

Friday 3rd April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Easter newsletter! So much has changed since our last newsletter and now we are all adapting to a new reality on so many levels. Despite the understandable fear and uncertainty in these worrying times, the strength of our school community has really shone through. THANK YOU so much for the resilience you have shown in adapting to the changes and for the many messages of support we have received.

Home Learning

We've been so impressed with the work uploaded to Class Dojo. Staff have loved seeing the photos of children working, trying out new activities and exercising! If you haven't logged on to Class Dojo yet please do – it's a great way of keeping in touch with your child's class teacher and staff. Class teachers will award dojos for home learning. If you have any trouble uploading work, or it becomes too time consuming, please just drop your teacher a message to let them know what your child has done at home – dojos can still be awarded. Can we also reiterate not to worry too much if you are struggling to get into a daily routine, or if some days you think you've 'cracked it' then others you feel as though you really haven't! We're all in this together and staff are here to help.



'Thank you so much for all the updates you're all doing a great job you all deserve a medal with all you do.'



Mar 23, 12:21

Can I just say from all of us, thank you. It's day 1 of such uncertain times and you've done a fantastic job of making sure the kids have things for them to do. You have your own family to look after too and still it's clear your school pupils are in your thoughts too. Stay safe x



Easter Holidays

There won't be any holiday homework set – the holidays will hopefully be a time when children, families and staff can relax and recharge albeit at home. Sing, dance and play together. Spend the time together that you don't usually have time for. How your child felt when they were at home with you during this time will stay with them long after the memory of the academic activities they did fade.

Here are some websites for ideas for fun activities you could try over Easter:

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/activities> (also has great recipes and ideas for indoor activities)

<https://www.mykidstime.com/things-to-do/50-easter-activities-for-kids/>

<https://www.easypeasyandfun.com/>

WE DIDN'T REALISE WE WERE
MAKING MEMORIES, WE JUST KNEW
WE WERE HAVING FUN



We will remember the time that we all got to stop
and be present,
We will remember the time when our health was
our first priority,
We will remember when people learnt new ways to
use fresh produce to feed their families,
We will remember the laughter and fun from videos
and jokes shared on social media,
We will remember the special time spent with our
friends and family each day,
We will remember when we were all forced to think
outside the box,
To dream of new things and reinvent old ways,
Now, even amongst the chaos, there is community,
A global rise in togetherness,
Streets are quiet but our homes are bustling with
love and laughter.



Baby News!

We are delighted to tell you that Mrs Frizzell has had a baby girl! Her name is Florence and she and mum are doing really well.



Happy Birthday to you!

Happy Birthday to all the children who have had a birthday since we closed and will have a birthday during the Easter holidays:

Rakan (Year 1), Lewis (Year 3), Steven B (Year 5), Marnie (Nursery), Sophie (Year 2), Tyler (Year 3), Lexi H (Year1/2), (Mohamed (Year 5), Leighton (Nursery), Mason (Year 3), Faith (Year 2). Aaliyah (Year 3), Danica (Year 2), Dainton (Year 1), Robert (Year 5), Jordan (Year 4) and Katy (Year 3), Finn Holmes (Year 4)

Free School Meals

After Easter the government/Local Authority will be providing supermarket vouchers for children eligible for free school meals (benefit related). We are, however, happy to continue delivering packed lunches to those families in self-isolation or who find it difficult to get to school who would still prefer this option. Packed lunches can also be collected from school. You will have been sent a survey to complete if you are eligible for free school meals and will hear from us shortly to confirm which arrangement you'd like but if you think you may have been missed please email admin@simonside.newcastle.sch.uk

Mental Health

It's so important that we look after the mental health of ourselves, each other and our children. The following document online has some great advice:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>



'Children and young people may respond to stress in different ways. Signs may be emotional (for example, they may be upset, distressed, anxious, angry or agitated), behavioural (for example, they may become more clingy or more withdrawn, they may wet the bed), or physical (for example, they may experience stomach aches). Look out for any changes in their behaviour.

Children and young people may feel less anxious if they are able to express and communicate their feelings in a safe and supportive environment. Children and young people who communicate differently to their peers may rely on you to interpret their feelings. Listen to them, acknowledge their concerns, and give them extra love and attention if they need it.

Provide clear information about the situation: All children and young people want to feel that their parents and caregivers can keep them safe. The best way to achieve this is by talking openly about what is happening and providing honest answers to any questions they have. Explain what is being done to keep them and their loved ones safe, including any actions they can take to help, such as washing their hands regularly.

Use words and explanations that they can understand and make sure you use reliable sources of information such as the GOV.UK or NHS website – there is a lot of misleading information from other sources that will create stress for you and your family.

It will not always be possible to provide answers to all the questions children and young people may ask, or to allay all their concerns, so focus on listening and acknowledging their feelings to help them feel supported.'

Every Mind Matters also has a great website for advice and support:

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

Easter Egg Competition

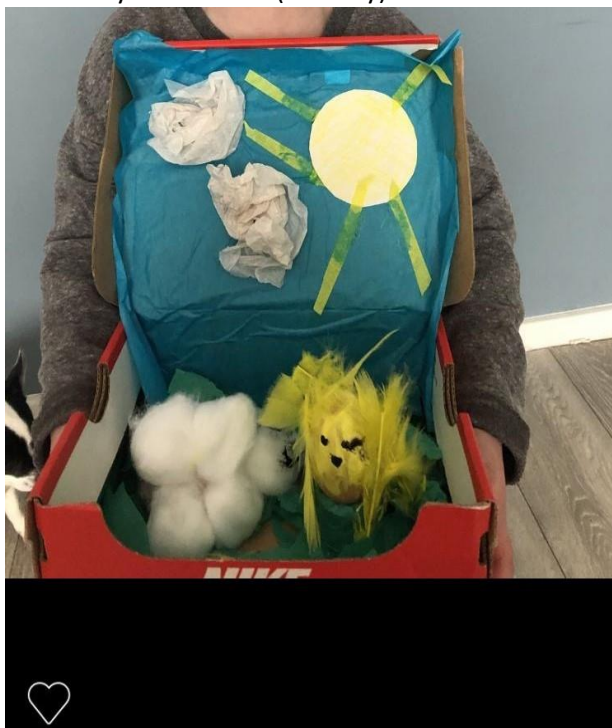
Thank you and well done to everyone who took part in our Easter Egg Competition. We were blown away at the imagination, creativity and effect that went into all of the entries. They were all brilliant! It was very difficult for the Easter bunny to choose. Congratulations to our winners!



Well done to Saoirse (Year 3/4)



Fab entry Ronni from (Nursery)



Super entry from Jayne (Year 6)



Please take care over the next two weeks and stay safe. All of our families are very special to us. If you need urgent support over the holiday period please email admin@simonside.newcastle.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Thompson

