

# Simonside Primary School

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Friday 24th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Summer newsletter. Time is flying by as we are so busy in school with teaching and learning. We would like to draw your attention to upcoming events and initiatives in school.

## **Behaviour**

This term, we are placing a strong focus on maintaining high expectations for behaviour across the school.

Clear routines and consistent expectations help children feel safe, confident, and ready to learn. We value our partnership with parents and carers and appreciate your ongoing support at home. By working together, we can help every child develop positive behaviour and strong learning habits.

## **SATs**

As we approach SATs, we are incredibly proud of how hard the children have worked this year.

They have shown great resilience, focus, and determination in the lead-up to the tests. We are now in the final home stretch, and your continued encouragement at home is much appreciated.

We wish all our children the very best of luck – we know they will do themselves proud.

## **Thank you**

A special 'thank you' to all parents and carers for attending the PACTs so far this year. We have had amazing feedback from families about how useful and worthwhile these sessions are. Knowing how to support your child's learning in maths and reading, and engaging in these activities at home, makes an enormous difference to your child's confidence and progress in school. Thank you! We aim to provide these sessions again next year.



Artsmark  
Silver Award  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England



PROUD TO BE A  
MUSIC MARK  
SCHOOL



## Trips

### EYFS



Last term, Reception enjoyed a fantastic visit to Northumberland Zoo. The children impressed Bethany, the Zookeeper, with their knowledge of animals from the African and Polar regions. They created some wonderful meerkat drawings, were mesmerised by the Bird of Prey show and had great fun climbing and playing in the park. We all had a great day and there were a few sleepy faces on the bus home!

-Mrs Berryman

### KS1



KS1 enjoyed visiting Washington Wetland Centre. The children observed birds and wildlife and learned about the habitats they live in. The children loved observing the graceful flamingos and enjoyed a question and answer session with an otter keeper while watching otters being fed.

-Mr Singh

### Year 3



Year 3 visited Gosforth Nature Reserve where they took part in a range of activities including pond dipping, bird spotting, nature art and a nature walk. The children really enjoyed their time outdoors and even managed to find a range of pond life and minibeasts!

-Mrs Sorenson

### Year 4



Year 4 visited Northumberlandia and had a great time exploring the enchanted woodland creating nature art and hunting for mini-beasts. They also loved taking part in a windy walk around the landscape using their senses to explore their surroundings. We had a wonderful day!

-Mr Goldie

### Year 5 and 6



The children in Years 5 and 6 had a wonderful time exploring the Great North Museum in Newcastle city centre. The children took part in some exciting Time Odyssey activities, where they worked together to choose and analyse museum objects to help their chosen character open a time portal and return home. Their teamwork and oracy skills were brilliant to see as they discussed options, shared ideas and made thoughtful decisions.

-Mrs Betts and Mrs Hughes

### Punctuality

We still have far too many children arriving after the gates have shut. Learning starts as soon as the children enter the classroom. Morning work is used to consolidate learning and KS1 have their daily phonics sessions first thing. Please make sure your child is in school on time so they don't miss out on valuable learning.



## Online Safety Top Tips – Keeping Children Safe on YouTube



YouTube can be a great source of fun and learning for children, but it's important to help them use it safely. These simple tips can help you guide your child towards positive viewing habits at home.

### 1. Use YouTube Kids where possible

YouTube Kids is designed for younger children and offers stronger content filtering and parental controls than the standard YouTube app.

### 2. Watch together when you can

Co-viewing helps you understand what your child enjoys watching and gives you opportunities to talk about anything confusing or worrying.

### 3. Check search and watch history regularly

Looking at what your child has searched for or watched can help you spot unsuitable content and guide future settings.

### 4. Turn off autoplay

Autoplay can lead children from suitable videos to content that isn't appropriate. Turning it off gives you more control over what's watched next.

### 5. Use parental controls across devices

Parental controls on tablets, phones, smart TVs and broadband can provide extra layers of protection beyond YouTube itself.

### Dates for your diary

<b>Easter holiday Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b>	
<b>Summer Term 2026</b>	
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May - Bank holiday</b>	
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Y6 SATs week</b>
<b>Half term Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May</b>	
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June TRAINING DAY – School closed to children</b>	
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – all week</b>	<b>Y4 Multiplication check</b>
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June – all week</b>	<b>Y1 Phonics screen</b>
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Y6 Careers Fair
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	School Picnic Day
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Non-uniform day
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Reception coffee morning and year review
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer fair from 1:15pm
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 leavers assembly Y6 disco
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September Summer Holiday</b>	

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Carter

Deputy Head Teacher