

Homework

The children receive 'Creative Homework' at the start of a half term and this takes the form of a grid outlining different challenges relating to a certain topic. The children are expected to complete a set number of challenges for the last Monday of the half term and they can choose which ones they want to do. The number of challenges will depend on the length of the half term. Homework is handed in half way through the half term so that teachers can check how the children are progressing towards completing the set number of challenges. If your child needs help or resources in order to be able to complete the set challenges, please speak to one of us and we will arrange for them to stay in at a lunchtime.

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. It would also be beneficial if your child could practise their multiplication tables as often as possible. Finally, if you could listen to your children read at home, or ask them questions about what they are reading, this would be highly effective in securing progress.

Important days and dates for this academic year

Monday- Spellings given out

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

Friday – Spelling test

SIMONSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL **Dream Believe and Achieve**



Welcome to Year 3/4
Teacher – Mrs Gallacher/Ms Wright
Teaching Assistant – Miss Atkinson

The School Day

School starts 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. Teachers 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 3/4 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 3/4 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 a Big Maths session. Here the children work with peers from 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. Each week, as part of these sessions, the children are given a short test. 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.

A copy of the topic map will be available on our school website. Where possible, we try to link topic work in with the other subjects the children are doing. In the spring term, for instance, the children will create their own Egyptian canopic jar in design and technology.

Please have a look at our class blog regularly – we will keep you up to date on what we've been learning in class.

Year 3/4 Topic Themes:

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
~ Newcastle ~ What happens to food we eat?	~ Where would you choose to build a city? ~ Living things and their habitats	~ Ancient Egypt ~ Solids, liquids and gases	~ Ancient Egypt	~ Anglo Saxons ~ Sound	~ Electricity ~ Local Study

Fruit and Drink

KS2 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

P.E.

In Year 3/4, the children have two P.E. lessons per week. Please ensure that the children bring the correct kit in at the start of the week. The kit is a plain green t-shirt, black shorts and sand shoes which should be stored in some sort of bag. Trainers can be worn if the PE lesson is taking place outdoors. It would be very helpful if all pieces of clothing are named to minimise the chance of clothing getting lost. The P.E. lesson on a Wednesday will be taught by a coach from Newcastle United.