



www.gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk

January 6th 2026 Issue 1/6 Spring Term 1



On behalf of the staff and governors, I would like to wish you all a very **Happy New Year!** We hope you all had a lovely holiday. The children have all come back thrilled to see each other and ready to learn. We have a busy and exciting year ahead – look out for new dates added in red at the end of the newsletter.

Mrs Lamb

Application Reminders

Please be reminded, the closing date for reception applications for a September 2026 start is **15th January 2026.**

Nursery applications for September 2026 **open today** and forms are available on the school website or from the office.

Dinner Money

Dinner money for this half term is £66

Attendance

Huge thanks to everyone – we were very close to hitting our attendance target of 97% at the end of December (ending on **96.6%**) despite all the awful bugs and chicken pox that have been doing the rounds. We're really hoping that we can steadily increase back to 97% over the next few weeks.

Please remember, I cannot authorise holidays in term time. Attendance letters and reports will be sent home with children today. If you have any queries or require any further support around attendance, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Many thanks

Mrs Lamb

Robinwood Meeting

A meeting for all parents whose children are attending Robinwood in March 2026 will be held in the school hall.

At this meeting you will be given all the relevant information and forms to complete. Please note – this meeting is not for children to attend. Please enter via the Wraparound entrance.

I look forward to seeing you all there.

Mrs Lamb

Eric Ferguson



Eric Ferguson sadly passed away in November. Eric joined the governing body at Gosforth Park First School in 2016, guiding the school through two successful Ofsted inspections. He worked closely with senior leaders, staff and his fellow governors, always striving to ensure the very best for the children. Eric remained a governor at Gosforth Park First School until October this year. His dedication and wisdom have left an indelible mark on the school community.

Eric dedicated his career to improving education. As a Senior Consultant for Primary School Improvement with Newcastle City Council, he worked tirelessly to support teachers and pupils across the city. Through his Literature Works programme, Eric supported schools across Newcastle, Sunderland, Durham, and Northumberland, helping thousands of children discover a genuine love for reading. His influence extended beyond the classroom, shaping the careers of hundreds of aspiring teachers and leaders.

Eric was, above all, a man of kindness and integrity. His unwavering support for those around him and his passion for his work were evident in everything he did. He gave generously of his time, whether speaking with children, guiding staff, or sharing his wisdom with fellow professionals. His sense of humour and the joy he found in his work were qualities that touched everyone who knew him.

His contributions will continue to enrich education and inspire future generations.

His daughters, Eleanor and Stella, will host a **Literature Works** event at Gosforth Park First School for the children, with author Vivian French and illustrator Kate Leiper. This event will be in memory of Eric and to raise money for Pancreatic Cancer UK. We will be asking for a suggested £1 donation via ParentPay which will be donated to the charity.

<https://togetherinmemory.pancreaticcancer.org.uk/In-Memory/In-memory-of-Eric-Ferguson>

Mrs Lamb

Spring Topics

Our new topics for this half term are:

Reception – Super Heroes!

Superheroes inspires, excites and engages all of our young learners.

Children are now enjoying achieving what they set out to do and learning to persevere to complete more complex teacher-led challenges. We also learn about the lives of real-life superheroes and their important roles within our community.



Year 1 - Pole to Pole



After focusing on the geography of our own locality, **Pole-to-Pole** takes us on a journey around the world! Children will be studying the geography of different continents and oceans and relating hot and cold areas to their distance from the equator.



Year 2 – Home and Away

Home and Away delves deeper into the Geography of our wider world. Year 2 children take a closer look at our locality and begin to compare this to life in Brazil (much closer to the equator!) We begin to name some of the climates that are found around the world.

KS2 – Hola!

This geography-based topic will teach your children about Spanish speaking countries around the world and immerse them in Spanish art and culture. Children are excited to learn more about Spain, share their prior knowledge and show off their language skills!



Mr Hindess



The **PTFA AGM** will be held in the community room. We hope you can join us!



GOSFORTH RFC

Aged 4-17?

LET'S PLAY RUGBY!

Boys & Girls - fancy giving it a try?

Mini & Junior - Come and join us at Gosforth RFC
on Sunday mornings 9:30am-12:00pm

All ability - we have coaches for all ages.
Parents - want to join our coaching team? Full training is provided

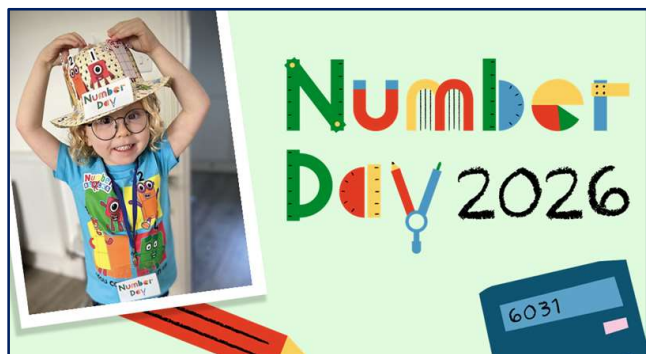
Gosforth Rugby Club

Gosforth RFC are offering weekly tag rugby sessions to pupils from GPFS for the remainder of this season.

Albie's dad (Shaun) is happy to be contacted directly if you are interested or have any questions:

tel: 07505993672

email: swtm1403@gmail.com



NSPCC Number Day

Friday 6th February

We are excited to once again be hosting a NSPCC Number Day on Friday 6th February at GPFS. We are raising money for the NSPCC so please come dressed in your best number-related clothes! Your teachers will have some fun number activities as well.

We are asking for donations of £1 via Parent Pay. Thank you for your support.

Miss Pope

Science Week – Careers!

For Science Week this year we would like to focus on 'green' or sustainable careers. We are seeking **members of our community who work in sustainable, environmental or green careers** who would be willing to deliver an assembly to the pupils of GPFS. We would love to inspire our pupils at GPFS by sharing real-world career pathways related to sustainability. Our Science week will take place between the **9th-13th March**. Please get in touch with the school office if you are interested with a short description of your role and what days and time would work best for you during our Science week.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Miss Pope



Calling all Real-Life Superheroes!

This half term in Reception our topic is Superheroes! We are also learning about the lives of real-life superheroes and their important roles within our community. In previous years we have had visits from doctors, paramedics, police officers, firefighters and nurses.

If you would be interested in coming to talk to us about your role in the community, please let Miss Coughlan or Miss Parsons-Munn know.



Special Educational Needs Drop-Ins

Friday 30th January

Mr Hindess will be available between 9-10am on **Friday 30th January** to talk to parents about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. These drop-ins are a chance to catch-up, ask questions and discuss any concerns.

No appointment necessary- teas and coffees will be available in the community room. If you are unable to make the time/date, please do not hesitate to contact me directly regarding all things SEND!
Mr Hindess



HANDBALL AT GPFS

Please be advised that handball sessions will be paused for this term. Activities will resume following the Easter Holiday, with sessions scheduled for Monday lunchtimes. Additional details will be provided nearer the time.

See you all soon for more handball action.

Marlen 😊



This week the Golden Welly award goes to **Miss Pope's class**. Well done for playing really well in the snow at the start of the week, and also for helping look after our equipment too! Some of the children have also offered lovely suggestions for some new equipment they would like to play with outside.

Ms Gasper

Pre-Loved Uniform

PRE-LOVED ITEMS WE CAN SELL		PRE-LOVED ITEMS WE CAN NOT SELL
OFFICIAL SCHOOL JUMPERS/HOODIES	£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	

Items are sold from 1 Park Drive, Melton Park NE3 5QB, with a drop off box in front of the garage. Please only drop off items on the list that can be resold.

Please REMEMBER items must not be marked as they are unable to be sold on. You can text me Natasha Davy (Parent) on 07736276653.



This is the pre-loved uniform drop off area in the main entrance to help us to reuse, recycle and re-love uniform for the benefit of our children and community.

TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS

Welcome back everyone!

Well done to **Mr Guest's Class** who had the highest % of active players this week.

Our top coin earners are **Arisa K, Alanna T** and **Nihal D**

Let's make a great start to TTRS in 2026 and start earning those coins!



It's been another close race for the most active class this week, a massive well done to **Miss Pope's Class** who came out on top!

Our top coin earners this week are:

- ★ Miss Pope – **Finn H**
- ★ Mr Edwards – **Elliot B**
- ★ Miss Tate – **Nour I**
- ★ Mr Patterson – **Yusuf A**
- ★ Mr Hindess and Mrs Armstrong – **Zara C**
- ★ Mr Guest – **Brooke H**
- ★ Miss Bell – **Gerard C**

Keep up the good work and keep practicing those number facts and times tables!

Miss Pope

Attendance

Our whole school attendance to date this academic year is **96.6%** which is down on last year's **97.3%**.

Our classes of the week this week are **Year 3 Mr Hindess/Mrs Armstrong** with **99.5%** and **Reception Miss Parsons-Munn** with **98.6%**!

Well done everyone!

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.

Nursery visit dates

- ★ Tuesday 20th January 4:00pm
- ★ Wednesday 21st January 4:00pm
- ★ Thursday 22nd January 9:30am
- ★ Tuesday 27th January 4:00pm
- ★ Wednesday 28th January 4:00pm
- ★ Thursday 29th January 9:30am

Reception Applications for September 2026

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>

Middle School Applications for September 2026

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

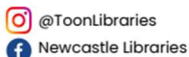
Mrs Carrick

wraparound@gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk

NEWCASTLE LIBRARIES

CHILDREN & FAMILIES NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2025/2026

Keep up to date with all things Toon Libraries:



Event booking:
www.eventbrite.co.uk/newcastlelibraries.com



Christmas Crafts

Monday 22 December at 11am
Fenham Library & Kenton Library
Monday 22 December at 12pm
Blakelaw Library @ Leisure United
Monday 22 December at 2pm
West End Library, Cruddas Park Library, Denton Burn Library, East End Library
Tuesday 23 December at 11am
Outer West Library, Walker Library, City Library & High Heaton Library
Wednesday 24 December at 11am
Newburn Library & Gosforth Library
Wednesday 24 December at 1pm
Blakelaw Library @ Leisure United

Free,
drop in, and
suitable for the
whole family!



BOOK BINDING WORKSHOP

Saturday 14 February, 11am - 1pm

Ever wondered how books are made? In this 2 hour workshop, experts from the Society of Bookbinders North East help you make your own journal. You can even emboss your own name on the front cover!
Suitable for children aged 7+. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
Free session, but booking essential. Booking via Eventbrite.

Whatever Next!

31 January, City Library,
10.30am and 12.30pm



We're celebrating National Storytelling Week with one of our favourite stories - Whatever Next by Jill Murphy.

Baby Bear uses his box to fly into space - what story will you tell using your cardboard box and your amazing imagination?!

Book your free place via Eventbrite for this story and craft session, suitable for children aged 4-11.



Early Words Together

Outer West Library, starts Monday 12 January, 10.30am
High Heaton Library, starts Tuesday 13 January, 2pm

National
Literacy
Trust

Change your story

First Words Together

Fenham Library Starts Friday 16 January, 10am

These sessions are a fun, free way to help parents develop their skills and confidence to support early language development in a home learning environment. First Words Together is suitable for children up to the age of two and Early Words Together focuses on children aged between 2 and 3 years old.

You will be signing up to attend 5 weekly sessions with a different focus and theme each week. You'll also get resources to take away with you. Book your free space via Eventbrite.

SATS WORKSHOPS

Fenham Library, Tuesday 17 February, 11am
Gosforth Library, Wednesday 18 February, 11am
City Library, Thursday 19 February, 12pm
West End Library, Friday 20 February, 11am



Join Explore Learning for an hour long session designed to help Year 6 children gain confidence in the run up to SATS tests. This workshop aims to improve SATs preparation, aid familiarisation with SATs papers and help develop exam techniques. Book your free place via Eventbrite.

GAME CHANGERS

Read, play, craft and make friends at our Game Changers social clubs for 7-11 year olds (under 8s must be accompanied by a grown up)!

Whether you want to try a new board game, help create a book display, or have some company while you do your homework, you'll find plenty to keep you busy.

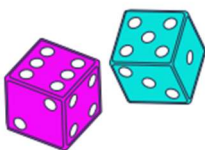
Monday: Fenham Library (3.30pm)

Tuesday: Outer West Library (3.30pm)

Wednesday: Newburn Library (3.30pm)

Thursday: High Heaton Library (3.30pm)

Saturday: Kenton Library (11am), Denton Burn Library (11am), West End Library (10.45am), Cruddas Park Library (11am)



STORYTIMES

Enjoy a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere, explore what the library has to offer, make friends and listen to stories that will encourage young children to develop a life-long love of books.

Under 5s, term time only.

Mondays: Fenham Library 10.30 am, City Library 10.30am, West End Library 2pm
Tuesdays: Gosforth Library, 11am
Wednesdays: Blakelaw Library, 10.30am
Thursdays: High Heaton Library 10.30am, Kenton Library 10.30am
Fridays: Gosforth Library 10.30am, Newburn 10.30am, East End Library 11am
Saturdays: Cruddas Park Library 10.30am, Walker Library 11am

LEGO CLUBS

This is a term time weekly drop-in and we provide all the materials. The clubs are for children aged 4 and up, and children must be with a parent or carer.

Mondays: Kenton Library - 3.30pm-4.30pm,
West End Library - 4pm-5pm

Tuesdays: Gosforth Library - 3.30-4.30pm

Thursdays: Walker Library - 3.45pm-5pm,
City Library - 4pm-6pm,

Fridays: Fenham Library - 3.30pm-4.30pm

Saturdays: Newburn Library - 10.30am-12.30pm, East End Library - 11am-12pm,
High Heaton Library - 11am-12pm,
Denton Burn Library - 11am-12pm, Cruddas Park Library - 11am-12.30pm,
Outer West Library - 11am-1pm



New Books - Available Now!



Visit libraries.newcastle.gov.uk to search for books, find out where they are, make a reservation (for free!) and select which branch you want to collect your book from!





GOSFORTH RFC

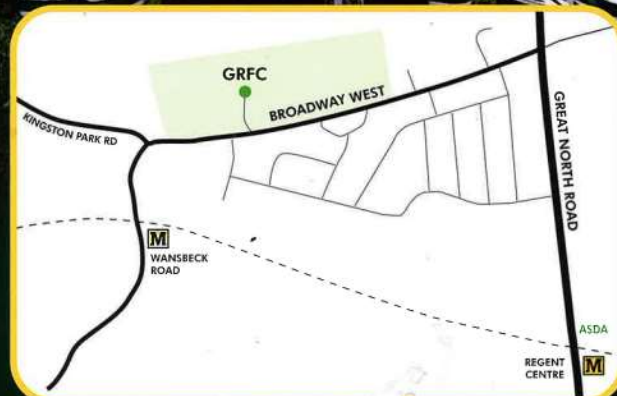


Aged 4-17? LET'S PLAY RUGBY!

Boys & Girls - fancy giving it a try?

Mini & Junior - Come and join us at Gosforth RFC
on Sunday mornings 9:30am-12:00pm

All ability - we have coaches for all ages.
Parents - want to join our coaching team? Full training is provided



Find us:

BROADWAY WEST, GOSFORTH
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, NE3 2HY

Get in touch:

Jon Nugent - Chairman of Youth rugby
07776 308191
Chairman.GosforthRFC@gmail.com
www.gosforth-rfc.co.uk

Follow us:



NSPCC



Number Day 2026

IT'S MATHS, BUT NOT AS YOU KNOW IT.

Friday 6 February



Have fun and Dress up
for Digits

Tag us online:

#NumberDay

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

© NSPCC 2025. National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Registered charity England and Wales 218408, Scotland SC037377 and Jersey 384. Photography by UGC and Caroline Nicholson on behalf of the NSPCC. 100255114



**Do you think your
child may be
neurodivergent?**

**Drop in and find
out about support
available near you.**

At our drop in events, you can chat to
services about the support they offer.
You can find out more about;

- An autism & ADHD assessment
- Support for parents
- Activities and groups
- Mental health support
- and more!



- 19th January, 12.30pm - 3.30pm,
St Martins, Byker, NE6 2RJ
- 24th February, 1.30pm - 4.30pm,
Carnegie Hub, Benwell, NE4 8XS
- 20th March, 9.30am - 12.30pm,
The Haven, Kenton, NE3 3RX



Term and Holiday dates for 2026 - 2027

SEPTEMBER 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NOVEMBER 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

DECEMBER 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JANUARY 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

JULY 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
	1	2	3	4	5	

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
-------------	-------------	-------------

Bank Holiday	School Holiday
--------------	----------------

1. Foundation Trust, Academy and Voluntary Aided (church) schools are not obliged to follow these dates and may choose to set a different calendar. You should contact individual schools for confirmation.
2. Maintained schools are usually open for the teaching of pupils for 190 days in a school year. This calendar shows 192 term time days. The additional **2 days** will be used by schools for non-teaching days. Schools are closed to pupils on these days. The dates of the non-teaching days are not necessarily the same across all schools. Individual schools will notify parents of the dates when school is closed to pupils for non-teaching days.
3. Schools must identify **3 further non-teaching day** or the equivalent outside of these specified term dates.
4. Headteachers in consultation with staff will determine when, where and how non-teaching days are planned.

Schools re-open on Monday, 6th September 2027