

# Silver-logo**Simonside Primary School**

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**Date: 11.3.2021**

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been so lovely to welcome all the children back to school this week. We have been so impressed with the enthusiasm for learning. It really has been quite emotional for staff to see full classes of happy, beaming faces!

**Red Nose Day – Comic Relief**

Despite the restrictions, staff are working hard to create fun, positive learning experiences for children. To that end, we still plan to hold our own Red Nose Day on Friday 19th March. Children can come to school in non-school uniform on this day (and wear a red nose). The older children will be learning about where the money goes raised through Red Nose Day. If you would like to donate, please follow the link below. (We won’t be taking in any money in school). <https://donation.comicrelief.com/>

**KS2 Competition**

To mark the special date that is 12th March 2021 (12-3-21, which reads the same forward as backwards) and to make maths exciting and high profile in our school, we are holding a Battle of the Bands (a KS2 in-school times tables competition). It is part of a UK-wide Rock Down Relief event run by Times Tables Rock Stars and will be the biggest times tables event in the country ever!

Starting tomorrow, Friday 12th March, and ending on Thursday 18th March 2021, the whole competition is done online via play.ttrockstars.com or the TT Rock Stars app. For every correct answer to a multiplication or division question, your child will earn their class a point. The Times Table Rock Stars platform will calculate the class average (the number of correct answers per pupil in the class who play during the competition hours.) Winning classes in the school will be the ones with the highest average.

All game modes (Gig, Garage, Jamming, Studio, etc.) will count but only from games played between 9:30am and 3pm on Friday 12th to Thursday 18th inclusive.

We look forward to announcing the winners! Let the competition commence!

**Welcome back!**

It has been lovely to welcome back Mrs Frizzell who has just returned following her maternity leave. Mrs Frizzell will be working with all children across KS2, covering classes for PPA.

**Class Dojo Quiet Times**

Now that school has fully opened again please note that staff will not be asked to respond to Dojo messages after 4:30pm or at weekends. Mrs Thompson and Mrs Hills will still respond to any urgent messages. It is VITAL that you message if your child displays any Covid symptoms.

**Playtimes**

We need to use all the space available for playtimes as we need to keep all the classes separate when playing at breaktime and lunchtime. As the weather is so changeable we need children to be dressed for all weathers. If you do not want muddy shoes, please provide wellies.

**Attendance and Punctuality**

Attendance is now mandatory once again. If your child is unwell, please report the absence to the school office. Please don’t use Class Dojo for this.

Remote learning will only be provided in circumstances where children are shielding or self-isolating.

It is so important that all children are in school and learning. Please only keep children off school if they are poorly or need to self-isolate.

The timings of the drop-offs and pick-ups are planned to reduce congestion on the yards as much as possible. However, congestion builds up very quickly if parents/carers are too early or too late. For example, we often have reception parents arriving at school before the nursery parents which causes a delay in dismissing the nursery children and too many adults on the yard. We also have Year 3 and 4 parents arriving early, before Year 5 and 6 parents are off the yard. Please help us to keep everyone safe by being as punctual as possible.

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Start | Finish |
| UKS2 | 8:50 | 3:00 |
| Nursery | 8:55 | 3:00 |
| LKS2 | 9:00 | 3:05 |
| Reception | 9:05 | 3:10 |
| KS1 | 9:10 | 3:15 |

**Simonside External Works to the Highway**

Over the Easter holidays, work will be carried out on Bedeburn Road to change the existing crossing outside school to a new puffin crossing slightly further up. This is in preparation for the new school – making sure that pedestrians stay safe.

**Parents’ Evenings**

We would like to hold a Spring Term parents’ evening. Sadly, we still can’t hold these appointments in school so you will be given a telephone appointment with your child’s teacher instead. Your child’s class teacher will update you on the progress your child is making and can also discuss any matters arising from lockdown. The appointment will be between 3:30pm and 5:30pm. The available dates will be:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Monday 22nd March | Year 1/Year 2 |
| Tues 23rd March | Nursery/Reception |
| Wed 24th March | Year 3/ Year 4 |
| Thurs 25th March | Year 5/6 Year 6 Year 5 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Monday 29th March | Year 1/Year 2 |
| Tues 30th March | Nursery/Reception |
| Wed 31st March | Year 3/ Year 4 |
| Thurs 1st April | Year 5/6 Year 6 Year 5 |

**New School building**

We are still on target for Tuesday 8th June for the official opening. We will have access to the school before this time and intend to take groups of children across to familiarise themselves. We will also be making sure you are also clear about where to go and drop off. It is going to be absolutely amazing and we feel very lucky! We have some school places available in most year groups so if you know anyone looking for a new school please encourage them to join our great community!

Thank you for all your continued support,

*Mrs Thompson and the whole staff team*