



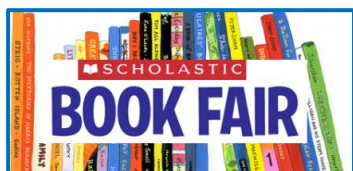
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November 24th 2023 Issue 3 Autumn Term 2

Year 4 Hockey Festival



On Monday, a group of **Year 4** children were selected to take part in a **Hockey Festival** at the Royal Grammar School. In the morning, the children took part in a range of skills and drills lead by the Year 6 Leaders and in the afternoon the children enjoyed playing matches. The children showed great enthusiasm and excellent sportsmanship throughout the day. A special mention to **Eve** and **Aidan** who were chosen by their Year 6 Leader to receive a brand new hockey stick! They were chosen because they demonstrated excellent skill and great team work skills throughout their activities. Well done team! Miss Walsh



Thank you so much to everyone who attended our school book fair or gave up their time to help make it a success!

We took **over £700**, which means that all children at Gosforth Park will benefit from an extra-large order of brand new books!

Mrs Lambert



AUTISM HERO AWARDS
CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

Mr Patterson is making a very special trip to London this weekend! He has been nominated for an **Autism Hero Award** and is one of three candidates in the **Outstanding Education Award** category. We wish him the very best of luck and are extremely proud of him, whatever the outcome.

Well done Mr P!

Maisie Chan Author Visit



Next week on Wednesday 29th November, best-selling author **Maisie Chan** will be visiting **KS1** and **KS2** in person at Gosforth Park First School.

Information has been sent via ParentPay as children have the opportunity to purchase signed copies of Maisie Chan's book **Tiger Warrior: Battle for the Jade Rabbit!** Please note there is no obligation to buy a book as part of this event.

We are very excited for this one!

Mrs Lambert



Building Update

It's been an exciting couple of weeks on site! I had a tour of the old BEFS site just before and after half term and then again on Wednesday this week. Walls have been knocked down, steel beams have gone up and some of the new stud walling has started to go in!

Builders should be offsite before the Summer holidays and we are so excited about the facilities and opportunities the refurbished building will provide.

We're working on getting some before and during videos uploaded to the school website. In the meantime here are some photos!



Corridor in BEFS looking towards the old Y4 classroom



Looking from BEFS staffroom and offices into BEFS hall.



BEFS hall



BEFS hall

We Love Geography!



KS2 have turned into real Geographers this week as they planned and conducted their own **Geography Fieldwork** on Gosforth Highstreet.

Children questioned members of the public and conducted a building usage survey in order to answer the question,

'How can Gosforth Highstreet be improved?'

After analysing and presenting our data, we concluded that some of the following actions would improve our local Highstreet:

- Improve the play area in Gosforth Central Park
- Reduce empty buildings
- Encourage more independent shops
- Increase the number of Highstreet bank branches
- Reduce the amount of traffic



Mr Hindess and the KS2 team

We Love History!



On Tuesday, **Blue Class** had a fantastic experience 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 have had brilliant feedback from the children about their trip. Our tour guides praised them for their excellent WW2 knowledge!

Well done everyone!

Mr Hindess, Miss Bell and Mrs Tudor



Diwali Celebrations

Diwali is a very important religious celebration that takes place every year. Although it is traditionally celebrated by Hindus and Sikhs, it can also be celebrated by people from other religions too. The specific date of Diwali varies but it is between the months of October and November each year. This year it was on 12th November. Diwali celebrates the New Year and is known as the festival of lights. This week **KS1 and KS2** worked with West End in Schools to create a dance around the traditional story of Rama and Sita.



Well done to everyone for taking part with such enthusiasm!

Mrs Easdon

Happy Thanksgiving!



Thanksgiving is an American and Canadian holiday. It is celebrated to give thanks for the harvest and for the year ahead.

Today, Thanksgiving is celebrated in different places all around the world. Other than America and Canada, it is commonly celebrated in Liberia, Grenada, Puerto Rico and Norfolk Island.

Thanksgiving in America is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November each year.

In Canada, Thanksgiving is celebrated on the second Monday of October.

America and Canada celebrate Thanksgiving on different dates due to their different climates, which affects when their growing season ends and their crops are harvested. As Thanksgiving symbolises the end of the growing season, the date for Thanksgiving differs between these two countries.

Mrs Easdon

Playground Leaders

Last Tuesday morning a group of **Key Stage 2** children took part in training to be a **playground leader**. They learnt a range of games and activities to play on the playground and are keen to share their knowledge on the playground very soon! Watch this space!



Squash Taster

Last Thursday afternoon, **Year 3** children took part in a squash taster session. The children developed their skills and techniques for the sport and had an enjoyable afternoon!

Our community link is **Northern Squash Club Junior Squash**.

Miss Walsh



Christmas Holiday

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



Healthy School

Following on from the last few week's newsletter about active journeys to school, Sustrans have produced an article with several top tips for cycling in the rain. Useful to help every member of the family to remain as safe and as comfortable as possible. Find out more on:



<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/get-active/2020/everyday-walking-and-cycling/how-to-cycle-in-the-rain-look-after-your-bike-and-keep-yourself-dry/>

Mrs Wells

Gosforth Gets Going Basketball



On Thursday, a group of **Year 2** children went to Brunton First School for a 'Gosforth Gets Going' **Basketball event**.

It was a great morning filled with fun basketball drills and competitive games. The children showed great skill and sportsmanship!

Well done team!

Miss Walsh

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>

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



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!



A huge well done to **Marlee** in Violet Class who has achieved her Level 4 swimming certificate and badge. Congratulations - we are so proud of you!



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

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 **97.5%** up on 96.5% last year.

Our classes of the week are **Yellow Class** with **99.2%** and **Green Class** with **98.3%**

Well done everyone!

Mrs Lamb

TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS

Great job Blue class, this week **77%** were active on TTRS with 89% accuracy! We've had lots of new rock stars and rock legends over the past couple of weeks so well done! Get back in the studio to see if you can increase your rock status! Well done to **Alexander Tucker** and **Marlee Davy** for being our top coin earners this week.



Well done **Green class** for being our top coin earners this week, Yellow class were only a few coins behind. So many more of you are getting full stars on the challenges now so keep it up! Your robots are very lucky to have you. Remember you only need to play NumBots for three minutes, four times a week to improve your fluency and upgrade your robot!

Our top coin earners this week are:

Blue – Jasmine Izanee

Violet – Joshua Spedding

Indigo – Toby Smith

Yellow – Rory Gill

Orange – Alanna Turnbull

Green – George Kasis

Miss Pope

Advanced Notice of Dates 2023-2024

Updates will be added in red

Summer Holiday	
Wednesday 29th November	KS1 and KS2 Author Visit Maisie Chan
Thursday 30 th November	Indigo Class and Violet Class SCHOOL TRIP to Victoria Tunnel and Northern Print
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
Monday 18 rd – Friday 22 nd	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 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

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

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

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NEWCASTLE
VIKINGS
HANDBALL CLUB



EMERGENCY CHRISTMAS EVE BAG FOR SANTA AND HIS REINDEER



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 until 1st
December via Parent
Pay still for only £5.



Available to collect at
Christmas performances
and after school in the last
week of term (18th -22nd
of December).

Top Tips for Safer Online Shopping on

BLACK FRIDAY AND CYBER MONDAY

Black Friday and Cyber Monday have become established as two of the year's biggest shopping events, giving consumers the opportunity to snap up a stash of stunning bargains. While this is generally good news, of course, the resultant retail frenzy can lead to people dropping their guard – especially online. In previous years, a seasonal surge in cyber-crime has seen schemes such as phishing emails and credit card scams being unleashed on unwary buyers. Our guide has some essential pointers on keeping your details – and your money – safe while you shop.

ENSURE A SITE'S SECURE

Before inputting sensitive information (like your card details) into a website, check that the site's secure. The key thing is to look for a padlock symbol in the address bar and check that the URL begins with "https://" – the "s" indicates that the web address has been encrypted with an SSL certificate. Without that, any data entered on the site could be intercepted by criminal third parties.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

If a deal seems too good to be true, then it probably is. Be especially wary if a site offering unbelievable discounts doesn't look professional (for example, if it's covered with pop-up adverts or it looks particularly outdated) – this often serves as a red flag that the seller might not be entirely trustworthy. Minimise risk by sticking with well-known, reputable retailers instead.

REVIEW BANK STATEMENTS

Even if you've followed all our tips, it's probably worth checking your next bank statement for any unusual transactions. Criminals know that on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, lots of people make numerous purchases online: they're hoping that any stolen money will get lost in the crowd of other transactions. If you see a payment or payee you can't identify, raise it with your bank straight away.

BEWARE OF SUSPICIOUS EMAILS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday often bring a significant spike in phishing emails, as criminals use the events' sense of urgency as cover for stealing personal information. Even if they look legitimate, be wary of emails requiring you to do something unusual or suspicious: providing your personal details in exchange for access to last-minute deals, for example, or clicking on a link to an unfamiliar site.

CHECK IT'S THE REAL DEAL

It's not just cybercriminals you need to be wary of. Research has shown that some online retailers increase the price of certain items in the weeks before Black Friday and Cyber Monday – enabling them to then advertise "discounts" (which, in reality, have simply restored the cost to normal levels). Use an online price comparison tool to verify whether these "reductions" truly equate to a saving.

MINIMISE MICROTRANSACTIONS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday promotions extend to digital items as well as physical ones. Some gaming companies will offer discounts on in-app and in-game microtransactions such as loot boxes. If you're concerned about how much your child might spend on these upgrades, you can restrict their ability to make purchases (via their device's settings) or remove any linked payment methods.

SET STURDY PASSWORDS

A strong, unique password is one of the most straightforward ways to protect yourself from cyber-crime. As most of us have multiple online shopping accounts, it can be tempting to use the same password for them all – but this puts your personal data at greater risk. You could try using a password manager to create a different, robust password for each online retailer that you visit.

DITCH THE DEBIT CARD

Where possible, it's safest to shop online with a credit card (as opposed to a debit card) because it offers additional protection. If a purchase is made fraudulently on your credit card, there's a fair chance of your bank reimbursing you. Should criminals obtain your debit card details, however, they could empty your account in moments – and it can be difficult to recover your money.

RESIST THE INFLUENCE

Recommendations from social media influencers are another thing to remain vigilant for on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. While many of these will be legitimate, remember that influencers are often paid to promote products – and to publicise deals that aren't quite as amazing as they might seem. Don't feel pressured into buying purely on their advice; look at everything with a critical eye.

TAKE CARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media scammers are more active on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, as they know people are hunting for deals online. These scammers tend to concentrate on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, posting malicious links that can compromise shoppers' personal details. Other scammers, meanwhile, falsely advertise products in an attempt to trick users out of their hard-earned cash.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Hogg 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.



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