



www.gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk

September 25th 2026 Issue 4/8 Autumn Term 1



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are looking forward to welcoming you into school during the final week of this half term for our **Parent Consultation Evenings**.

Appointments for **Nursery – Year 4** will take place on:

- **Tuesday 20th October** from **3:45pm**
- **Thursday 22nd October** from **3:45pm**

You will be able to book a **10-minute appointment** with your child's class teacher to discuss their progress and achievements. Bookings should be made via **SchoolCloud** using the email address that you have provided to the school. Please see the attached instructions for guidance on how to access the system.

Your child's books will be available for you to view either before or after your appointment. **Booking opens at 8:00pm on Monday 28th September and closes at 8:00pm on Thursday 15th October.**

We look forward to meeting with you and sharing your child's learning journey.

Kind regards,
GPFS Team



KS2

Bridge Engineering Workshops

On **Monday 28th September** and **Tuesday 29th September**, engineers from AECOM will be visiting our school to run sessions with Key Stage 2 pupils focused on bridges, as part of our *Tale on the Tyne* topic.

During these sessions, students will:

- Build a suspension bridge.
- Test paper bridges to understand the importance of materials and structure.

The aim of these activities is to help students grasp key engineering concepts, as part of our DT Curriculum, and learn a bit more about engineering as a potential future career!

A massive thank you to Alice's dad for organising and helping to deliver these exciting workshops for our children!

Mr Hindess



Bikes and Scooters

Please remember to dismount any bikes or scooters at the main gate and walk them on to the school site to avoid any bumps with pedestrians. Please also remind children to walk them out of the school site. Playground gates will **close at 9:00am, reopen at 3:20pm** and close again once the children have been collected. For children attending wraparound or anyone arriving late, there are racks near the main office and on the way round to the main playground. You can bring your own bike lock or padlock to secure these.

Before and After School

We are delighted that so many children enjoy using the monkey bars before and after school. To help ensure that everyone can play safely and have fun, please take a moment to remind your child of our monkey bar safety rules:

- ✓ One person at a time
- ✓ Be patient and wait for your turn
- ✓ Do not climb on top of the bars
- ✓ Only hang using your hands
- ✓ Always land on your feet and bend your knees
- ✓ Do not stand underneath when someone is using the equipment
- ✓ An adult must be nearby at all times

If your child is playing in the school grounds before or after school, please ensure they are supervised at all times, particularly when using the trim trail and monkey bars.

A reminder that the school gates are locked at **9:00am** and remain closed until the end of the school day. They are then locked again at **3:40pm**. To help us prepare for our Wraparound provision and after-school clubs, please ensure that you have left the playground by **3:40pm** each day.

Thank you for your support in helping us keep our children safe.



Smart Watches in School

Following recent government guidance on mobile phones in schools, we would like to remind parents and carers that **smart watches are not permitted in school**.

Although often worn as a watch, many smart watches have features such as messaging, internet access, cameras and the ability to make or receive calls. As a result, they are treated in the same way as mobile phones and are not allowed in school.

Children who need a watch for telling the time are welcome to wear a simple analogue or digital watch that does not have communication or internet capabilities.

We ask all parents and carers to check that any watch worn to school complies with this expectation. Your support helps us to maintain a safe, secure and distraction-free learning environment where children can focus fully on their learning.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Coats Reminder

As we wave goodbye to the summer months, could we please remind parents to send their children to school with a coat. Sunny mornings have been changing to cold/drizzly afternoons this week.

Many thanks

Mrs Lamb



PTFA Meeting – Everyone Welcome!

Our next **PTFA meeting** will take place on **Tuesday 6th October at 6:00pm** in the **Community Room**.

The meeting is open to all parents and carers and usually lasts around **one hour**. It is a great opportunity to meet other families, share ideas and help plan and organise upcoming PTFA events and activities for our children.

Tea and coffee will be provided.

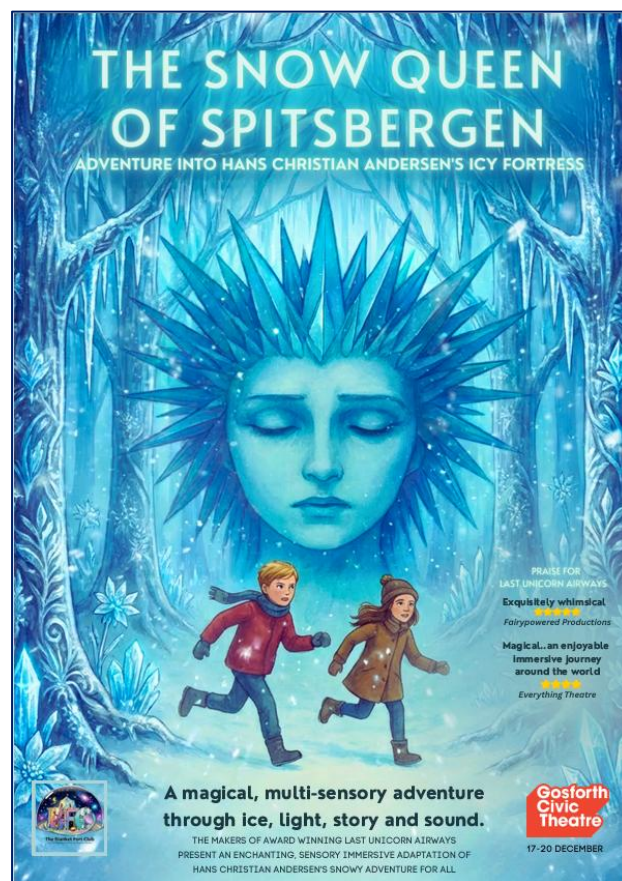
Please note that this is an **adults-only meeting**.

Whether you are a regular attendee or would like to come along for the first time, we would love to see you there. Your support and ideas help make our PTFA events such a success for the children.

We look forward to seeing you there!



PTA will also be holding a bake sale on **Friday 16th October**. Please send in nut free donations on the day or the day before. These can be handed in at reception.



Hello parents,

This year **Reception - Year 4** will be going to Gosforth Civic Theatre in **December** to see their production of '**The Snow Queen of Spitsbergen**'.

A magical, multi-sensory adventure through ice, light, story and sound.

I am sure it will be an exciting experience for all of our children.

We will be walking to and from the theatre and we will be asking for some parent helpers nearer the time.

Thank you,

Miss Bell



For Harvest Festival this year we have decided to welcome donations for **Kenton Food Bank**.

Kenton Foodbank provide essential support to local individuals and families in crisis. Thanks to generous donations and dedicated volunteers, they are able to make a real difference in our local community.

The charity is always especially grateful for donations of:

**Tinned fruit
Custard
Rice pudding
Biscuits
Pasta sauce
UHT milk
Biscuits
Cereal
Nappies all sizes
Tea
Coffee**

Please send any donations into the school office and leave on top of the Lost Property unit by **Friday 16th October**

Loree, Kenton Food Bank founder, will also be coming to school to deliver workshops for our KS1 and KS2 children on Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th October.

Thank you, as always, for your generosity and support!

Mr Hindess

Welcoming New Families

We are delighted to be welcoming some new friends to school on Monday. Following some family relocations last year, we have pupils joining us in Year 1, Year 3 and Year 4.

At Gosforth Park, we pride ourselves on being a warm and friendly community, and we know our pupils and families will give our new starters a very warm welcome. We look forward to helping them settle in and become part of GPFS school life.



Special Educational Needs Parent and Carer Support Group

Children & Families Newcastle are running SEND Parent & Carer Support Groups at Gosforth Civic Theatre.

These groups are informal and supportive spaces for parents to come to talk and learn about special educational needs and disabilities.

There is no booking necessary – just turn up for a coffee and a chat!

The next sessions are **Friday 2nd October 10am** and **Tuesday 20th October 4pm**

Mr Hindess

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



It's almost the end of Snacktember for another year but there is plenty of advice, ideas and recipes online to help maintain healthy snacking habits.

Vegpower have a fantastic section on their website called Attack the Snack, specifically to support busy parents with planning for healthy snacks and guidance on encouraging reluctant healthy snackers.

Along with support videos on how to encourage better snacking habits, you can also find a link to a 20 minute course, designed with easy wins for improving snacks without the stress of battles or bribery.

To get you started, why not focus on fruit which is in season and at it's best. My seasonal snack of the week is the pear. Full of fibre and immune boosting vitamin C, they make a great addition to baking too. Out of season, the tinned pear means you can enjoy them all year round.

Find out more at:

[Attack the Snack - Veg Power](#)

Mrs Wells

Attendance

Our whole school attendance to date this academic year is **98.1%**!

Reception Miss Coughlan's class, Year 1 Mr Edward's class and Year 2 Miss Anderson and Miss Wash's Class have all achieved an amazing **99.4%** attendance this week.

Well done everyone!

Mrs Lamb



This week our Golden Welly award goes to **Mrs Pennington's** class! Everyone has noticed how well you play together – lots of you are enjoying our mud kitchen and small world play.

Well done!

Ms Gasper

TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS

Our most active class this week is Miss Tate's, closely followed by Mr Guest's. Keep it up Year 3! It has been great to see more of our heat map turn green over the last couple of weeks – keep practicing your weakest tables! Our top coin earners were **Alice, Finn O-G, and Sophie.**



Well done to **Elliot** who in his first few weeks of Year 2 has already completed diamond level! What a super achievement, he can now focus on getting 3 stars in everything and using the challenge mode. Our most active class this week was **Mr Edwards!**

Our top coin earners were:

Mrs Pennington – Aroosh

Mr Edwards – Chester

Miss Anderson and Miss Walsh – Daniel

Mr Patterson – Charlotte

Miss Tate – Isabelle

Mr Guest – Hugo S

Miss Bell – James C

Mr Hindess and Mrs Armstrong – Finn L

It's great to see so many different names again this week!

Well done, 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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ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

DISCORD

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(with a 17+ app rating on app stores)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Launched in 2015, and with over 90 million daily active users, Discord has become one of the main ways gamers communicate – with text, voice, and video chat helping people connect around shared interests. For many young people, Discord can be a useful way to talk with friends, join communities, and explore hobbies. However, like any online platform built around communication, it also carries risks around strangers, inappropriate content, spending money, and time spent online. This guide looks at what parents and educators need to know.

A CHANNEL FOR EVERYTHING

While Discord is strongly associated with video games, it also hosts communities for almost anything you can imagine, such as books, music, influencers, cooking and sport. Some large servers focus on popular games like Minecraft or Fortnite, but many are private, invite-only spaces where friends or communities with shared interests can chat across phones, computers, and gaming consoles.

REAL-LIFE DISTRACTION

Like many social platforms, Discord can become a real time-sink. Although it does not rely on endless scrolling in the same way as some apps, constant messages, group chats, and voice channels can keep young people engaged for long periods, especially in larger servers. As Discord is closely linked to gaming, it may also increase the time they spend playing games.

STRANGER DANGER

Users can choose to stay within private servers with only people they know, but joining public servers will most likely bring them into contact with strangers. Many users are just friendly enthusiasts, yet others could have harmful intentions, including grooming, extortion, or radicalisation. In these types of environments, anyone can claim to be another teenager, which can make it harder for young people to judge who is safe to talk to.

A HARASSMENT RISK

There is also a risk from people a young person already knows in the real world. Bullying in the real world can continue online, and Discord servers can make this feel more intimidating, especially if someone uses anonymous or multiple accounts to carry out threatening behaviours. Because Discord works across computers, phones, and gaming consoles, unwanted contact can follow young people into online spaces that should feel safe and private.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

This huge amount of choice can help young people "find their tribe", especially when they have niche interests. However, because users can create servers around almost any topic, younger users may still encounter unsuitable or distressing content. Even in spaces linked to child-friendly games, Discord cannot directly control every conversation, image, or video shared by other users.

A MONEY DRAIN

Discord is free to use, but users can still spend real-world money on it. This may include Discord 'Nitro', a monthly subscription that unlocks customisation features and larger media uploads, or purchases through the 'Shop' for profile cosmetics and game-related items. Small purchases can add up quickly, especially if spending controls are not in place.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE FAMILY CENTRE

Parents and carers should make use of Discord's 'Family Centre', which gives an overview of a younger user's activity while respecting their privacy. Messages are not shared, but adults can view an activity feed and receive weekly email summaries. Discord says this is designed to support conversations about online behaviour, rather than be about constant monitoring.

CHECK, TALK, REPORT

Review Discord's privacy settings together, including who can send them friend requests or private messages. Use this as a chance to talk to them about strangers, privacy, and personal information, making sure young people know to question suspicious behaviour, such as requests to keep conversations secret. Show them how to block and report these kinds of users and reassure them that asking for help will not get them into trouble.

MANAGE TIME ONLINE

Agree clear expectations around when and how Discord can be used, especially during homework, bedtime, and family time. Encourage young people to turn off unnecessary notifications and leave servers that feel overwhelming. If Discord is mainly used alongside gaming, discuss healthy limits for both activities so that schoolwork, sleep, and offline friendships are not affected.

REVIEW SPENDING CONTROLS

Talk openly about paid features such as Discord Nitro, profile cosmetics, and in-game purchases. Make sure the young people in your care understand that digital items still cost real money. Check payment settings on the device they use, avoid storing card details where possible, and consider adding approval requirements for purchases, particularly for younger or more impulsive users.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

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