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19<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here is our March newsletter. It has been a busy term so far and I cannot believe that it will be the Easter holidays in less than two weeks.

Here is some information for you.

#### **Holy Week**

We will be in school during Holy Week this year. We will gather as a school every day and classes will take turns in sharing parts of the story of Easter.

Father Andrew will be joining us on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> March to give out palms.

For mass times at St Edward's and Immaculate Heart churches, please follow the link below which will take you to the bulletins.

<http://www.northtynsidecatholic.org.uk/category/our-lady-star-of-the-sea-bulletins/>

#### **National Down Syndrome Awareness day: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

On Thursday, we encourage everyone to wear different socks. Please ask your children to choose some socks to get them noticed! They can be mismatched socks or crazy, colourful socks, whatever takes their fancy! The reason for this is to start a conversation about Down syndrome, so when people ask children about their socks they can tell them, "I'm wearing them to raise awareness of Down syndrome". Further information about this day and Down syndrome is available at:

[Lots Of Socks campaign - World Down Syndrome Day](#)

#### **Parent/teacher consultations**

These will take place next term on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> April from 3.30pm to 6pm. An invitation to sign up for a session will be sent soon. Nursery times and dates will differ to these times, but we will contact all Nursery parents about this.

Please remember you do not have to wait until these official meetings to discuss any worries you have about your child. An appointment will always be made for you to meet with a member of staff to resolve any issues.

#### **Interim reports**

All children will be given a Spring term report at the end of this term. These will have information about attainment, effort and attendance.

### **Parking issues and child safety**

If families choose to park in the roads around the school, please be considerate of our neighbours and consider the safety of all pedestrians.

Please do not double park, park on the zig zags outside of school or across driveways.

Thank you for your support with this matter. Please read the information below about parking safely.



Also, if you do park in our school car park, please can you drive slowly (5 miles per hour). We have had several reports of near misses as children can often exit cars or pavements onto the road on foot or by scooter/bicycle without warning and we do not want anyone to be injured within our school. Thank you.

### **Red Nose Day: Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March**

Thank you to everyone who supported this charity. We raised £194.19. Thank you.

### **World Book and Shakespeare Week**

School celebrated World Book Day last week. We all enjoyed doing different reading activities, coming into school in our pyjamas and sharing our favourite bedtime books. We are looking forward to Shakespeare Week, 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> March, and to celebrate this, the whole school will spend the week exploring the story of Hamlet.

### **Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> March: last day of term early pick up**

As next Thursday is the last day of term, you will be able to pick your child up early, if you wish to.

**Please come to the school yard and collect your child from the usual place between 1pm and 1.30pm.**

After 1.30pm, the gates will be closed until the usual pick up time: 3.20pm.

If your child is leaving school early and walking home on their own, please email the class year group email address so the teachers know you have agreed to this. We cannot allow any child to leave early unless we have permission from a parent/carer.

Children who are not leaving school early will stay with their class teacher until the end of the school day. Thank you.

## Lateness



**Children can be dropped off at school from between 8.45am and 8.55am.** Please try to bring your child to school on time, everyday. Thank you.

### North Tyneside Ease Into Easter Activities

Children were given a NTC Ease into Easter booklet last week which includes fun activities to sign your child up or things for you to do as a family over the Easter break.

### Access Coaching Holiday Clubs

We have sent out information, by ParentMail, about Access coaching holiday clubs during the Easter this week.

### Children's Cancer Run: Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024

We are looking to help raise funds for Children's Cancer North by supporting this year's Children's Cancer Run on Sunday 19th May 2024. This is a great family day held at Newcastle Racecourse, High Gosforth Park with a mini run over a one mile course for children under 7 and a 3 or 5 mile cross country run for the over 7's. This is very much a family event and you are more than welcome to dust off your old trainers and take part with the children (including any older or younger siblings that may wish to enter).

The event is sponsored by GREGGS and the 'early bird' entrance fee of £7 for children under 16 and £14 for adults, includes a medal and a T-shirt (children only). There is also a family entry option which is £40 for 2 adults and up to 3 children. We have registered as a school so if you would like to take part you can enter online at [www.childrenscancerrun.co.uk](http://www.childrenscancerrun.co.uk). If you want to run as part of the school team, please follow the links and make sure that you select 'Star of the Sea' from the drop down menu or request an application form from the school office.

### **Car-free Day: Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> April**

We are having a car-free day on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> April. Please can we encourage families to travel 'actively' to school by walking and wheeling, cycling or scootering. If car use is essential, please can we ask you to park further away from school and actively travel the last part of the journey? A 'Park and Stride' site can be used at either Foxhunters Pavilion or Foxhunters Pub.

### **Benefits Based Free School Meals and Milk**

If your family is on a low income and you think that that you should be eligible for free school milk and school meal vouchers you need to apply to North Tyneside Council. If your child is in Reception, Years 1 and 2, you automatically get free school meals but you **still need to apply in order to be eligible** for free milk and holiday food vouchers. Here is the link: <https://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/238/free-school-meals>.

If you have already applied for free school meals and your circumstances have now changed and you think you may be eligible, please email [Student.Support@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:Student.Support@northtyneside.gov.uk) to find out. **Please do not re-apply if you have previously made a claim as this slows down the processing time of all free school meal applications.**

### **Emergency Contacts and Contacting School**

Please can you let us know if you change your emergency contacts, telephone numbers, email and/or home addresses so that we can update your children's records. If you update your details in ParentMail, please also let the school office know too. Please be aware that if we contact you, our number is displayed as 'No Caller ID' or 0191 643 2655 but we always try to leave a message if we need to speak to you.

### **North Tyneside Dance Festival**

A huge well done to all our amazing dancers who performed at the Whitley Bay Playhouse on Tuesday last week. They were fantastic. A big thank you to Harriet from Decote Dance who prepared them for this experience.

### **Team Challenge Days**

Thank you again to Team Challenge Adventures for providing our years 5 and 6 pupils with the opportunity to develop their team building and problem solving skills. They all had lots of fun at the same time!

### **Safeguarding**

Northumbria Police's Prevention Through Education Team has asked schools to share information about 'County Lines' Please find attached information at the end of this newsletter.

Please remember to regularly check your child's phone, computer and tablet to ensure they are not accessing anything inappropriate for their age.

Can you also remind your child of changes to their normal pick up arrangements or if they are attending after school activity clubs.

### Important dates

Shakespeare Week	w/b 18th March
Last day of term	Thursday, 28 <sup>th</sup> March (early pick up between 1pm and 1.30pm only)
First day of summer term	Monday, 15 <sup>th</sup> April
Parent/teacher meetings	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April and/or Thursday, 18 <sup>th</sup> April
Car free day	Friday, 19 <sup>th</sup> April
Wellbeing week	w/b 3 <sup>rd</sup> June
School Sports Day	Friday, 7 <sup>th</sup> June

Kind regards,

K.L.DiMambro  
Mrs K DiMambro  
Headteacher.



# County Lines

Information for parents and carers of primary school-aged children



**NORTHUMBRIA  
POLICE**

## What is County Lines?

County Lines is a form of criminal exploitation involving the transport and sale of drugs. It can involve moving drugs and money from one street to the next, or from one end of the country to the other, and the people who do the 'running' are often children who have been targeted and groomed into doing so by criminal gangs. Drugs are advertised by text message on dedicated 'deal lines' and on social media.

## Why do I need to know about this? My child is so young

Unfortunately, children as young as 7 have been known to be recruited by gangs who are involved in drug dealing and other criminal activity. Awareness is key, as is early intervention, and knowing how to seek help if you are concerned is important, too. Be particularly aware if your child has older siblings or spends a lot of time with older children when you're not present.

## How do criminals exploit children?

### TARGET

Criminals will watch an area - e.g. children coming and going from school or hanging around a park - to see if they can spot a particularly vulnerable child. They will then strike up a friendship and get to know them before moving to the 'test' stage.

### TEST

The criminal will offer gifts such as money, expensive trainers, a phone, and will aim to make the child feel special and part of the gang. They will then test the child's loyalty by asking them to run small errands or hold onto items for them, whilst rewarding this loyalty with more gifts.

### TRAP

The criminal will now control the child by isolating them from their friends and family, making threats against them if the child tells anyone about what the gang does. They will demand payback for all the gifts previously given, which could include moving and selling drugs, and sexual exploitation. The child will now feel indebted and trapped.

[This video illustrates the process.](#)

## How do I protect my child, and what are the signs that a child could be being criminally exploited?

Be curious about their friendship groups and where they are when they're not at school or with you. Make sure they know they can come to you if they are approached by new 'friends' when they are out and about, especially older people. Remind them about [Childline](#) as a source of support, too. If you have concerns, share them with family members and the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at your child's school.

There are many signs that a child may be being groomed and/or exploited, including a change in their behaviour. Be conscious of any changes in presentation: they may begin to take more interest in their appearance and in the clothes they wear. Visit this [NSPCC weblink](#) for more information.

### Report

You can report any information to the police: 999 in an emergency, or otherwise via 101 or [our website](#).

Visit [Crimestoppers](#) for advice on how to report County Lines-related information anonymously.

[Fearless](#) (part of Crimestoppers) is available for young people to make anonymous reports.

**CrimeStoppers.**



### Support

#### [Unseen's County Lines campaign](#)

- Request an information guide to learn more about County Lines.

Unseen also runs a [free helpline](#) offering advice and support.

#### [SafeCall - Missing People](#)

- A free and confidential anonymous helpline for children and their families affected by County Lines.

#### [NSPCC Helpline](#)

- Help and advice if you have concerns about a child's welfare.



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