

Simonside Primary School

Governor Newsletter Spring Term 2 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the spring Governor newsletter. We hope that it gives you some information about what governors have been doing in and around school over the last term.

Mrs Hills

Thank you to all the parents and carers who forwarded their best wishes (and flowers) for a speedy recovery to Mrs. Hills. We wish her well as she embarks on treatment and recovery and look forward to welcoming her back to school. She is keeping in touch and is still involved in the life of the school but clearly needs to focus on her health at the moment.

This has clearly come as a great shock to everyone. It is very difficult for staff as they support their friend and colleague, but they have been amazing at keeping everything as 'normal' as possible for the children. Staff absences and changes in roles have added to the staff workload - please be patient if you are awaiting a staff response to a query. They are working harder than ever at the moment but will get back to you.

Governor meetings

Governors meet every half term to review key areas of school life, such as safeguarding, curriculum, pupil progress, any current priorities and so much more. Our most recent meeting took place on 19th March, where we reviewed some important school policies, including behaviour, first aid and online safety. Next term governors will be focusing on policies linked to medication in school and how children with medical issues can be supported. We will also be continuing to ensure safeguarding is effective in school.

An update from Governors

As well as attending meetings and coming into school to speak to groups of children, we have also been very busy with some extracurricular activities!

Computing club with Miss Mohan

Year 3 and Year 4 children have been learning how to code their own version of Pac-Man using Scratch. They've explored how coding works, what loops are and how even the smallest error can cause a whole program to stop working. The children have shown fantastic enthusiasm and incredible imagination in the games they've created — we're so impressed with their creativity and resilience.



Arts and crafts club with Mrs Rae

Children have made tote bags, decorated gift boxes and made friendship bracelets. Woolly bunnies and chicks were great fun to make.

If any parent or grandparent has a craft skill they could share with the children, please contact Mrs Rae. We'd love to try something new.

Squirrels with Mrs Armstrong

Simonside Squirrels is an outdoor intervention run by one of our Support Assistants, Mrs Armstrong. As a trained Scout Leader she is using her skills to teach targeted children about survival skills and noticing the environment around them.



Children across the school have built dens, made bird feeders and are even learning how to tie knots. They go outdoors no matter the weather and really enjoy themselves. Children will help to plant seeds, herbs and bulbs around school whilst learning more survival skills and backwoods cooking. This of course includes making s'mores towards the end of the academic year.

Attendance and punctuality

It's lovely to report that on some days this term overall attendance has been up to 96%. On Wednesday 25 March, school attendance was recorded at **97%**! 28 children have improved their attendance over this term. Attendance targets continue to be a focus, as every strong day contributes meaningfully to weekly success.

Arriving on time at 8:45am for school is very important. The first 10 – 15 minutes of the day is used for key activities aimed to settle children, ready to start their day. This may include 1:1 sessions, class activities or simply a chat with the class teacher. It is a lovely part of the day and arriving on time means children start the day calmly, feel part of the class from the very beginning and don't miss out on essential teaching that builds the foundations for later learning.

Don't forget that on Friday between 8:30 and 8:45am, coffees and teas are available at the front of school for all grown-ups. Once you've dropped your children at their classroom, please come and have a warm drink before leaving.

Wishing you a wonderfully restful Easter break! Don't forget to reach out to us via the school office if there is anything we can do to help.

Mrs L. Rae Chair	Mrs E. Hills Head teacher	Mrs V. Carter Associate Governor	Mr C. Stott Co-opted Governor
Mr M. Harbottle Parent governor/ Vice Chair	Miss J. Mohan Parent Governor	Mrs V. Armstrong Co-opted Governor	Mrs S. Betts Teaching Staff Governor
	Mrs A. Thomas Non-teaching Staff Governor	Mrs G. Anderson Co-opted Governor	