

Simonside Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Hills

Friday 6th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Despite the weather being a bit grim at the moment, everything in school is bright, busy and buzzing! The children are responding to our drive this term to create a culture of high expectations. So many visitors have recently commented on how calm each learning environment is and the positive attitude to learning that our children show.

Learning is so much easier for children if they attend school every day on time. We talked about punctuality in assembly this morning – there are so many children arriving late to school after the gates have closed. The number of late children is causing a lot of disruption to learning and office staff are spending at least an hour every morning taking children who are late to class. Please help us help your children to get the most learning they can out of every day by ensuring they arrive on time.

Our school council met this week to discuss ideas for attendance incentives. We are going to meet again next week, with our Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, to finalise their plans. Today another six children won prizes for 100% attendance this week. Congratulations to our lucky winners! You need to be 'In it to win it'!



Overall our attendance this week is 93.6%. We had two really good attendance days earlier in the week but unfortunately attendance has been very low yesterday and today. Please only keep children off school if they are too ill to attend.

Mrs Watson writes...



Children's Mental Health Week



9th–15th February

Next week, we will be celebrating **Children's Mental Health Week**, with a special focus on the theme **Belonging** — helping every child feel valued, included and connected within our school community.

 Our aims for the week are to:



Artsmark Silver Award
Awarded by Arts Council England



PROUD TO BE A
MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL



ONE (Owl North East) Trust is an exempt charity and company limited by guarantee registered in England with company number **14895735**.
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- Strengthen children's sense of belonging in school
- Promote positive relationships and inclusion
- Create safe spaces where children feel confident to express themselves
- Encourage children to reflect on what helps them feel valued and supported

 **In the classroom, children will be exploring questions such as:**

- *Where do you feel you belong?*
- *Who makes you feel included?*
- *What makes our classroom a good place to be?*

Children will share their thoughts and feelings through drawings and group discussions, celebrating the relationships, spaces and experiences that make our school such a special place for everyone.

 We look forward to a week of reflection, connection and positive wellbeing.

We are recruiting!

We are currently advertising for an admin and attendance officer. The advert and application details can be found on the school website. We would be grateful if you could please spread the word and inform anyone you know who might be interested in joining our staff team.

Nursery and Reception spaces

**Places
available**

We still have places available for September for Nursery and Reception. Again, if you could spread the word to anyone who might be interested that would be great. New families can ring or email the school office if they would like to visit the school before applying.

Please do read the Friday Class Dojo posts written by your child's class teacher. They are packed with information about what your child has been learning and how you can help them at home.



Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Take care,

Mrs Hills

Head Teacher