

Simonside  
Foundation Stage  
Unit



Reception  
2017—2018

Dream...Believe...Achieve

# Welcome

Simonside Community Primary School  
Bedeburn Road  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE5 4LG  
Tel: 0191 2860776  
Head Teacher - Mrs L Thompson

## Members of staff

Foundation Stage Leader - Mrs Berryman  
Teachers

Year1 / Reception—Mrs Berryman

Reception— Mrs West (Deputy Head Teacher/ Mrs  
Watson

Teaching Assistant - Mrs Johnson

Teaching Assistant—Mrs Hall

# Simonside Early Years Foundation Stage

Welcome to our school.

We are delighted to be to working with you and your child in what will be a new and exciting stage in their development.

We will provide you with a warm and welcoming atmosphere in which you and your child feel safe and secure.

We work together to give your child the very best start in their education and we value your support on this very special learning journey.



## **What happens in Reception Class?**

The Reception Year is your child's final year in the Early Years Foundation Stage. During this year staff provide well planned play activities for children which will develop their knowledge and skills in all areas. There is a balance of teacher and child initiated activities. There are also set times of the day where the children are involved in group activities to develop their skills in Maths, Phonics, Reading and Writing. The children will also have the opportunity to explore and develop their skills independently during child initiated and supported play.

The children will be using both the indoor and outdoor classroom during the day so we advise that in the Autumn and Winter they have a warm hooded coat, hat, scarf and gloves (all clearly named) In Summer months they will need a cap and sun cream.

## **Phonics**

The children will first be learning the sounds that individual letters make. We have devised our own program which uses the best of 2 well known schemes, Jolly Phonics and Read, Write Ink to help the children to learn initial letter sounds and then begin to join sounds together to make words. We will be sending home letter sheets from the schemes to help you support your child to learn at home. We ask that you use lower case letters and stick to the sounds they make not the names of the letters at this stage.

## **Homework Books**

Speaking and listening skills are a crucial part of learning in the Foundation Stage. Children need to be able to talk about their lives and also listen and question others. To help with this, the children will be given a special book that they can record family events and new experiences. They can return the book to school each week to share with the rest of the class. This helps us to build up a record of their first year at school and is an important part of their learning journey.

This book will also be their Homework book. Children will initially have Maths and letter sound activities for homework until they are beginning to blend sounds in words to read. They will then be given a reading book to take home and share with you each week. Each week we will let you know what the children have been learning so that you can support them some more at home. You will be informed of days that books will need to be returned the first week in September.

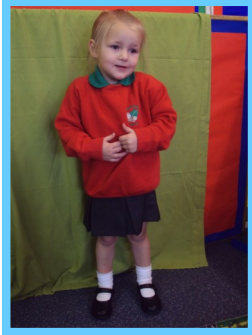
Your child will need a homework bag which can be bought from the uniform shop at Kingston Park.

## **P.E kit**

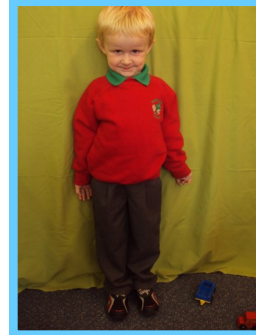
Your child will need a P.E kit in a drawstring bag as soon as they start school in September. Please provide black shorts, a green school t-shirt and black sand shoes with your child's name clearly marked in each.

# What should my child wear?

The school uniform can be purchased from:



Tots to Teams  
Unit 10b,  
Airport industrial Estate,  
Kingston Park,  
Newcastle Upon Tyne.  
Tel : 0191 2715454.



We do ask that children are dressed in school uniform every day. Please do not let your child wear necklaces, bracelets or hooped earrings for school as these can be dangerous if they get caught on something.

## Easy Shoes

When buying shoes please consider whether your child will be able to get them on and off by themselves. Many shoes now have velcro fastenings. Shoes that are flat and rubber soled, make it safer for your child to climb.

## Names in clothing

Please write your child's name in **ALL** clothing they have at school including coats and shoes. Many shops now sell fabric pens that don't wash out or iron on labels that you can put inside clothes. The uniform shop will also stitch initials onto polo shirts and jumpers for a small extra charge.

## Being dressed for outdoors

We will be spending lots of time outside everyday, so please could you provide a pair of wellies with your child's name marked inside them and a warm coat.



## **Starting Reception Class in September**

We build the time that the children spend each day at school up over the first few weeks. The finishing times will be as follows.

Week 1 - Wednesday 6th — Friday 8th September - finish at 1pm after lunch.

Week 2 - Monday 11th - Friday 15th September - finish at 2pm.

Week 3 onwards - finish at 3.10pm

We find that most children will have settled well by this time and are capable of managing a full day. Some children may need a different schedule and we will discuss this on an individual basis with those parents concerned.

## **School Lunch**

All children in Reception are now entitled to a free school lunch. The children have a choice of meals each day and this is always successful in encouraging even the fussiest of eaters to try a range of foods.

Please speak to a member of staff if your child has a specific dietary requirement.





## **Attendance and Punctuality**

### **Where do I bring and collect my child each day?**

Doors will open at 8.45am and staff will be there to greet you and your child. School officially starts at 8.55am. Please bring your child to the Reception doors promptly for the beginning of each day. Please do try to be on time. The doors will be closed just after the 8.55am bell.

At the end of the school day please collect your child from the Reception classrooms at 3.10pm prompt before collecting older children in school. Thank you.

Your child's attendance at school becomes statutory once they are in Reception. We do ask that you make every effort to bring your child to school on time every day. If your child is poorly, please ring school before 8.55am to let the staff know of their absence. Holidays are not allowed during term time.

### **What happens if my child has head-lice?**

Despite all that has been done to eradicate them, the problem of the common lice still emerges from time to time.

If you find them or suspect they are in your child's hair, don't worry and carry out the following procedure:

Smother the hair in conditioner. Go through the hair very carefully with the special comb. Follow this procedure regularly for 2 weeks.

## **School website and BLOG**

**[www.simonside.newcastle.sch.uk](http://www.simonside.newcastle.sch.uk)**

Our school website is updated regularly with important dates and events. You will also find curriculum information on our class blogs as well as photos and updates on what the children have been learning each week. We value your contributions and would love you to have a look regularly and comment on what the children have been doing.

## **Open Door Policy**

We operate an open door policy and are available to speak to if you have a problem or query. Staff will have time after school to talk about any issues you may have or parents can leave a message with the member of staff on the door each morning.

We look forward to seeing you and your child at the start of the term.

The Foundation Stage Team

