



www.gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk

November 7th 2025 Issue 1/7 Autumn Term 2



BBC **Children in Need** Appeal Day is back on **Friday 14th November**. Their mission is to help ensure every child in the UK is safe, happy, secure and has the opportunities they need to reach their potential.

At Gosforth Park we will be raising money by:

Dressing in Spots – wear your best spotty outfit and/or accessories for the day!

Colouring Competition – each class will be involved in a colouring competition to raise awareness for Children in Need (prizes in celebration assembly)

Surprise Guest – our lovely friends at Asda have arranged a special visit from a well known and loved bear!

We will be asking for a suggested £2 donation via Parent Pay to help Children in Need change young lives across the UK.

Many thanks

Miss Parsons-Munn

Parent Consultations

Thank you so much for taking the time to attend our parent consultation evenings.

We were delighted to see such a strong turnout, with **92% attendance** across the two days. We know that some of you have plans to catch up with teachers next week.

It's always a pleasure to talk with you and celebrate the progress and achievements of our wonderful children.



Lunch clubs start next week. These were allocated on a first to sign up basis. Any children who didn't get their choice of club for the Autumn term will be put on the waiting list for Spring. Staff will be letting the children know which club they are attending and will remind them to attend on the day.

Thanks

Mrs Lamb



We had a very exciting assembly this morning with some special visitors – Andrea Caine, our OPAL mentor came along to present us with our Gold Award certificate and to talk to the children about the things they enjoy in outdoor play. We also met Andrew Garrard, from the North East Combined Authority, who was responsible for helping us gain our original grant to start our OPAL journey.

The children all agreed that OPAL has given us so many opportunities to be creative, to challenge ourselves, to show confidence in all we do, and to build friendships within our school community. Well done to everyone who has helped us to develop our playtimes, from parent donations and money from PTFA which have been invaluable, to our wonderful lunchtime staff who work very hard, and of course our amazing children! You have all earned that Gold Award for our school.

Ms Gasper



Anti-Bullying Week

Next week is national Anti-Bullying week.

This year's theme is, '**Power for Good**' which is aimed at empowering our children to safely speak up if they or someone they know is being bullied.

All classes will be taking part in some age appropriate anti-bullying activities during their PSHE lessons.

Mrs Lamb



We are delighted that so many of you cycle and scoot to and from school. Please remind children **not to use their bike and scooters on the school yard**. Bikes and scooters should be dismounted at the very first **green gate** and walked on to site.

Parents have reported accidents on the yard after school on Friday.

Thank you for your co-operation.



Healthy School

With the clocks going back over half term it's a timely reminder to be mindful of our children's safety around roads and recap their awareness of how to keep themselves safe too.

We need to be mindful of our children's visibility to motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. Days with heavy rain or even just dull days can also lead to lower visibility during the school run times. Brightly coloured coats or those with reflective strips on are best and highly fluorescent/reflective armbands can also be put over coats and clothing. Night lights and reflectors are essential on bikes, and reflectors or reflective tape could even be attached to scooters.

Remember to remind your children of road safety and pay extra attention to driveways. Electric vehicles are especially difficult to hear and so extra care needs to be taken as we approach areas where they may be manoeuvring.

Most of our crossings aren't manned and children should be taught to check that a car has stopped, even with a green man indicating to cross. This is especially important on the Great North Road with its mix of dual carriageways, bus and bike lanes.

Please remind children not to weave across the shared footpaths/bike lanes on their bikes and scooters where adults may be coming along behind them on their own bikes or even on foot!

Cont...

Whilst most adults would watch out for this, it is still unpredictable behaviour and we know that children's awareness of other users of this space can easily be forgotten!

Mrs Wells

Remembrance Day 2025



On **Tuesday 11th November at 11am** we will hold a 2 minutes silence across GPFS.

We will talk about Remembrance Day in an age appropriate way with all children. The CBeebies Animated Short, titled 'Poppies', is a brilliant way to introduce younger children to the concept of remembrance:

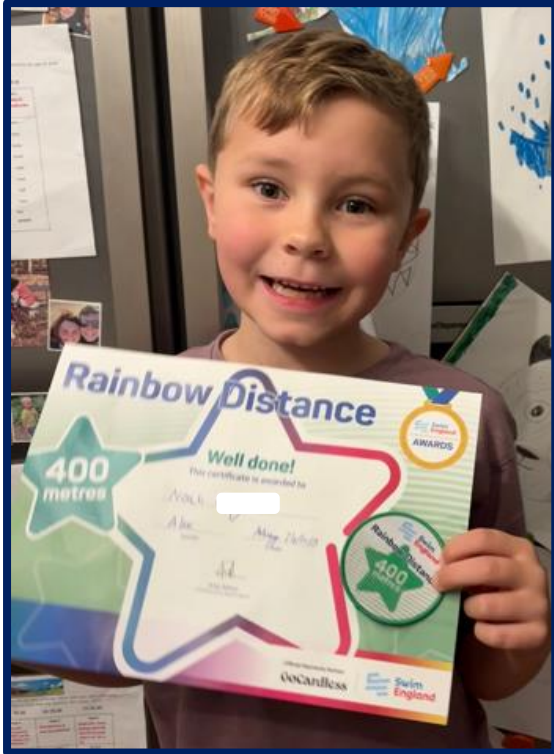
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/poppies>

Thank you to everyone who has donated to this year's Poppy Appeal which raises money for the Royal British Legion charity. If you would still like to donate, Mr Brown will be outside with the box of poppies until we run out! These are also available from the school office.

Mrs Lamb



Well done to Noah who has achieved his 400m swimming award!



Well done to Josh who has achieved his 1000m swimming award!



Congratulations – we are very proud of you both!



PTFA

Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 18th November** at **6:15pm** in the community room. Everyone is welcome!

Thank you so much for ordering your children's Christmas cards and gifts through the Christmas shop!

£602 of the money you have spent comes back to PTA for our wonderful children.



The Parklands Crossing Team would like to thank the whole community across **Gosforth Park First School, St Oswald's Catholic Primary School** and **Gosforth East Middle School** for your continued support to raise money to pay for our lovely lollipop lady. All 3 schools took part in **Be Bright Be Seen** day, which included the non uniform day, 2 school discos and a bounce-a-thon which raised a whopping **£2423!** This money will be added to our Just Giving page and is a huge step towards reaching our target.

We are continuing to work with the Council to secure longer term measures, but in the meantime we will do everything we can to ensure all children have a safe crossing to school.

Thanks so much

TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS

Miss Bell's class have been the most active over the half-term holiday! There is a new gig to complete for November which tests you on all of your times tables. Our top coin earners are **Arisa K, Joseph B** and **Patrick B**.



Mr Edwards' class has been working hard over the break and are our most active class this week!

Our top coin earners this week are:

- Miss Pope – **Younes G**
- Mr Edwards – **Will W**
- Miss Tate – **Nour I**
- Mr Patterson – **Enzo H**
- Mr Hindess and Mrs Armstrong – **Arisa K**
- Mr Guest – **Brooke H**
- Miss Bell – **Gerard C**

Keep up the hard work everyone, Miss Pope.

Attendance

Our whole school attendance to date this academic year is **97.3%** which the same as this time last year.

Our classes of the week this week are **Year 2 Mr Patterson** with **98.3%** and **Mr Hindess and Mrs Armstrong** with **97.4!**

Well done everyone!
Mrs Lamb



Our Golden Welly award goes to **Miss Pope's** class this week. The children have been fabulous at keeping our water area organised and looking after the equipment!

We are hoping to do some junk modelling in our outdoor classroom and would love some nice big boxes please! Just leave them in our OPAL donation box in the main entrance to school.

Thank you!

Ms Gasper



We are feeling so incredibly proud of our community!

We've received such lovely comments from new children and parents about how welcome they have felt — not only in school but also within the wider community.

We've also been touched by the amazing support from our families: a parent who helped us rescue an injured bird on site, a wonderful grandad who crafted a beautiful reading chair for our library, and a dedicated dad who spent many weeks restoring old pews to enhance our outdoor area.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you all so much for your kindness, generosity, and community spirit!

Mrs Lamb

Starting School in September 2026!

Applying for Places

Nursery Application forms for places in September 2026 will be available on the school website and from the office from Friday 9th January 2026.

The closing date for applications is 27th March 2026 at noon.

Offer letters will be emailed out on Wednesday 1st April 2026.

The deadline for accepting a place is Friday 24th April.

Reception Applications for September 2025

Applications open: 1st September 2025

Applications close: 16th January 2026

National offer day: 16th April 2026

Further information can be found at <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/apply-school-place/applying-reception-places>

Reception 2026

We've already had lots of enquiries regarding visits for our Reception 2026 intake. Parents are able to visit the school on the following dates. Please phone the school office to book a place.

- Tuesday 11th November 9:30 – 10:30
- Wednesday 12th November 5:00 – 6:00

New Dates:

- **Monday 17th November 9:30 – 10:30**
- **Wednesday 19th November 5:00 – 6:00**

Transferring school in 2026

Essential information about making an application to transfer to middle, secondary or high school.



Find out more and apply online at www.newcastle.gov.uk

The closing date is 31 October 2025.

Middle School Applications for September 2025

Applications open: 1st September 2025

Applications close: 31st October 2025

National Offer Day: 2nd March 2026

Further information can be found at [Applying for Transfer places | Newcastle City Council](#)

Mrs Lamb



Rainbow Wraparound

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 12 noon	Booking closes 12 noon
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 3 rd	December 17 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

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).

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 Mrs Carrick at wraparound@gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk

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 or Mrs Carrick directly, as this will delay any response and may result in you missing the booking window.**

Please ensure all block bookings are made/requested before the booking window closes. We cannot guarantee any block bookings after this date.

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

Thanks

Mrs Carrick

wraparound@gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk

GPFS PTA PRESENTS OUR

Wreath Making Workshops



£40pp
including all materials
and a festive treat.

Available to
book via
ParentPay

Saturday 29th November
GPFS Community Room
2 - 5pm or 5 - 8pm

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about POKÉMON TCG POCKET



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ADDICTIVE PACK OPENING

Booster packs rely on probability to provide rare or powerful cards. The excitement of opening them – and the dopamine rush when finding a sought-after card – can become addictive. Unlike purely cosmetic loot boxes, the cards here are integral to competitive gameplay, adding extra pressure for serious gamers to collect more.

QUICK BUT ABSORBING

Card battles last around five to six minutes, making it easy to fit in “just one more game”. This quick format, combined with the drive to win, can lead to prolonged play sessions and increased screen time without noticing. With limited-time Ranked Match seasons constantly being refreshed – an opportunity to accumulate points and earn profile emblems – players may find themselves drawn into this game mechanic repeatedly.

PREMIUM PASS PRESSURE

A monthly subscription gives players access to exclusive missions, rewards, and an extra daily booster pack. Missions and rewards are replaced each month, providing an incentive to stay subscribed. While some premium rewards are exclusive, others are available through free play – making the pass more about faster progression and obtaining cosmetic items than true necessity.

ENDLESS PACK LOOPS

New themed sets of cards are released each month, ranging from around 85 to over 370 cards per expansion. This constant cycle encourages players to keep opening packs in an effort to complete collections or improve their battle decks, potentially promoting unhealthy spending habits. With the introduction of limited-time booster packs, some players may feel increased pressure to collect these cards while they're still available.

COST OF BOOSTER PACKS

Although free to play, with set rewards and two free booster packs given daily, players can exchange Poké Gold if they wish to open more, and a small amount of Poké Gold is rewarded for free as the player levels up. Poké Gold is also sold in bundles that are often just short of what players need to open extra packs, encouraging them to buy additional bundles.

COMPETITIVE ONLINE PLAY

Interactions in Pokémon TCG Pocket are relatively safe – there's no messaging between players, friend requests require player approval, no real names are used, and card trading is restricted to fair trades between friends. On the other hand, the competitive nature of online play can still cause frustration, over-investment, and isolation if children spend too much time focused on the game.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR SPENDING HABITS

Set clear boundaries around in-game purchases. Treat Poké Gold as an occasional reward rather than routine reward, helping children develop healthier attitudes towards digital spend.

SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Talk about the unpredictable nature of booster packs and prepare children for disappointment when duplicates appear or rare cards don't surface. Understanding probability can help minimise disappointment – use the game's built-in offering rates guides to find out more about it.

PLAY TOGETHER

Card battles can help children learn tactics, problem-solving, and rule-following, as well as numeracy skills. Playing alongside them is a great way to share in their enjoyment, while also modelling balanced play and keeping an eye on how much they're investing in the game.

TEACH FAIRNESS

Losing a battle can be discouraging, especially when money has been spent on collecting the cards to build a deck. Support children in recognising the importance of fairness, learning from both wins and losses, and making considered choices when trading cards.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and children's book author with over 15 years of experience. Specialising in technology and gaming, he has written extensively on how digital platforms affect young people and has been playing games for more than three decades.



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