make sure bikes and scooters are parked up by 9am when the school gates will be locked.

Before and After School

If children are enjoying playing in the school grounds before and after school, please make sure they are supervised, particularly on the trim trail. School gates are locked at 9am until the end of the school day and are then locked again at 3:40pm.

Please make sure you leave the playground by 3:40 so we can lock the gates ready for Wraparound and other school clubs taking place on site.

Parking

Parking at the front of school and in the surrounding streets has greatly improved recently

Please remember

- ✓ not to idle and to switch engines off
- ✓ to be considerate of our neighbours
- ✓ leave the disabled bay free for disabled users and remember not all disabilities are visible
- ✓ to drive slowly

Birthday Treats

There is absolutely no expectation for you to provide your child's class with birthday treats. Your child's birthday will be celebrated with a song in class.

If you really want to send in treats, these have to be nut free, individually wrapped and vegetarian friendly. These will not be eaten in class but will be sent home with children at the end of the day.

Nut Free School



Please remember we are a nut free school. We have children in school with severe nut allergies. Do not send your child with any nut products in their snack or packed lunches such as cereal bars containing nuts or nut based chocolate spreads such as Nutella.



Please remember to put your mobile phone in your pocket/bag once on site unless it is an emergency.

Flu Vaccination

Dear Parents

The flu vaccination programme will commence in the Autumn term for children in Reception up to and including year 11 and Reception up to and including year 13 in SEND schools up to the age of 17.

The following date has been planned for our school :

Tuesday 10th October 2023

Please see the letter sent out on Parent Pay.

Many thanks

Mrs Lamb



If you have not yet downloaded your child's learning journal from last year, please can you download by Friday 15th September. We are aware that there were issues accessing the system over the summer, but you should now all be able to log back in to Tapestry. Please go to <https://tapestryjournal.com/> to login, click on your username in the top right corner, then click 'My Downloads' and then select the 'Download' button.

We sent a letter with full instructions before the summer, if you need a new copy of this please ask Reception staff.

Thank you

Ms Gasper

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 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>

Visit dates will be announced next week.

Middle School Applications for September 2023

Applications open: 1 September 2022

Applications close: 31 October 2022

National Offer Day: 01 March 2023

Further information can be found at

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

Year 4 parents should have all received booklets today regarding this from the Local Authority..

Mrs Lamb

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.



If you are interested in working with us and have an appropriate qualification in play/education/childcare or equivalent, please check out the vacancy section on the school website! We are looking for a range of term time only, casual supply hours and term time/holiday fixed term contracts.



Parent Governor Election

We are delighted to announce that Rachel Hiles has been elected as parent governor at GPFS. Congratulations Rachel! The count was undertaken by Mrs Lamb and one of our school governors Richard Morris and witnessed by one of the candidates.

Many thanks to the other candidates and to all of our parents who voted.

Mrs Lamb



School Council Election

There has been another election is school this week! Classes have been voting for their school council representatives and the following children have been democratically elected!

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Green Class | Y1:Hugo and Paighton |
| Orange Class | Y1: Cora and Lewis D Y2: Emelia and Charlie W |
| Yellow Class | Y2: Freya and Max |
| Indigo Class | Y3: Francesca W and Reuben |
| Violet Class | Y3: Francesca and Joshua Y4: Emily and Dom |
| Blue Class | Y4: Edie and William C |

School council will meet fortnightly with Mrs Eason.

COVID

Respiratory infections are common in children and young people, particularly during the winter months.

Children with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend school. Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people. They can return to school when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough.

If your child has tested positive for COVID they need to stay at home on the day they tested positive and the next three days, returning to school on day 5 if they feel well enough and no longer have a temperature.

If your child tests positive for COVID-19, they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test. The risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower after 3 days if they feel well and do not have a high temperature. For example, if they test positive on Monday, they should stay at home Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, returning on Friday if they feel well enough and do not have a high temperature.

Staff Training Days

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

- Friday 27th October 2023
- Monday 3rd June 2024

Please see the dates for your diary below and the school calendar for 2023_2024 attached.



Well done to those of you who kept practicing over the holidays! We are preparing your new logins now for your new classes and have an exciting new online Maths programme to be unveiled soon!

Miss Pope

Attendance

Our whole school attendance to date this academic year is **99.4%**

Wow – what an amazing start to the term!

Our new attendance officer, Grant Short started with us today. If anyone would like to discuss any attendance concerns or would like any support with attendance, Grant can be contacted on **07498424871**.

Our exceptional circumstance request forms have changed. For anyone requesting a leave of absence there is a new form to be filled in.

As well as returning the form you will be required to meet with me or Mr Hindess.

Please make sure any requests are on the correct form which can be obtained as a hard or electronic copy from the office.

Thanks

Mrs Lamb

Chicken Pox

If your child has chicken pox or you suspect that they have chicken pox, please inform school as a matter of urgency. We have a vulnerable pupil in our school and this information is critical for their safety and wellbeing.

Many thanks

Mrs Lamb

Advanced Notice of Dates 2023-2024

Updates will be added in red

| Summer Holiday | |
|--|--|
| Monday 4 th September | Training Day |
| Tuesday 5 th September | School reopens |
| Tuesday 5 th September | Coffee Morning for New Reception parents 9:00 – 10:00 |
| Tuesday 12 th September | Coffee Morning for New Nursery parents 9:00 – 10:00 |
| Thursday 14 th September | Reading meeting for Reception Parents 9:00 – 10:00 |
| Friday 15 th September | Reading meeting for Year 1 Parents 9:00 – 10:00 |
| Tuesday 19 th September | Reception Classes: Meet the Teacher 3:45 – 4:15 Mrs Lamb will look after any children at this time so parents can attend |
| Wednesday 20 th September | Indigo, Violet and Blue Class: Meet the Teacher 3:45 – 4:15 Mrs Lamb will look after any children at this time so parents can attend |
| Thursday 21 st September | Green, Orange and Yellow Class: Meet the Teacher 3:45 – 4:15 Mrs Lamb will look after any children at this time so parents can attend |
| Monday 2 nd October | PTFA meeting 6.15pm in the school hall |
| Tuesday 10th October | Flu Vaccination |
| Thursday 26 th October | Last Day of Term |
| Friday 27 th October | Training Day |
| October Half Term | |
| 13 th – 17 th November | Scholastic Book Fair in school |
| Friday 17 th November | Children in Need (Pudsey) |
| 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 |
| 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 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 | |

Advanced Notice of Dates 2023-2024

Updates will be added in red

| | |
|--|--|
| | 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 11th – Friday 12th July | Mr H Onsite Residential for Year 3 children |
| Friday 19 th July | Last day of term |



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

PITCH UP FOR RUGBY



AT PONTELAND RFC

SUNDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2023

FREE TO ENTER | FREE REFRESHMENTS



9:45AM – 11AM

Teams (both boys and girls) U6/7, U8, U9, U10, U11, U12

11:15AM – 12:30PM

Teams (both boys and girls) U13, U14, U15, U16, Colts & Ladies

All sessions to be held at Ponteland RFC rugby pitches at Ponteland Leisure Centre. For more information, please email pitchup@pontelandrfc.co.uk or visit www.pontelandrfc.co.uk.



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