

SIMONSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Dream Believe and Achieve



Welcome to Year 6

Teacher – Mrs Hills

Teaching Assistants – Mrs Davidson, Mrs Hall, Mrs Long

The School Day

School starts at 8.55am. Children may come into school at 8:50 so they are ready in the classroom to start learning at 8:55am.

Lunch time is 12.00-1.00pm

School ends at 3.15pm

Please be punctual both arriving and collecting your children. If you are unavoidably delayed please contact the school office. Staff will be in the playground to meet children and parents both at the start and the end of the day.

Lunchtimes

School meals may be paid for one week in advance on a Monday morning. Money should be sent in an envelope with your child's name, class and amount. The cost of a lunch is £2.00 and is therefore £10.00 per week. Alternatively you may provide your child with a packed lunch. If you think that you may be entitled to free school meals please ask at the office.

The Curriculum

At Simonside every Year 6 child has a daily maths and literacy lesson. Literacy lessons involve the children developing their writing, reading, speaking and listening skills. The children also take part in drama activities to help stimulate ideas for written work. We will be reading a range of fiction and non-fiction books that link in with the topics for each half term.

In Year 6 the children have 4 numeracy lessons with the class teacher which involves all aspects of mathematics work including mental and written calculations.

For one maths session a week, the children have an Assertive Mentoring maths lesson. Here the children work with other children across the school who are working at the same level as them. All staff members across key stage 2 and Year 2 are involved in delivering these sessions. The children are often in much smaller groups in comparison to their normal class. The children are given a short test each week as part of these sessions. If they achieve 'green' standard (80% or above) three weeks running, the children are given the opportunity to move up into the next ability group.

Topic maps are on the school website for each class for each term. Where possible we try to link topic work in with the other subjects the children are doing. Please have a look at our class blog as regularly as you can – we will keep you up to date on what we've been learning in class.

Homework

This year the nature of homework will be different from the 'Creative Homework' format they have been given for the past few years. Literacy and Maths tasks will be set weekly. This work will be based on what we have done in class and will not be new to the children. It will be set at a level that children can access for themselves: they may need encouragement to do their homework but shouldn't need help to complete it. All children should please ask for support at school (before the homework deadline) if they have been unable to complete their homework. It is expected that all homework tasks will be completed and returned to school on time. Homework will be set on a Wednesday and returned the following Tuesday.

The children also get a set of spellings each week to learn- these are usually given out on a Monday and tested on a Friday. Weekly 'quick homework' is given out for maths and this should only take the children about 10 minutes. This will focus on developing key skills in this subject. It would also be beneficial if they could practise their multiplication tables as often as possible. Finally, if you could listen to your child read at home, or ask them questions about what they are reading this would be very highly effective in securing progress.

Important days and dates for this academic year

Monday – P.E. (P.E. kits need to be in school)

Spellings given out

Tuesday – Homework to be returned.

Wednesday – P.E. (P.E. kits need to be in school). Homework to be given out.

Friday – Spelling test

P.E. kit consists of a green t-shirt, black shorts and plimsoles. Trainers will also be needed for outdoor P.E. in September and the warmer months.

Fruit and Drink

KS 2 Children can bring in fruit to eat at break time.

We believe that children should take regular drinks of water throughout the school day. Children should bring a water bottle to school, clearly marked with their name. They will also have access to water in the classroom.

Absence from School

If your child is absent from school, parents must telephone the school office by 09.30.

- ❖ Contact school as soon as possible to let us know the reason why your child is absent and how long they are likely to be off for.
- ❖ Without an explanation the absence will be marked as **UNAUTHORISED**.
- ❖ Children should not return to school for 48 hours after the last occurrence of sickness.
- ❖ Please arrange to take family holidays during school holidays. Permission will not be given for holidays during term time.
- ❖ Please try to organise all Dentist and non-urgent Doctors' appointments outside of school time

Important Date for your diary

The Head Teacher from Walbottle Campus will be coming to talk to children and parents at **2:50pm on Monday 19th September**. You are very welcome to attend this to find out more about Walbottle Campus before applying for Secondary schools this year. **Following this meeting, there will be a meeting led by Mrs Hills for Y6 parents.** This meeting will introduce you to the expectations of Year 6 and inform you about the SATs that your children will be taking in May 2017. We would love to see as many of you there as possible.

Finally, if you have any questions or queries please don't hesitate to contact me.

