



## Newsletter 2 29.09.23

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please see below for the latest news and information from Havannah First.

### Could You Donate an Old Coat?

We are pleased to be supporting the Cornerstone Donate a Coat Appeal which is being organised through the NGP Community Centre.

As winter approaches, many families across our region will be struggling to afford new winter coats. We are hoping to help by donating as many coats as possible, children and adult sizes, to the appeal.

The coats go to Cornerstone project in the West End of Newcastle who receive referrals for clothes from West End Food Bank, Action for Children and West End Refugee Service. Clothes are then given away free to people who have referral vouchers or sold for 50 pence to people who can afford to pay. Any money raised from this is used to buy other items such as socks and underwear.

If you can help, You can either bring coats to school next week or you can take them to the collection point for coats at the NGP Community Centre on the week commencing 2nd October.

The coats need to be clean and in good condition. You are also invited to write a message to go inside the coat pocket such as, 'Take me home and keep warm'. This is something that our children would really enjoy doing.

If you would like to know more about the great work that Cornerstone do, Amy Proud from the project will be at the Great Park Community Centre on Monday 2nd October between 8:30am-10am.



### Rise

On Thursday, we welcomed two Education Mental Health Practitioners, Jackie and Jenny, from Rise. Every Thursday, for the next 7 weeks, they will be supporting everyone in the school to understand their mental health, including how to look after it and how to get help. You have already received information about workshops for parents and carers and lots of you have signed up. It's not too late to get involved so let us know if you want to attend.

This week, we have had an assembly for all children in Y1-Y4 and some group, individual and whole class sessions across the day. It has been a great start to the programme.



## Harvest

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October, the children in Y4 are having a Harvest assembly for their parents and carers. We have scheduled the Robinwood information meeting to take place immediately after the assembly. We thought that this was more convenient than bringing you back into school on another day. If you cannot attend, don't worry – we will send the information to you.

## Harvest Collection

We will be collecting items of non-perishable food in the week before and the week of the Harvest assembly. All of the food we collect will be donated to the Salvation Army who help vulnerable families and individuals across the city every day. Despite rising prices and the cost of living crisis, last year we had a huge collection of food and this was very well received and put to good use. We will display the collection in the hall so that we can talk to the children in assembly and help them to understand the importance of giving and helping others in our community. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



## Admissions

The admissions process is now open for children who are due to start school in September 2023. You need to apply by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023 through Newcastle City Council

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

Applications for middle school places need to be made by 31<sup>st</sup> October. If you have a child in Y4, you must apply for your place, transfer is not automatic. Y4 children brought information home last week. If you did not receive it, please let us know. Applications for middle school places also need to be made through Newcastle City Council <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/apply-school-place/applying-transfer-places>

## Travelling to School and Parking

Thank you to the families who have started parking at the Park and Ride/Stride. It made a positive difference to safety around school on the days when the road and path to the front of school were disrupted due to electrical works last week. We have spoken with NCC and the builders since then and we have been reassured that we will be given notice of any work which could compromise safety in the future.

Some points to note:

- Work will be ongoing in the near future to the school safety zone outside school. Please remember that you should not be parking on the yellow zig zags or double yellow lines. Doing so makes the road unsafe for pedestrians, cyclists and other drivers. We understand that parking is limited but safety of our children, families and visitors should be everyone's priority. With that in mind, please use the Park and Ride/Stride if you can.
- To keep our air clean for all children, families and staff, engines should be switched off when you park.

- If you are cycling to school and you encounter a puncture, please ask at the office for the puncture repair kit – we can't promise to fix it, but we can give you the materials you need!
- When the building work starts at Great Park Academy, there will be further restrictions in place.
- School car parks are not designed for every parent/carer to park at pick up and drop off times, but for staff, visitors and those who have a requirement to drive on site due to a disability or in an emergency. We have more spaces than most schools and many are currently available as a result of school not being 'at capacity' – when we have 90 children in most year groups, we will have many more staff and the car park might not be accessible to all parents and carers at drop off and pick up.

## Parents and Carers' Evenings

You will see from the dates list below that Parents and Carers' Evenings for Y1 – Y4 are due to take place on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November. Reception Parents and Carers' Evenings will take place on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November, Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November. Reception appointments are for 15 minutes and Y1-Y4 for 10 minutes. We will contact you nearer the event with booking information on ParentMail.

## Smoking and Vaping



**No smoking  
or vaping**

Smoking and vaping are not allowed anywhere on the school grounds, including in the car park or inside vehicles in the car park.

## Internet Safety

We have just completed our annual safeguarding refresher training and have been talking with our safeguarding partners about online safety and gaming. We have been advised that we should be sharing information with Children's Social Care or the Police if we have reason to think that children are at risk from their online behaviour. Nationally, there is a huge rise in online abuse taking place between children and between children and adults. Last year, we dealt with several incidents which we have not encountered previously at school. We are certain that this is a result of children having access to age inappropriate apps and software, including games and social media.

Please check what your child is accessing and make sure that the age ratings are appropriate.

You can find more information about social media [here](#) and about games [here](#).

## Parents and Carers' WhatsApp Groups

The PTFA have used the WhatsApp groups successfully for a few years. The information shared can remind you about events and is useful when you need to check something. However, all users should be aware that children and staff from school should never be discussed on WhatsApp. WhatsApp is not compliant with GDPR and you could be putting yourself and others at risk if you discuss individuals on the app. It is also unhelpful in resolving issues or gathering information about things which have happened in school. Please talk to us directly if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your support.

## News from NGP

Please click [here](#) to access the latest news from Newcastle Great Park.



There is a dates list below and we will add to it as the term progresses.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend!

Best wishes

Helen McKenna

Headteacher



## Dates for Autumn Term 2023

Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Reception Heights and Weights
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	PTFA Sponsored Bounce
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Rise Workshop – Emotions and co-regulation 2.15-3.20pm (Please complete the Form on ParentMail to book)
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Y4 Harvest Assembly for Parents and Carers 9.00am Y4 Parents and Carers' Robinwood Meeting 9.45am
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Staff Training Day – School Closed to Children</b>

### **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Half Term Holiday**

Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Y4 to Robinwood Reception Parents and Carers' Evening
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Y4 at Robinwood Reception Parents and Carers' Evening
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Y4 return from Robinwood
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents and Carers' Evening
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents and Carers' Evening
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception Parents and Carers' Evening
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception Parents and Carers' Evening Rise Workshop – Sleep Hygiene 9.00-10.00am (Please complete the Form on ParentMail to book)
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Reception Parents and Carers' Maths Workshop 5.00-6.00pm
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	KS1 Parents and Carers' Maths Workshop 5.00-6.00pm
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	KS2 Parents and Carers' Maths Workshop 5.00-6.00pm
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Rise Workshop - Anxiety 9.00-10.00 (Please complete the Form on ParentMail to book)
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Flu Vaccines
<i>Week beginning Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Concerts Week – details to follow</i>	
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Outdoor Carols – weather permitting – 1.30pm Break up for Christmas Holiday