



www.gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk

September 15th 2023 Issue 2 Autumn Term 1



We are so proud of all of our children. Our new starters in Nursery and Reception have settled in beautifully and children in Key Stage 1 and 2 have made a fantastic start the school year!

Last week's reminders can be found below for anyone who couldn't access the newsletter last week or hadn't yet activated their parent pay account. Please share with other carers who will be dropping off and collection your children.



Our wonderful PTFA were hard at work over the summer organising Christmas events. For the first time, they will be offering a Christmas Wreath making event (adults only). Please see below for details and booking information.



Following feedback from our children and families regarding availability of choices at lunchtime, we are trialling a new ordering system in school. Children will make their meal selection in class after registration and the chef will cook to order to avoid disappointment. Staff have been talking with children about meal choices each day and sharing a photo menu with children to help them choose. For children choosing sandwiches, they do also get the potato and vegetables on offer that day as well as being able to choose from a variety of items on the salad bar. We will be monitoring this closely over the next few weeks.

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

A complete SSP validated by the Department for Education



It was wonderful to see so many Reception and Year 1 parents at our Little Wandle Phonics meetings this week. Just a reminder that all the information is available on the parents' section of their website. Please get in touch if you'd like any further information.

[For parents | Letters and Sounds \(littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk\)](http://Forparents|LettersandSounds(littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk))

Mrs Lambert

Meet the Teacher

We are looking forward to welcoming you all at the meet the teacher meetings next week. These will start at 3:45pm in your child's class and last around half an hour. There will be a short presentation from staff with time after for you to ask any questions. If there are any siblings who need to be cared for from 3:45 – 4:15 they can come to a different class (see info below). For anyone who is unable to attend, staff will send out information after the event.

Tuesday: Reception (Mrs Lamb in Yellow)

Wednesday: KS2 (Mrs Lamb Yellow)

Thursday: KS1 (Mrs Lambert in Reception Miss Coughlan's class)

Parent Consultations

Our parent consultation meetings, which are an opportunity for you to speak 1:1 with your child's class teacher, will be held in the first week after the October half term holiday. Face to face appointments will be made available on the Tuesday 7th November and Thursday 9th November. For any parents who cannot make these, telephone appointments will be available on the afternoon of Tuesday 7th November. We will let you know how and when to book later in the term.

School Photographer

Our lovely school photographer will be coming into school on Wednesday 15th November to take individual and sibling photographs. These make excellent Christmas gifts for grandparents and relatives. We'll remind you nearer the time and the date has been added to the *Advanced Notice of Dates* section below. Class photographs are taken later in the year.



OUR GIRL, LOLLIPOP

Katie the crossing patrol warden is back!

A huge, huge thank you to all parents who dug deep to once again raise the cost of the patrol and keep her on the corner for the 2023/24 academic year.

New parents may not know that the lollipop costs £5,000 per academic year - and it is the sole responsibility of parents and our local community to pay for it since Newcastle City Council cut funding in 2017.

Only wardens on dual carriageways in the city were kept ie the Great North Road position (when filled).

We are known as the Parklands Community Crossing and over the last seven years, we have successfully raised a mammoth £35,000 and remain the only school crossing in Newcastle to have been saved every year since they were axed. This is something you should all feel immensely proud of.

The fundraising is coordinated by just two mums, myself and Keri Walker.

It is a big responsibility for just two people. Having done seven years of fundraising we both really feel we have 'done our bit' now and so would really welcome new parents to get involved and hit the target for 2024/25. We have already raised some funds towards next year, so it is not the full £5,000 to raise. If you can devote some time and enthusiasm to keep Katie on the crossing then please email us on:

parklandscommunitycrossing@yahoo.com or
message Rebekah on: (07763) 711-431.

Thank you,

Rebekah Stephenson (GPFS/GEMS) and Keri Walker (GEMS)

Curriculum

The children have made a great start on their new topics this half term. Read on to find out more ...

Reception

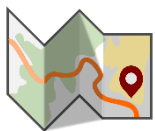


All About Me is a topic designed to help our children to build relationships, get to know their new teachers and foster new friendships. Teachers are able to discover their childrens' likes and dislikes which help to inform future planning. Pupils build on their knowledge of their families, homes and local area to start to think about the wider community, including people who help them in their everyday lives.

Gosforth is Great KS1



Our first topic this year is *Gosforth is Great!* This geography-based topic will enhance childrens' knowledge of their own locality and the geographical concepts of location and place. It also gives us the opportunity to complete some exciting fieldwork as well as improving our map reading skills. Keep an eye out as we will soon be exploring our local area!



Gosforth is Great KS2

Key Stage 2 pupils revisit our much loved *Gosforth is Great* topic to build and deepen their prior knowledge of our local area. This time, we are exposed to a variety of new geographical concepts and skills, such as longitude, latitude and 4-figure grid references. Mr Hindess is also planning an exciting fieldwork opportunity for each class along Gosforth High-street (watch this space!)



Newcastle Parent Carer Forum (PCF) are a group of volunteer parents and carers who work in partnership with Newcastle Local Authority, Health, Education and Social Care providers to make sure that the services they deliver meet the needs of children, young people and their families.

They aim to act as "the voice" of Newcastle's parents and carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Please find attached the Newcastle Parent Carer Forum newsletter


Mr Hindess

Special Educational Needs Coordinator

Musician of the half term



The Musician of The Half Term in Autumn 1 is Sir Elton John. The children have been enjoying listening to his most famous songs. They have especially loved singing along to *Rocket Man*. Please play his music at home and you could even watch a performance from his recent Glastonbury set!

Mr Patterson.



Musician of the half term

Sir Elton John



Sir Elton Hercules John CH CBE (born Reginald Kenneth Dwight; 25 March 1947) is a British singer, pianist and composer. Collaborating with lyricist Bernie Taupin since 1967, John is one of the most successful artists of all time, having sold over 300 million records worldwide in a six decade career in music. He is acclaimed by critics and musicians, particularly for his work during the 1970s, and his lasting impact on the music industry. Elton John's music and showmanship have had a significant impact on popular music. His songwriting partnership with Taupin is one of the most successful in history.

• Find out more about Elton John's fantastic life by looking through the 'All About Elton John' Powerpoint on Twinkl.
• Listen to Elton John - Little People Big Dreams on Youtube.

Track list

• <i>Rocketman</i> (4:42)	• <i>Don't Go Breaking My Heart</i> (4:35)	• <i>I guess that's why they call it the blues</i> (4:42)
• <i>I'm Still Standing</i> (3:08)	• <i>They Dance</i> (6:17)	• <i>Are You Ready for Love?</i> (3:32)
• <i>Your Song</i> (4:05)	• <i>Sunday Night's Alright</i> (4:33)	

Congratulations!



Huge well done to Heidi who passed her ballet exam. She took it just before the summer and was awarded a merit for her exam. She's now moved up to grade 1!

If your child has something to celebrate for example a swimming or sports award or a Beavers or Rainbow's achievement, please send an email to admin@gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk with a brief explanation and if you'd like to, a photo too.

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

TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS

Next week we will be telling the children all about our exciting new online Maths programme NumBots! KS1 and KS2 will have a chance to login and meet their new robot Maths pals in class on Tuesday. Children's logins for both will come home next week and your child's teacher will tell you a bit more about it at 'Meet the Teacher'. Look out for more information in next week's newsletter! Miss Pope

Attendance

Our whole school attendance to date this academic year is **98.8%** up on **98.1%** last year. Our class of the week with **99.4%** is **Orange Class** with **Green**, **Indigo** and **Blue** Class close behind with **99.3%**! Well done everyone!

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

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.



Healthy School

TINY Happy PEOPLE

Your words build their world

Despite our recent hot weather, Autumn is definitely trying to make an appearance with the first cooler mornings this week. The BBC have a fantastic resource called Tiny Happy People which has a link to some fun autumn activities to get out and enjoy with your child. Although aimed at families with children up to the age of 5, some of their creative ideas and resources can be adapted to suit all ages of children in our school. It really is a fantastic resource with a variety of ideas for activities to try by age and there is also advice for parents and other carers such as grandparents. The tips and advice tab will take you through to articles to help you navigate subjects such as screen time, meal times, emotional and language development and more.

Here are the links – Main page:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/seasonal> and the Autumn activities

page: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/awesome-autumn-activities/zrggf82>



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

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.

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 10 th October	Flu Vaccination
Thursday 26 th October	Last Day of Term
Friday 27 th October	Training Day
October Half Term	
Tuesday 7th November	Parent consultation appointments
Thursday 9th November	Parent consultation appointments
13 th – 17 th November	Scholastic Book Fair in school
Wednesday 15th November	School Photographer in school (individuals and siblings)
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 11 th – Friday 12 th 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.

PontelandRFC pontelandrfc www.pontelandrfc.co.uk



GPFS PTFA

Wreath Making

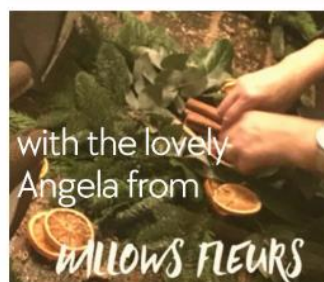
Saturday 25th November
5-8pm
Gosforth Park School Hall
£40 pp including all materials
and a festive treat.

(Limited spaces, book early to
avoid disappointment. Family
and friends welcome.)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gpfs-ptfa-wreath-making-workshop-tickets-691529211487>



Adults Only



kidical mass

BE PART OF THE GLOBAL
MOVEMENT - SENDING THE
MESSAGE THAT KIDS NEED
SAFER STREETS!



JOIN THE NEWCASTLE RIDE

SEP 23RD 2PM

SUITABLE FOR EVERYONE AGED 1-100!

Fenham: Meet @ St James' and St Basil's
Gosforth: Meet @ Gosforth Central Park
Heaton: Meet @ St Teresa's

FINISH AT EXHIBITION PARK FOR COFFEE AND CAKE

For all info check out: @KidicalmassNE @KidicalmassNE



Fast! Exciting! Action-Packed! Fun!

HANDBALL



Get Active! Be Social! Meet New Friends!
Sports sessions for Boys and Girls aged 3-15

Join the VIKINGS!

Benfield Sports Centre
Benfield Road, Newcastle NE6 4NU
(near Walkergate Metro Station)



Contact us to book a space!



FREE
Taster
sessions!

www.newcastlehandball.co.uk



newcastlevikings@gmail.com