



Dream, Believe and Achieve!

Simonside Community Primary School
Bedeburn Road
Newcastle-upon-Tyne
NE5 4LG
Telephone (0191) 2860776 Fax (0191) 2716790
Website www.simonside.newcastle.sch.uk
Email admin@simonside.newcastle.sch.uk

Wednesday 2nd October 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a very busy start to our year, with lots achieved and plenty more ideas and initiatives in the pipeline that we will be excited to deliver and develop this year. Thank you for all the support you have given the children and staff already – it's really appreciated. It has been particularly encouraging to hear so many positive comments from parents. Thank you!

OPAL – Outdoor Play and Learning

Your child's playground needs you! As you know from September's newsletter, we are developing playtimes for our children to ensure they have high quality playtime experiences and learn effectively through play. Thank you to all the parents and carers who responded to the questionnaire – the responses were highly positive and useful. Already, we have seen a positive difference to playtimes – photographs of the children playing/learning are on the OPAL display window outside Kay's office (Parent Support Worker) and on Twitter.

We would like to have zones set out with different equipment/activities in each area. We would be enormously grateful for any contributions of the following:

Storage bins

Suitcases

Small world toys (the size of Barbie dolls would be ideal) e.g. dolls, trucks.

Prams and dolls

Gardening equipment e.g. plastic spades, trowels, plastic pots.



We are setting up a drop-off area outside Kay's room for contributions. Many thanks!

It's great that so many children are now wearing wellies at playtime. If they are wearing wellies they can go on the grass when it's wet and go in the mud. However, just to be clear, **this does not mean we are condoning children getting covered in mud.** This has been addressed in assemblies and children know that they are not to be kicking up mud or deliberately splashing others. As the weather is now getting wetter it would be great if children could bring waterproofs into school so that we can help prevent children from getting uniforms wet/muddy.

50th Birthday Celebration

Our 'Journey Through Time' Exhibition needs you!

Simonside Primary School is celebrating its 50th Birthday! An exhibition of children's work, memorabilia, recorded interviews, photographs and audio/film clips will be put together and displayed in the small hall during the last week of half term. **The exhibition will be on display from 2:30pm on Tuesday 22nd October and Wednesday 23rd October for parents to drop in.**

The exhibition will be a 'Journey through Time' of Simonside's history, present and future. The idea is that each class takes on a different aspect of this journey and represents their work for the exhibition in any way they like e.g. sound clips, art work, music recording, photos, interview scripts, letters etc. Tea towels of all children's self-portraits will be made and sold at the exhibition. We have put a post on the Newbiggin Hall Facebook page inviting people to contribute to the exhibition with photos, stories etc. If you have anything at all that could

contribute to our display, we'd be really grateful if you could bring them in and drop off at the office (we will, of course, return them). Please also spread the word in the wider community – we're particularly keen to hear from past pupils about their memories and what they have gone on in life to do.



Attendance

Our overall attendance for this year is 94.3% which is obviously well below our target of 97%. Punctuality is also becoming an issue for a number of children, with children regularly missing assembly first thing in the morning. If you are having any difficulties getting children to school, and on time, please don't hesitate to contact us and we can see what we can do to help.

Can we also remind parents that holidays taken in term time will not be authorised and may result in a fixed penalty from the Local Authority.

Aldi Stickers

Aldi is currently promoting a scheme giving schools the chance to win £20,000. Stickers can be collected every time £30 is spent in store. We have a big display in school for the stickers to be stuck on. If stickers could be dropped off in the bucket at the office, this would be greatly appreciated.

Drop-off times

We've had a number of complaints about the bad language being used at the school gates by parents and carers. Please can everyone be mindful of the language they are using around our children. Many thanks.

#HelloYellow

An orange square logo with white text that reads: Say #HelloYellow for World Mental Health Day.

Say
#HelloYellow
for World Mental
Health Day

We would like to support the #HelloYellow campaign for World Mental Health Day, the money from which will support young people with their mental health. The charity that's organising this is called YoungMinds. From their website:

'We're leading the fight for a future where all young minds are supported and empowered, whatever the challenges. We're here to make sure they get the best possible mental health support and have the resilience to overcome life's difficulties.'

The crisis in children and young people's mental health is real and it is urgent. More children and young people than ever before are reaching out for help with their mental health. But for those who take that brave step, help is much too hard to find.

Together, we are changing this. We're fighting for young people's mental health. Join our fight.'

World Mental Health Day is on **Thursday 10th October**. On this day we invite children to come to school wearing something yellow for a donation of £1. Children could choose to wear a subtle splash of yellow or dress like a sunshine from head to toe! On this day we will do some work with children to explain more about the charity and the importance of their mental well-being.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'T Thompson'.

Mrs T Thompson