



www.gosforthpark.newcastle.sch.uk

October 16th 2026 Issue 7/8 Autumn Term 1



Parent Consultations Information for Families

We look forward to welcoming you into school next week to celebrate your child's progress and achievements!

To help the evenings run smoothly, please see below for details of where to go for your appointment.

Early Years and Key Stage 1

Please enter/exit school under the rainbow canopy and follow the corridor to the relevant classroom.

Nursery – Nursery classrooms

Reception – Usual classrooms

Year 1 – Mrs Pennington's classroom

Year 2 – Mr Edward's classroom

Children's books – KS1 Library

Key Stage 2

Please enter/exit school via the Year 3 cloakroom.

Year 3 – Mr Guest's classroom

Year 4 – Mr Hindess' classroom

Children's books – Miss Bell's classroom

A few important reminders

- **Staff will be available** in each key stage to direct you to the correct room and supervise children during your appointment.
- **Appointments are 10 minutes long.** Please arrive in good time and help us keep to the schedule so that all families receive their full appointment time.
- **Your child's books** will be available for you to look through after your meeting.
- **Entry and exit:** As children will still be attending Wraparound Care, please use only the designated entrances and exits to help us keep everyone safe.
- **Wraparound Care:** If your child is attending, please ensure they are collected promptly at their usual **5pm or 6pm** collection time.

Thank you for your cooperation. We look forward to seeing you and sharing all the wonderful things your child has been learning and achieving!

Mrs Lamb



Our wonderful teachers have volunteered to give up part of their lunch hour to run clubs for children after half term, **starting in the second week back.** These will be allocated on a **first to sign up** basis. Any children who don't get their choice of club for the Autumn term will be put on the waiting list for Spring.

Keep an eye out for the link which will come via Parent Pay next week. **The final deadline for signing up will be Monday 2nd November.**



A huge Gosforth Park thank you to our wonderfully generous community. We have been overwhelmed with harvest festival donations which will be gratefully received by Kenton Foodbank.

Loree and Maureen have been in school this week delivering workshops in KS1 and KS2 to develop our understanding of poverty and to share the important work of the foodbank.

Mr Hindess & Miss Tate



Our school photographer will be visiting on **Wednesday 4th November** to take individual photographs of all children, as well as sibling photographs for brothers and sisters who attend our school.

Please make sure your child comes to school looking smart in their school uniform and ready to show off their best smile!

Year 1 Trip The Royal Navy Museum

We had a great time on Wednesday visiting a real ship! We had a tour on the HMS Trincomalee, visited the museum and had our own cutlass class. It was great to consolidate all we had already learnt about pirates.



A huge thank you to our children, staff and all of the parent helpers who made this such a successful trip!

Mrs Pennington & Mr Edwards



We are welcoming donations for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Mr Brown will have poppies and poppy themed items on the school gate (suggested donation £1). These are available at the school office now.

Mrs Lamb

Reception Trip Beamish Living Museum

Reception had a brilliant time on our trip to Beamish! We enjoyed exploring the old school, houses and 1900s town, finding out what life was like in the past. We also took part in the Toys from the Past workshop and discovered what toys the children used to play with.



Thank you to all of the staff and parent helpers who made this trip a success!
Miss Coughlan and Miss Proudfoot



Daft as a Brush
CANCER PATIENT CARE



A lovely festive event for our families!

Our friends at Daft as a Brush Cancer Patient Care will be switching on their Christmas Tree Lights on **Friday 13 November**.

The gates will open from **5.30pm**, with the big **Christmas lights switch-on taking place at 6.00pm.** ✨

Daft as a Brush is a wonderful local charity based on the Great North Road in Gosforth, providing **free transport for cancer patients travelling to and from hospital for chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment.**

It promises to be a lovely opportunity to get into the Christmas spirit and support an organisation that does so much for people in our local community.

📅 Friday 13 November

🕒 Gates open: 5.30pm

🎄 Christmas lights switch-on: 6.00pm

📍 Daft as a Brush House, Great North Road, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 2DR
Daft as a Brush Cancer Patient Care

Wrap up warm and enjoy the start of the festive season! 🎅 ✨



Did you have a listen to the podcasts I signposted two weeks ago? There is a great article on the same website, as well as access to the podcasts, linked to making meal times more relaxed and fun for all involved when you are trying to encourage everyone to eat healthy meals.

There are lots of ideas for offering choice, where everyone can build their own meals that are both adaptable and affordable.

Find out more here:

['I was cooking 5 different dinners for my family, this dietitian-backed trick made mealtimes so much easier' - Netmums](#)

Mrs Wells

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 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



The winners of our Golden Welly award this week are Year 2 Mr Patterson! Mr Patterson's class have been using their imaginations to create excellent obstacle courses!

Well done
Ms Gasper



Huge congratulations to Callum in Year 1 who managed to swim **800 metres** in his swimming lesson last week. He was very happy to finally get his badge and certificate!



Congratulations to **Mr Hindess and Mrs Armstrong's** class who are our most active class this week! We have our first rock legend of the year – **Elara!** Great work! Our top coin earners were **Elara, Benjamin M, Violet C and Isaac C.**



Our top class this week is **Mr Guest's** class! Great job Year 3, it is so important to keep up with your number fluency all the way up the school.

Our top coin earners were:

Mrs Pennington – Evie

Mr Edwards – Connor

Miss Anderson and Miss Walsh – Daniel

Mr Patterson – Will W

Miss Tate – Martha

Mr Guest – Jessica

Miss Bell – Imogen

Mr Hindess and Mrs Armstrong – Elara

Great job everyone, Mrs Pennington

Attendance

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

Our classes of the week are **Year 1 Mrs Pennington** with **100%** followed by **Year 4 Miss Bell** with **99.6%**

Well done everyone!

Mrs Lamb

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.



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>



NEWCASTLE
MUSIC SERVICE

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



Supported using public funding by



ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



Free Event!

Drop-in, no booking required

10.30am-12.30pm
& 1pm-2.30pm

THE
great north
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



**Pop-Up Hospital
Family Fun day**

**Tuesday 27th
October**

Join us at
Newcastle Cathedral

St Nicholas Square Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 1PF

Enjoy fun interactive
activities from
departments such as.....

Dietetics



NECTAR
ambulance service



The Play
Team

Arts & Crafts

Physiotherapy



and many more!



Find out more



ST AIDAN'S CHURCH - FAMILY HALLOWEEN EVENT

SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER 3.30PM - 5PM



SCAN HERE



FACE-PAINTING, BOUNCY CASTLE, DISCO, GAMES, LIGHT CRAFTS, STORY
HOT FOOD AND MORE... £3 FOR FIRST CHILD, £1 FOR ADDITIONAL SIBLINGS

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI COMPANIONS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Powered by generative AI models like ChatGPT and Google Gemini, AI companion apps and virtual chatbots such as Character.ai, Snapchat My AI, Replika and Talkie, allow users to create, customise, and chat to synthetic avatars around the clock. While many young people use them for harmless entertainment, creative writing or homework help, these tools are designed to simulate genuine human empathy, emotional bonding and deep friendship.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

AI companions are programmed to be endlessly agreeable, attentive, and available 24/7. Unlike human friendships, an AI companion never disagrees, sets personal boundaries, or gets tired. Young people (especially those experiencing loneliness, social anxiety, or low self-esteem) can quickly develop an unhealthy emotional attachment, viewing synthetic software as their 'best friend' or a surrogate romantic partner.

DANGEROUS MENTAL HEALTH ADVICE

AI chatbots possess no genuine empathy, professional clinical knowledge, or moral reasoning. While developers state these tools are not therapists, vulnerable teenagers often turn to them in crisis. Chatbots have previously hallucinated unsafe medical guidance, validated depressive spirals, and failed to safely escalate disclosures of self-harm or suicidal ideation to real-world protective services.

DATA HARVESTING & OVERSHARING

Because conversational bots simulate warmth and understanding, children often lower their guard and treat the chatbot as a trusted friend. They may disclose sensitive personal information, including full names, school details, private family problems, or secrets, unaware that their conversations are being logged, may be analysed by third parties (including advertisers), or used to train future AI models.

DISTORTED SOCIAL SKILLS

Navigating real-world friendships can be messy, involving dealing with conflict, compromise, boredom, and awkwardness. If a teenager spends hours interacting with an AI that is tailored specifically to validate and flatter them, they may become impatient with real-world relationships. Over time, this can lead to social withdrawal, heightened anxiety in peer groups, and isolation: a vicious circle of growing online dependency coupled with a heightened sense that relationships in the 'real world' are too challenging to maintain.

INAPPROPRIATE OR EXPLICIT CONTENT

While most mainstream platforms feature safety filters and guardrails, young people frequently discover 'jailbreak' prompts to bypass them. Some companion platforms subtly nudge users towards mature themes, romantic roleplay, or sexually suggestive conversations. In worse cases, third-party apps with weak safety checks have been found to generate sexually explicit text or intimate images.

"FREEMIUM" UPSELLS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

Many companion platforms operate on a freemium model. While basic chat is free, features like voice calls, uncensored responses, custom avatars, or 'deeper bonding' tiers are locked behind expensive monthly recurring subscriptions or in-app token purchases. This can lead to significant hidden costs and pressure on young people to spend money to maintain the 'friendship'.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK OPENLY ABOUT FAKE RELATIONSHIPS

Demystify how these tools work. Explain to young people that an AI companion has no feelings, memories, or consciousness; it is simply calculating the next most mathematically probable word based on its training data. It is helpful to explain to them the mechanics of large language models so that they understand how they are trained and how they are designed to always flatter and be helpful.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTION

Ensure technology habits do not replace face-to-face peer socialisation, sports, hobbies, and family time. Create healthy boundaries at home (such as keeping phones and tablets out of bedrooms overnight) to prevent late-night, unmonitored attachment loops with conversational chatbots when young people are at their most vulnerable.

AUDIT PRIVACY SETTINGS & AGE LIMITS

Check which companion apps are installed on your child's phone or tablet. Many dedicated companion apps carry an App Store rating of 17+, while platforms like Character.ai set a minimum age of 13+ (or 16+ in the UK/EU). Review the privacy settings together: turn off data-sharing toggles, disable model training where possible, and ensure location permissions are blocked.

REINFORCE WHERE TO GET REAL HELP

Make sure young people know that a machine can never replace professional pastoral or mental health care. Remind them of the trusted adults they can turn to at school – such as their Form Tutor, Head of Year, or the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) – as well as dedicated youth support services like Childline (0800 1111) or Shout (text 85258).

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is the Founder and Executive Director of Kompass Education, a consultancy specialising in supporting educators, students and parents in making wise choices with AI. His book *Ethical AI and Education*, co-authored with Clara Hawking, will be released later in 2026 by Taylor and Francis.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

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