



www.gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk

September 18th 2026 Issue 3/8 Autumn Term 1

Meet the TEACHER

We had a wonderful turn out for our meet the teacher events. Thank you so much for joining us. Parent Consultations are planned for later in the term. We will send out more information next week.

Mrs Lamb



Reception and Year 1 Parents

Thank you so much for coming along to the phonics information mornings. For anyone who couldn't make it or would like to find out more, check out:

<https://www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/or-parents/>

This has lots of informative videos and support documents to help with the sounds of graphemes, digraphs and trigraphs, as well as overviews of your child's learning journey across both year groups.

Mr Patterson



Kenton Foodbank Workshops

Loree and Maureen from **Kenton Food Bank** will be coming into school to run workshops for our KS1 and KS2 children to learn more about our important local charity. Children will find out about the important work of the food bank and will be encouraged to **bring a donation of something they would love to receive in a food parcel** on the day of their workshop.

KS2 Workshops – Wednesday 14th October

KS1 Workshops – Thursday 15th October

The foodbank will gratefully accept any donations of non-perishable food items, fresh produce and essential household goods.

Thank you for your generosity and support!
Mr Hindess

Meet your SENCO

Mr Hindess will be available in the Community Room **next Friday, between 9am and 10am**, if anyone would like to pop in for a cuppa and chat about **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities** at Gosforth Park First School.

Year 2

Discovery Museum



On **Wednesday 2nd December**, Year Two pupils will be visiting the Discovery Museum as part of their *Great Fire of London* History Topic.

Children will have a chance to explore the museum with the classmates and teacher. They will also take part in a half-day workshop to learn about the Great Fire of Newcastle and Gateshead.

Keep an eye out for further communication and consent via ParentPay

Mr Hindess



With Snacktember in full swing, have you visited The British Nutrition Foundation website yet?

You can also find inspiration and information on healthy eating via social media if you search for the British Nutrition Foundation.

Check out the new poster below for more information and ideas for snacks, whether you are on the go or at home.

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

Mrs Wells



School Council

We are extremely proud of our newly appointed school council members. These were democratically elected in classes after learning all about democracy and what we are looking for in an ideal candidate. We talked about not just choosing our best friends but choosing people who were right for the job.

Our newly appointed members are:

- ✓ Year 4 Noah
- ✓ Year 4 Zara
- ✓ Year 4 Cora
- ✓ Year 4 Isaac
- ✓ Year 3 Finley
- ✓ Year 3 Alice
- ✓ Year 3 Maisie
- ✓ Year 3 Enzo
- ✓ Year 2 Max
- ✓ Year 2 Rosa
- ✓ Year 2 William
- ✓ Year 2 Izzy
- ✓ Year 1 Sol
- ✓ Year 1 Conor
- ✓ Year 1 Callum
- ✓ Year 1 Ava

One of school council's first jobs is to work with Mr Edwards to choose new prizes for our raffle ticket reward system!

Well done everyone
Mrs Lamb

GOSFORTH VOICES & BAND

We're really looking forward to getting started with our **Gosforth Voices & Band groups** for the new year. It's a really lovely opportunity to meet new friends and work towards some fantastic performances.

Gosforth Voices is a choir aimed towards children in Year 3 & Year 4. It is a great way to make new friends from other schools, develop confidence in singing and learn new songs.

Gosforth Band is a mixed instrument ensemble designed for children Year 3 and up. It is open to complete beginners right through to experienced players.

Our first rehearsals are:

Gosforth Voices - Wednesday 23 September, 3:45-4:45pm at Regent Farm First School

Gosforth Band - Wednesday 30 September, 3:45-4:45pm at Archibald First School

Please see the poster at the end of the newsletter for more information. We would love to see you there!

Best wishes,

Gareth Miller
Team Coordinator
Newcastle Music Service



Year 4 Parents GEMS Open Evening



Gosforth East Middle School would like to invite all of our **Year 4** parents and children to join them for their open evening on **Wednesday 7th October at 6pm – 7.30pm**

During the visit, you will meet key members of staff and have an opportunity to tour the school and participate in a variety of learning experiences.

Please note that you must apply for your middle school place by 31st October. The easiest way to apply is by following the link below:

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/school-s-learning-and-childcare/apply-school-place/applying-transfer-places>

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

Mrs Lamb



Huge well done and congratulations to all of our children and parents who took part in last weekend's Mini, Junior and Great North run events! Well done and thank to Calen in reception and Pearl in Year 4 – great photos!



Huge well done to Enzo who plays for **Newcastle City Juniors U8 Roma**. This week he was chosen by his coach as **Trainer of the Week**. His coach said he has worked incredibly hard throughout the session, listened to every instruction and put everything into practice. He also praised Enzo's brilliant attitude and said the recognition was fully deserved. We are so proud of you Enzo!



Attendance

Our whole school attendance to date this academic year is **97.6%**!

Reception Miss Coughlan's class and **Year 1 Mrs Pennington's class** have both achieved an outstanding **100%** attendance this week.

Well done everyone!

Mrs Lamb



This week our Golden Welly award goes to **Mr Edward's class**. They have been building using the construction and train tracks outside and are loving our den building. It's so lovely to see them joining in with the older children so well too.

Well done Year One!

Ms Gasper

TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS

Miss Bell's class is our most active class this week!

We are still waiting for our first Rock Star of the year - but it is great to see you becoming support acts and breakthrough artists too.

Our top coin earners were **Fionntan, Violet, Oonagh** and **Hazel**.



Well done for beating last week's school average by 10%. Our most active class this week is **my class – Mrs Pennington!**

Our top coin earners were:

Mrs Pennington – Alyssa

Mr Edwards – Elijah

Miss Anderson and Miss Walsh – Daniel

Mr Patterson – Lucy

Miss Tate – Myles (the most in the whole school!)

Mr Guest – Alessia

Miss Bell – Isaac

Mr Hindess and Mrs Armstrong – Zara

Keep up the great progress,

Mrs Pennington

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

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>



GOSFORTH VOICES & BAND

Do you enjoy singing
and making music?



Our Gosforth Voices & Band groups meet on Wednesdays from 3:45-4:45pm. It's a fantastic opportunity to make music with others and meet new friends from other schools!

We perform several times through the year too.

To join us, scan the QR code to
find out more or visit our website:

www.newcastlemusicservice.co.uk/ensembles



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TOXIC GAMING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Gaming should be a way for children to have safe fun with their friends. But anonymity and a lack of consequences can mean that corners of online multiplayer gaming are riddled with toxicity that makes them unpleasant at best, and damaging to children at worst.

A 2019 study found 74% of players had experienced harassment in online games, and such behaviour has become increasingly normalised.

GAMING WITHOUT THE FUN

Toxic gaming takes many forms. In live, multiplayer games, players can be targeted by strangers bullying them over voice and text, or deliberately sabotaging their game. It can also be present in spaces outside of the game such as Discord and Reddit, with players gatekeeping their community and making it deliberately unwelcoming to newcomers. In extreme circumstances, it can lead to physical threats, stalking and doxing.

WIDESPREAD TOXICITY

The Anti-Defamation League's 2019 study numbers are stark. At that point, 74% of players had experienced some form of abuse, with 65% receiving physical threats, stalking or sustained harassment. Nearly a third of players surveyed found themselves doxed while playing online, which means private or personal information was shared against their will in an attempt to intimidate or silence.

BIGOTED TRASH TALK

Such toxic tactics are especially prevalent against girls, LGBTQ+ players and players from minority ethnic backgrounds. In all, 53% of respondents reported being targeted based on their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. Another survey revealed that 88% of openly LGBTQ+ players have been harassed by their communities, while over half of women report using a non-gendered or male username while playing to avoid harassment.

EXTREMIST IDEOLOGIES

Extremist groups have been known to target gaming communities and streaming platforms as a way of spreading propaganda and recruiting young players to their cause. Even in 2019, the ADL's research found that 23% of players had been exposed to white supremacist ideology, with a further 8% exposed to positive views about Islamic State. Disinformation is also a problem, with 13% hearing conspiracy theories about 9/11 and 9% exposed to Holocaust denial.

A SAFE SPACE MADE UNSAFE

This toxic environment can lead to the same feelings of fear, isolation and depression that offline bullying can. Children exposed to toxic gaming can become withdrawn, anxious or irritable. They can struggle with sleep and find it difficult to focus on schoolwork and other pursuits, even after the game has been switched off and they're no longer playing.

COPYING HARMFUL BEHAVIOUR

At the other end of the spectrum, children can mimic the toxic behaviour and language they've seen online in offline settings. If bullying or bigoted chat is normalised as a legitimate part of online gaming, children may end up emulating it offline with classmates, seeing it as harmless banter. This could make other children's lives miserable or leave them feeling isolated at school.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PLAY WITH FRIENDS

While some games rely on playing with strangers to make up the numbers, there are plenty of titles that can be played on a private server with vetted, trusted friends, sidestepping the toxic elements of the wider gaming community. If a child encounters toxic behaviour in others while playing larger games, encourage them to block and report the players responsible.

USE THE GAME'S TOOLS

Many online games provide ways to limit interaction with strangers, either through the global settings on PlayStation or Xbox, or within the game itself. Look at the options, and make it so children can only communicate with their friends. If you can't see this level of control, you can consider disabling chat completely and, where age-appropriate, using a suitable separate service for communication with friends.

TALK TO CHILDREN

Most importantly, if children are gaming online or want to start, talk to them about the risks and how to deal with toxic behaviour. Explain the kinds of behaviour they may encounter, encourage them to report and block, and let them know they can talk to you about any concerns. Where appropriate, you may even want to play alongside them to get a feel for the community yourself.

FIND THE RIGHT COMMUNITY

If your child is at an age where social media is permitted, friendly communities exist. There are online groups for LGBTQ+ players, players from minority backgrounds and girls, where they can chat and find people to play with in more welcoming environments. Not everyone is who they claim to be online, so be sure to discuss the risks of online friendships, and maintain an open dialogue with children to ensure their ongoing safety.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



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See full reference list on our website

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