

Simonside Primary School

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Tuesday 14th January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you had a relaxing and peaceful holiday. It has been lovely to welcome the children back. They look refreshed and ready to learn, which is fantastic. This newsletter is to update/remind you of events coming up this half term and to provide some support with how to help your child achieve the best possible outcomes.

Being excellent!

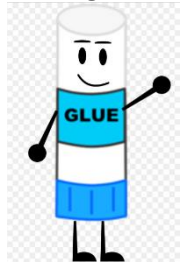
We have been talking to the children in class and in assemblies about the importance of being excellent. We teach children that excellence is not about being *the* best, but *doing your best*. We talk about this in relation to our school charter: Be kind, listen and learn and show respect.

We are always striving for the children to achieve the best they can. In order for this to happen, it is really important that they complete homework, read at home and learn phonic sounds/tables/spellings etc. Please encourage your child as much as possible to complete the work set for them and return it on time. The homework return rate, for some classes, was particularly poor last term. We would be grateful for your support with this. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you experience any problems; we need to identify any barriers to learning early and address them as soon as possible.



Reminder: The Year 1 Maths PACT is on **Tuesday 21st January** and the EYFS PACT is on **Tuesday 28th January**. Please do try to attend these if you have a child in one of these classes; they provide useful ideas for how to support your child with their maths learning at home.

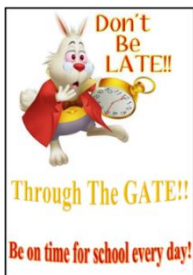
Making learning stick



Learning happens when information passes from the short-term memory to long-term memory. This often requires plenty of recall and repetition. This is why we ask children to complete homework.

Asking questions about your child's learning also really helps. Please read the Class Dojo posts daily as class teachers are always updating parents and carers with what the children have learnt in class and pose possible questions you can ask them.

Attendance










You will have noticed from the Friday Class Dojo posts that attendance is up and down. It needs to be 'up' every week! This term we have planned many different types of intervention aimed at supporting children with gaps in learning (some due to poor attendance). We have the Year 4 Multiplication check coming up in the summer term, plus the phonics tests in Y1 and the SATs in Year 6. Teachers are assessing the children all the time and checking they are meeting their targets. Children can't make progress if they're not in school. Please help us to help them by making sure they are in school every day.

Punctuality

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.

Enhancing the Curriculum

We are a Gold accredited Rights Respecting school. As such we weave the teaching of Rights through the curriculum as we teach children about rights, through rights and for rights. Below is our plan for this half term. Please ask your children questions about these themes – they will also be taught through assemblies.

Spring 1	
WB 6 th January – New Year's Resolutions Article 3 – The right to decisions being made for the best interest of the child.	
WB 13 th January – Energy Saving Week (13 th -19 th) Article 24 – The right to best healthcare possible, water, food and a safe environment.	
WB 20 th January – World Religion Day (19 th) Article 14 – The right to freedom of thought and religion.	
WB 27 th January – Chinese New Year (29 th -3 rd) Article 31 – The right to rest, play, participate freely in cultural life and the arts.	
WB 3 rd February – Children's Mental Health Week (1 st -7 th) Article 2 – The right to be prevented from discrimination.	
WB 10 th February – Safer Internet Day (11 th) Article 19 – The right to protection from violence, abuse and neglect.	
WB 17 th February – Random Act of Kindness Day (17 th) Article 29 – The right to an education that develops personality, talents and abilities.	

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Thompson and Mrs Hills



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