



www.gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk

May 22nd 2026 Issue 5/5 Summer Term One



Children's Cancer Run



A massive well done to everyone who took part in the Children's Cancer Run last Sunday! It was wonderful to see so many of you there, giving your best for a great cause and cheering everybody on. **As a school we raised an incredible £2,482** which will be used to help make better lives for children with cancer. The total raised by the event this year was just under £200,000! You should all be really proud of yourselves for your contribution and for representing our school in such a fantastic way.

Thank you,
Mr Guest

Remember

Please be reminded that we break up on **Friday 22nd July** for May Half term and return on **Tuesday 2nd June**.

Many thanks
Mrs Lamb

Mixing Classes

As we look ahead to September, we'd like to let you know that classes will be mixed across each year group. This is something we look at every year to help children build new friendships, grow in confidence and develop their independence. It also helps us create well-balanced classes where every child feels supported, included and ready to thrive. Our children always show amazing resilience and positivity during this process, and it's a lovely opportunity for them to strengthen connections across the whole year group – something we know is a real strength of our school community. For more information, please see our Mixing Classes Policy on our website [here](#).



Y4 Transition

Ahead of our final half term, I have been working with middle schools to finalise dates for our Year 4 transition activities.

Below is more information about transition. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mr Hindess

Year 4 Multiplication Times Table Check

Our Year 4 multiplication times table check will be taking place on **Friday 5th June**. Children will be completing the check on an iPad and in small groups.

Miss Bell will be completing the check with the children and she will ensure everyone feels happy and calm prior to starting the test.

Please ensure your child is completing lots of times table practise over the half term holiday

The 6, 7, 8 and 9 times tables are typically the most difficult and would require the most practise. Children should use TTRS or timestables.co.uk to help prepare for the check.

Thank you,
Miss Bell and Mr Guest



PTFA Meeting

Our next PTFA meeting will now take place on **Monday 15th June at 6.15pm** in the community room.

These meetings are open to all parents, and it would be lovely to welcome anyone new who has time to contribute to the school.

We look forward to seeing you then!

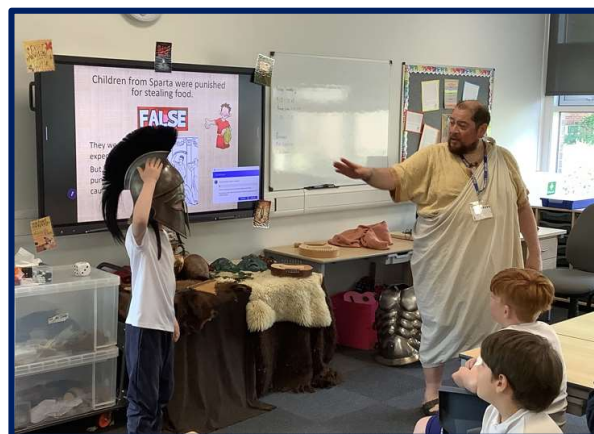
PTFA

This year's PTFA Summer Fayre + BBQ will be held on Monday 13th July after school. Save the date!

THAT HISTORY BLOKE...

Ancient Greece Workshops

This Friday, Year 3 took part in an Ancient Greeks workshop, delivered by Richard (That History Bloke...) ahead of our new topic.



A big thank you to our **wonderful PTFA** who funded this experience.

Richard will be back on Tuesday after half term to deliver workshops to the remaining two KS2 classes.

Mr Hindess



Reception

Beach Trip

As an exciting addition to our trips offer this year, Reception will be visiting Whitley Bay beach as part of their *Under the Sea* topic.

Please give consent via ParentPay

Many thanks

The Reception team

New Topics

Reception – Under the Sea



Under the Sea consolidates a year of learning through a range of new and familiar experiences. Children are playing and exploring independently while beginning to crave the additional concentration and challenge that teacher-led activities bring. Key texts become more complex and stretch children's comprehension and understanding of the world around them.

Y1 – Seaside



Our final topic in KS1 this year is **Seaside**. This history-based topic will be used to improve our children's understanding of change beyond living memory by comparing Victorian seaside holidays to our modern experiences. We will also be looking closely at postcards from the past to begin to understand the concept of historical evidence.

Y2 - Kings, Queens and Castles

Kings, Queens and Castles extends our understanding of time, change and chronology to periods beyond our living memory. Children will enjoy learning about different types of castles, investigate the best places to build castles and identify the different castles in the North East. We are also looking forward to our school trip to Alnwick Castle!



KS2 – Ancient Greeks

Our final topic in KS2 is Ancient Greece. This history-based topic will be used to improve understanding of using historical evidence. Our children will begin to understand the origins of the Olympic Games, the importance of democracy and be introduced to the exciting world of Ancient Greek Myths and Heroes.

Topic Webs will be available after half term to let you know more about what your children are learning in each area – many thanks! Mr Hindess



Year 3

Onsite Residential

Thursday 9th – Friday 10th July

Information has been sent to our Year 3 families this week about our famous **on-site residential**. This is an unforgettable experience for our children and a valuable stepping-stone before Robinwood in Year 4.

Activities include Orienteering, Soft Archery, Inflatable Assault Course, Circus Skills, Pizza Party, Silent Disco and Water Battle! Please check out ParentPay for a full itinerary and common Q&As.

Mr Hindess

Y1 Geography Fieldwork Traffic Surveys

This week, children in KS1 were out and about in our local area for their Geography Fieldwork. This time we collected data by conducting a traffic survey to answer the question, '**Which roads around our school are the busiest?**'



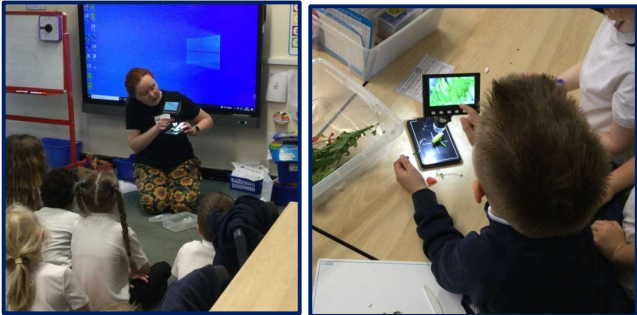
The Year 1 Team

Y1 Science

Plant Detectives

Year 1 had so much fun in their Plant Detectives Workshop on Thursday afternoon. We used electric microscopes to see all the parts of the plant we have been learning about in amazing detail! We felt like real scientists and compared the different parts from the different plants.

Miss Pope



Y1 Art

Pop Art










In Art this week Year 1 created their Pop Art final pieces. We created our own Styrofoam stamps and used bright, contrasting ink paint to create our Andy Warhol inspired pieces. We had so much fun and used so many art skills to perfect our final piece.

Miss Pope



Year 4 Transition Information

As we look forward to our final half term, below is a useful guide to all the transition events that will be happening to prepare our Year 4s for moving up to middle school:

Transition Information 2025-26			
	<p>GEMS Teachers Visit <i>Tuesday 16th June</i></p> <p>Before we head across to our new school, some of the Year 5 teachers will come to visit us! This will give our children a chance to get to know the staff and to ask them questions.</p>		<p>Buddy Letters <i>Tuesday 16th June</i></p> <p>A lovely way to learn a bit more about their new school! Our old friends (ex-GPFS pupils) write to our Year 4 cohort to tell them all about Year 5 and to buddy them up if they ever feel a bit lost.</p>
	<p>Transition Days <i>8th, 9th, 10th July</i></p> <p>Year 4 children will have 3 full days at their Middle School. They will find out who their teacher and classmates will be for Year 5. A member of the GPFS team will stay at GEMS all day on Wednesday in case our children need a familiar face.</p>		<p>Leaver's Video <i>Monday 6th July - filming</i></p> <p>Children will have the opportunity to take part in our leaver's video to give them a lasting memory of their time at Gosforth Park to share with their family and keep forever.</p>
	<p>SEMH Transition Preparation <i>Weekly sessions for 4 weeks</i></p> <p>Helen and Amanda from Newcastle SEMH team will be working with a small group of pupils who require additional preparation for their transition to Middle School.</p>		<p>Parents Meeting at GEMS <i>Wednesday 8th July at 6pm</i></p> <p>This meeting will give you a chance to find out more about Gosforth East. Mr Adcock, Miss Wilson and Mrs Armstrong will talk about life at GEMS and class teachers will also be attending.</p>
	<p>Leaver's Assembly <i>Thursday 16th July 2pm</i></p> <p>Our annual leaver's assembly is our way of giving your children the GPFS ending they deserve! We invite our Year 4 families to join us for your child's performance and presentations.</p>		<p>Shirt Signing <i>Friday 17th July</i></p> <p>Everyone's favourite rite of passage! Children are encouraged to bring in an old GPFS t-shirt for their teachers and friends to sign.</p>
	<p>Useful Contact Information</p> <p>Mrs Wilson (Year 5 Lead) anna.wilson@gosfortheast.newcastle.sch.uk 0191 2855445</p> <p>Mrs Armstrong (SENCO) emma.armstrong@gosfortheast.newcastle.sch.uk 0191 2855445</p>		

Please also keep an eye out for any communication with GEMS about additional events or information.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Hindess, Miss Bell or Mr Guest



Y1 Food Technology

Lemonade

We had a great time making some refreshing lemonade this week! We zested and squeezed the lemons. We weighed the sugar. We stirred it altogether and left it in the fridge to cool.



Miss Pope & Mr Edwards



This week our OPAL cadets have chosen **Miss Pope's class** to win our Golden Welly. Well done Year One's. I know you always show lots of imagination in your play and are very helpful when tidying our water area.

Ms Gasper



Healthy Schools
Newcastle



If you fancy finding out about where our food comes from, 7th June is Open Farm Sunday. Activities can include meeting animals to nature walks, seeing farm machinery and doing crafts, and finding out about sustainability and nature. The event is free and there are several farms in the North East with our nearest event being at the Blagdon Farm Estate. You may need to book so enter your postcode on the following weblink to search for a farm and find out more.

[Visit A Farm - Open Farm Sunday](#)

Mrs Wells

TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS

Miss Bell's and Mr Guest's class are both top of the leader board this week! Please keep your practice going over half-term. We have lots of new statuses again! Well done to our new Rock Stars: **Sofia G, Darcy C, Hollie F, Poppy H, Olly R** and **Beatrice Z-P**. Congratulations to our new Rock Legends: **Matthew C, Freya W, Anna S, Max H** and **Luke P**. Finally, well done to our new Rock Heroes: **Joseph B** and **Patrick B**.



Well done to Mr Edwards' class who are our most active class this week! Make sure to keep up your number fluency over half-term!

Our top coin earners were:

Miss Coughlan – **Felicity C**

Miss Parsons-Munn – **Aroosh H**

Miss Pope – **Toby B**

Mr Edwards – **Ada R**

Miss Tate – **Maya B**

Mr Patterson – **Rosalyn R**

Mr Hindess and Mrs Armstrong – **James C**

Mr Guest – **Alfie R**

Miss Bell – **Anna S**

Enjoy your half-term break, Miss Pope

Attendance

Our whole school attendance to date this academic year is **96.6%** Lets try and make it to our target of 97% before the end of the academic year!

Our classes of the week this week are **Reception Miss Coughlan** with **97.5%** and **Y3 Mr Hindess & Mrs Armstrong** with **98.1%**

Well done everyone!

Mrs Lamb

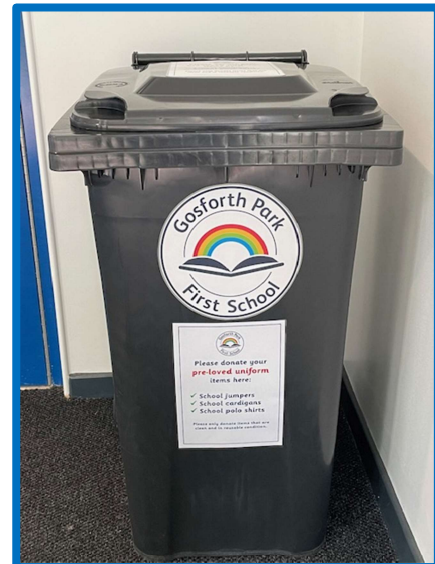
Pre-Loved Uniform

We have **updated** our pre-loved uniform requirements slightly due to low-demand for older or grey items:

PRE-LOVED ITEMS WE CAN SELL (please donate)		PRE-LOVED ITEMS WE CAN NOT SELL
OFFICIAL SCHOOL JUMPERS/HOODIES	£2.50	OLD LOGO OR NON-BRANDED ITEMS
OFFICIAL SCHOOL CARIGANS	£2.50	TROUSERS/SHORTS
OFFICIAL SCHOOL POLOS	£1.50	PINAFORES/SKIRTS
GIRLS CHECKED DRESSES	£1.50	SHOES
SCHOOL BAG (NEW STYLE)	£2.50	DAMAGED, MARKED OR STAINED CLOTHING

Items are sold from 1 Park Drive, Melton Park NE3 5QB, with a drop off box in front of the garage. 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.



Gosforth Park First School

Term and Holiday Dates School Year 2026 – 2027

SEPTEMBER 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2026						
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NOVEMBER 2026						
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30						

DECEMBER 2026						
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JANUARY 2027						
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FEBRUARY 2027						
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MARCH 2027						
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APRIL 2027						
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MAY 2027						
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JUNE 2027						
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JULY 2027						
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST 2027						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
	1	2	3	4	5	

	Autumn Term		Spring Term		Summer Term
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	Bank Holiday		School Holiday
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Additional school closures due to staff training:

- Tuesday 1st September 2026
- Friday 23rd October 2026
- Monday 7th June 2027

The following Autumn Term begins Monday 6th September 2027



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

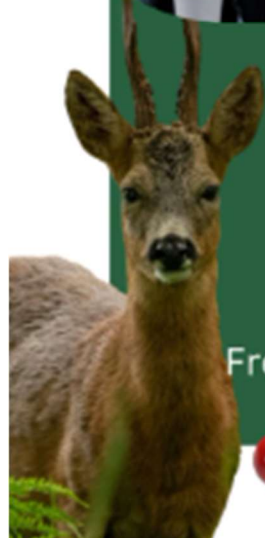
Gosforth Nature Reserve's Free Open Week!

25 - 31 May

 Natural
History
Society of
Northumbria

What's on offer?

- Free access all week
- Children's seasonal nature trail
- Drop-in crafts in the Field Studies Room
- Pick up some free wildlife identification sheets and resources
- Bookable events on NHSN's Eventbrite (limited spaces available)



Free public parking available on Gosforth Park Way. A short 5 minute walk from Gosforth Nature Reserve entrance.

 Gosforth Nature Reserve, Lake Lodge, Salters Lane, Gosforth NE3 5EP



Get Creative Dance
**Summer
School**

**Dance summer
school for young
people aged 7-16**



**Tuesday 18th – Friday 21st August,
9.30am-3pm**

£130 per place early bird until 1 June,
£140 thereafter.

**Gosforth
Civic
Theatre**

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Timetable

Tuesday Street Dance day

Wednesday Musical Theatre day

Thursday Pop Inspired day

Friday Get Creative day

EVERY DAY Bring the Energy.

GET GAMING

Summer Slam!



Thu 6 Aug, 10am-3pm, 6-11 years

Fri 7 Aug, 10am-3pm, 12-18 years

£30 per day early bird (until 1 June), £35 thereafter

Our ever-popular Gaming Social (every Tuesday night during term time - check it out!) is taking a break from its summer holidays for two packed days of console gaming, exhilarating games and loads of fun.

Play old favourites, enjoy new ones, take part in competitions and make friends!

**Gosforth
Civic
Theatre**

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

As the best-selling game in history, Minecraft has made a name for itself by empowering audiences of all ages to harness their creativity. Originally an indie hit, it's become a cultural phenomenon with merchandise, spin-off titles, and wider media adaptations. Even if you don't know your Creepers from your Endermen, this guide will explore the risks of Minecraft in 2026 and explain how to support a safe gaming experience for the children in your care.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVER COMMUNICATION

Many players enjoy Minecraft with others, including friends and unknown players online. In-game text chat is commonly used to coordinate building projects and gameplay, and this can extend to adding friends to voice chat. While often harmless, this creates risks around contact with strangers, and in some cases server hosts may expose IP addresses (if hosting independently), which raises privacy and security concerns.

GRIEFING BEHAVIOUR

Some players deliberately damage or destroy other players' creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying that can undo hours of effort and cause frustration or distress to affected players. Although many servers treat griefing as a serious offence, enforcement varies. Children who prefer to build independently may feel safer working on private worlds or controlled servers.

ADDICTIVE GAMEPLAY LOOPS

Minecraft's creative focus can make it easy for players to lose track of time. The cycle of gathering resources and building projects can be highly engaging, which may challenge agreed screen-time limits. If not managed effectively, this can impact children's sleep, schoolwork, and real-world social interaction.

SCARY GAME ELEMENTS

Although often compared to digital construction toys, some gameplay modes include hostile creatures with unsettling sounds and sudden encounters. While there is no graphic violence, younger players may still find zombies, spiders, or dark environments frightening. These experiences can lead to anxiety or reluctance to play, depending on the child's age and sensitivity.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Minecraft requires a one-off purchase after a free trial, usually around £15, but additional spending is possible. Players can buy cosmetic content or subscribe to Minecraft 'Realms' for private servers. Without supervision, children may make unintended purchases. Subscription services and add-ons can also increase overall costs over time if not monitored.

ONLINE INTERACTIONS

Playing with others can introduce broader online safety concerns, including exposure to inappropriate language or behaviour. Some players may attempt to move conversations beyond the game, which can increase risks to children's safety and welfare. Children may not always recognise these situations, meaning guidance and ongoing conversations about safe interactions are essential.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE SUITABLE GAME MODES

Creative or Peaceful modes remove hostile creatures and reduce the pressure during gameplay. These options allow children to focus on building and exploration without fear of attack. They are also ideal for shared play between adults and children, creating a calmer environment to learn the game and enjoy collaborative projects.

USE PRIVATE SERVERS

Setting up a private server helps control who can join a child's game. Access can be limited to trusted friends through passwords or invitations. This reduces the likelihood of unwanted interactions and gives adults greater oversight. While some options involve a subscription fee, they offer a safer and more controlled multiplayer experience.

DISCUSS ONLINE STRANGERS

Children should understand that not everyone they meet online is who they claim to be. Clear guidance about not sharing personal information is essential. Encourage children to report any worrying or uncomfortable interactions and reassure them that they can seek help without fear of punishment. Open, ongoing conversations help build their confidence and awareness of these issues.

SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

Agree on clear rules around purchases before letting children play, and use device settings or platform controls to restrict spending within agreed limits. Explaining that in-game currency uses real-world money can help children make informed decisions. Regularly reviewing purchases together can also prevent unexpected costs and encourage responsible behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes spent 7 years in games media, before moving into the games industry via PR and marketing. A parent himself to a Minecraft-loving son, he understands why it's so important to stay safe online.



See full reference list on our website



Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 20.05.2026

THE BIG GIG 2026

Magic of the Movies



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
FRIDAY 19 JUNE
VERTU MOTORS ARENA
★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Join us for an unforgettable celebration of Make Music Day — featuring ten iconic songs from beloved films, specially arranged for beginner instrumentalists and singers. Accompanied by a live band and starring a cast of over 1,200 young musicians, this is a red carpet event you won't want to miss!

BUY TICKETS HERE!



www.ticketsource.co.uk/newcastlemusicservice



north
east
music
hub

Newcastle
City Council



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ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND