



www.gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk

September 11th 2026 Issue 2/8 Autumn Term 1

Meet the TEACHER

Next week we are holding our **Meet the Teacher** sessions. Staff will dismiss all children as usual and then reopen doors at 3:45pm
Please enter classrooms via your child's usual entrance.

Monday 14th Sept – KS2

Tuesday 15th Sept – KS1

Wednesday 16th Sept – Reception

Mrs Lamb will be available to look after any children for the duration of the meetings. She will be in the KS2 library on Monday and in the Early Years playground on Tuesday and Wednesday.

We look forward to seeing you then!

The GPFS Team



Good luck to everyone who is taking part in the Great North Run or Mini Great North Run this weekend! We can't wait to see you proudly wearing your medals next week.
Mrs Lamb

Flu Vaccination Day

Dear Parents/Carers,

The flu vaccination programme will commence in the autumn term for children from **Reception to Year 4**. The following date has been planned for our school:

Wednesday 16th September 2026

The online consent can be accessed via any online device. Please click on the following link:

<https://www.northumbriaimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu>

this will direct you to an online consent form for you to complete using our school code:

NB108442

Consent submissions will close 48 working hours before the school session date. You can call to complete a consent after that but may have to attend a clinic instead.

If you decide you do not want your child to receive the flu vaccination, please complete a non-consent, this is the same form but you chose NO you do not consent to your child receiving the Flu nasal spray or Flu injection.

Please note that school staff do not have access to these systems and cannot consent or withdraw consent on your behalf.

Kind regards

Mrs Lamb

Year 1 Trip The Royal Navy Museum

Year 1 will be visiting the **Royal Navy Museum, Hartlepool** as part of our *Pirates* Topic.



Children will have a guided tour of the Museum. They will also step on board Europe's oldest floating warship HMS Trincomalee and see if they have what it takes to be a sailor in the 1800's! We will then get hands on with Horrible Histories Pirates: The Exhibition where we will captain our very own ship and design our own pirate flags.

Keep an eye out for more information and consent via ParentPay.

Mrs Pennington & Mr Edwards



There are still a few places available in the **Year 2 French** club taking place on **Thursdays** after the children's lunch. For more information please contact Mrs Baldasera on 07815 115 468 or email: rachelbaldy@gmail.com



KS2 Trip Beamish Museum

Next half term, as part of our Victorians Topic, KS2 will be visiting Beamish Museum.

We will all be taking part in a Victorian Classroom experience and investigating the mystery of James White with real actors, to support our understanding of Historical Enquiry.

We also invite all children, staff (and parent volunteers..!) to dress up as Victorians for the day.

Keep an eye out on ParentPay for itinerary and further details in the coming weeks!

Mr Hindess

Reception 2027

We've already had lots of enquiries regarding visits for our Reception 2027 intake. Parents are able to visit the school on the following dates. Please phone the school office to book a place.

- Tuesday 6th October 5:00 – 6:00pm
- Tuesday 13th October 9:30 – 10:30am
- Tuesday 20th October 9:30 – 10:30am
- Wednesday 21st October 9:30 – 10:30am
- Wednesday 4th November 9:30 – 10:30am
- Tuesday 10th November 9:30 – 10:30am
- Wednesday 11th November 5:00 – 6:00pm
- Wednesday 18th November 5:00 – 6:00pm



Our PTA have already been busy over the summer raising **£185** at a soft play event.

The 100 Club returns this year.

Registration for our GPFS 100 club is now open 💰

It's a one-off payment of £24 per number for the full academic year (max. of 5 numbers per household) with 3 chances per month to win cash prizes.

If all 100 numbers are sold the prizes each month for a standard month will be:

1st: £40

2nd: £20

3rd: £10

And in a bonus month (July and December) will be:

1st: £120

2nd: £80

3rd: £40

See the poster for more info and follow this link <https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/gpfs-2627-100-club> to pay and sign up before October 1st to be in with a chance of winning.

We're trying not to mention the C word just yet – however our fabulous Wreath Making events are available to book. There are two sessions on Saturday 21st November – 2pm and 5pm. It's always a fun afternoon/evening in the community room.

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/gpfs-wreath-making-2pm>

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/gpfs-wreath-making-5pm>

Check out the poster below.



PTA will also be holding a bake sale on **Friday 16th July**. Please send in nut free donations on the day or the day before.

These can be handed in at reception.

Donations of items such as those below are also greatly received which are not only firm favourites but safe for some of our children with allergies.



Celebrate Your Child's Achievements

If you would like us to celebrate your child's achievements in our newsletter, such as awards or accomplishments in swimming, football, rugby, dance, gymnastics, martial arts, or any other activity, please email **admin@gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk** by 12 noon on Thursday for inclusion in that week's Friday newsletter.

Please note that any photographs submitted for publication in the newsletter will appear in the newsletter on the school website.

Mrs Lamb

OUTDOOR PLAY AND LEARNING

Well done to our new Year One's, it has been lovely to see you all out on the big playground and field enjoying OPAL. We have also been really proud of how well the older children have shown them how to use the play resources and encouraged them to join in with their games this is what OPAL is all about!

Ms Gasper



TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS

Thank you to everyone who practiced their times tables over the summer our top coin earners were **Fionntan, Gracie, Jacob** and **Arisa**.

This week our most active class was **Mr Hindess and Mrs Armstrong**. I can't wait to see who our first Rock Star of the year is going to be! Remember our new Year 2s that you should be practicing your 2s, 5s and 10 times tables this year.



Our most active class over the summer was **Miss Tate's Class!**

Our top coin earners were:

Mrs Pennington – Aroosh

Mr Edwards – Elijah

Miss Anderson and Miss Walsh – Finn

Mr Patterson – Rupert

Miss Tate – Nour

Mr Guest – Erin

Miss Bell – nobody yet!

Mr Hindess and Mrs Armstrong – Noah

Great effort everyone, Mrs Pennington

Attendance

Our whole school attendance to date this academic year is **98.2%**!

Reception Miss Coughlan's class achieved an outstanding **100%** attendance this week, closely followed by **both Year 4 classes** with an impressive **99.1%**!

Well done everyone!

Mrs Lamb



The British Nutrition Foundation is focusing on healthier snacks for this month of, 'Snacktember'. They report that over 92% of children consume snacks which contribute approximately 231-565 kcal a day to their diet.

Obviously, our children are going to be hungry outside of meal times so it is important that we attempt to provide snacks that are healthy and that we teach them the skills to choose healthy snacks as they grow. Check out the poster in this newsletter and follow the link below to get some great ideas and recipes such as pizza muffins, which you'll find if you scroll to the bottom of the page.

[Snack-tember 2026 | British Nutrition Foundation](#)

Mrs Wells

Pre-Loved Uniform

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.

Please REMEMBER items 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.



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.

Many thanks

Natasha Davy



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	November 30 th	December 11 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
Summer Holiday	June 10 th	July 2 nd
September bookings	June 28 th	July 9 th

Wraparound will close at 5pm on Friday 18th December, Thursday 25th March and Friday 16th July.

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 RFC

*Date for your
diary*

REGISTRATION DAY



**SUNDAY 6TH
SEPTEMBER**

**FROM
10AM**

**BROADWAY WEST
NE3 2HY**

**WHETHER YOU'RE AN EXISTING MEMBER OR A NEW PLAYER JUST
WANTING TO GIVE RUGBY A TRY, COME ALONG AND JOIN US**

ST AIDAN'S CHURCH BRUNTON PARK

**TUESDAY'S
3.30 - 5.00PM**

**AFTER SCHOOL
DROP-OFF
CLUB**



**OUR FREE CLUB WITH GAMES,
ACTIVITIES, STORY, SNACK
AND... FUN!!!**

CONTACT

**staidansfamilyworker@gmail.com
07526275719**

NEWCASTLE LIBRARIES

Keep up to date with all things Toon Libraries:



@ToonLibraries



Newcastle Libraries

**CHILDREN & FAMILIES NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026**

Event booking:

www.eventbrite.newcastlelibraries.com

Newcastle Libraries invites you to a very special Open Day!

On Saturday 3 October, 10am-2pm, Newcastle City Library will be a hive of activity, showcasing everything that you can access with a library card!

Enjoy storytimes and crafts, plus your chance to talk to library staff about great books, explore your family history, and uncover unique treasures from our archives! There'll even be free candy floss and a scavenger hunt for all ages!

No need to book, just drop in any time on the day!



HOLLY STERLING **Tuesday 27 October, 11am - 12pm, City Library**



Join author and illustrator Holly Sterling for a fun-filled event celebrating the picture book *Wednesday is for Wiggling*, illustrated by Holly herself!

Perfect for all young readers and families! Booking via Eventbrite.

**A great way
to support us
whilst also
having fun!**



100 CLUB LOTTERY



<https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/gpfs-2627-100-club>

**Welcome to the Gosforth Park First School PTA 100 Club which will commence from 1st October 2026. The primary aim of our 100 Club is to raise funds for school, but there is an added bonus that you could win a cash prize in doing so!
Here's how it works ...**

- **By buying a number you are confirming you have read, understood and agreed to abide by the 100 Club Terms and Conditions.**
- **You may have up to a maximum of 5 numbers per household (this may be amended depending on the level of interest). These will be allocated to you by Zeffy and can be confirmed by the administrator of the PTA 100 Club before the first draw in October. This number(s) are then yours permanently and entered into each monthly draw for that academic year.**
- **The 100 Club is a small society lottery and therefore is open to all parents, carers and other family members aged 16 years or over, as well as all GPFS school staff and governors. We are registered with Newcastle City Council: Registration Number: LOTT1049.**
- **The monthly draws will take place during PTA meetings or witnessed by a member of school staff and a member of the PTA committee, using <https://pickerwheel.com/tools/random-number-generator/>**
- **If you win it will be announced in the school newsletter as well as on the WhatsApp Community and you will be personally notified via the contact information that you have provided and the prize money will be transferred by BACS transfer asap.**



GPFS PTA PRESENTS OUR

Wreath Making Workshops



Saturday
21st
November



GPFS
Community
Room

Adults Only

Family and friends
are very welcome
to join the fun!

£40pp
including all
materials and a
festive treat

Book via the following links...

2 - 5pm

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/gpfs-wreath-making-2pm>

5 - 8pm

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/gpfs-wreath-making-5pm>

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters. These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership and governance. He works internationally supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance and [insert NC courses I have written].



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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