

South Gosforth First School

Newsletter

February 2nd 2018



Dear Parents and carers

We are now safely through possibly the longest month of the year and into February where we can hopefully begin to look forward to lighter and longer days. When you receive this we will be looking forward to the last week in this short half term and reflecting on the last four weeks in school.

First may I just share a few of our current difficulties with you as I know parents have been asking questions of the school office.

DOORS

Our 'automatic' sliding doors have decided not to cooperate with us and have to be kept open whilst the front of school – or manually opened and closed. We are trying to mend these but it is taking time.

HEATING

Some of your children may have mentioned school being cold. We have a leak (or leaks) somewhere in the heating system and this is affecting the heating in school.

Temperatures are at times very low indeed as both radiators and convector fans are fuelled by the same boilers. Given our very individual building it is proving difficult and potentially very disruptive to locate the leak. We are working very hard to solve this problem and desperately trying to avoid any school closures due to the cold. With this and the colder weather in mind please make sure you send children into school with warm clothing and coats as sometimes we need extra layers!

WET WEATHER

School has always kept a store of spare clothing so that we can change children following personal accidents or falls in wet weather or snow. Unfortunately we have sent a great many items home and they have not been returned. We will buy further supplies very soon but would appreciate their return should they come home with your child. They should be very clearly labelled (SGFS). If any families have spare age appropriate trousers, tights or socks we would welcome them in school and they could be dropped off at the office. Our radiators are not very efficient in terms of heat output and so we may end up sending damp clothes home. We do apologise for this but hope you will understand the current limitations of our environment.

Please make sure your child has sensible school shoes (wellingtons on extreme weather) that will keep their feet as dry as possible.

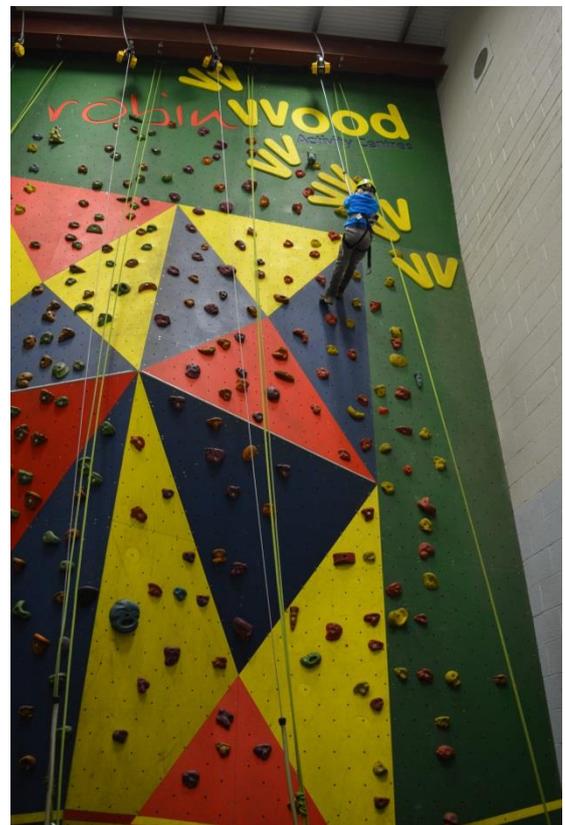
And on to more positive news!

We began our year with a wonderful performance of Robin Hood by M&M Productions. Not only was this a great performance, but it did link with aspects of our curriculum, and inspired some creative pieces of writing. A reluctant Mr Crown was encouraged to participate and good fun was had by all! The PTA did make a donation towards the cost of the pantomime and we thank all our parents for the fundraising that supported this 'treat'.





Great fun was had by all of the Year Four children who went on a three day trip to Robin Wood last week. Mr Woodley, Mrs Whitehouse and Mrs Cruddas took 39 children on a three day residential and the children took part in various exciting activities; canoeing, night line, the big swing, caving, archery and more. We have photographic evidence that even the adults were brave and kept up with all the children who were keen to 'have a go'. Thank you to all the parents who supported the visit and thank you to the staff for giving up their time to go. We will be booking for next year so we hope lots of our Year Three children are keen to go.





The children came back tired and a little muddy but thought it was wonderful.

Some of Mr Crown's children shared their thoughts:

M. said "My favourite activity was the swing because me and S started laughing when we pulled on Pooh (the bear on the rope).

H. said "I loved the giant swing because it gives you a fright as soon as you pulled on Pooh (the bear on the rope).

A. said "I loved the trapeze because you had to put your toes on the edge and jump to try to grab the bar and then you let go of the bar and dangled. I didn't feel scared."

E. said "I thought Night Line was a bit scary because we had blindfolds on and my wellington boot fell off in the middle of the tunnel and I was a bit worried that I couldn't find it again.

D. said "I loved the trapeze because I was nervous for 5 seconds because I was the first to go but it was OK. It was a longer way down when you were at the top than it looked from the bottom – up. It felt really good to do it."

S. said "I really liked caving because it felt as if I was one of those explorers on TV and I liked going through tiny gaps."

Mrs Ingram's Class Assembly was a great success. The children had been asked what theme they wanted to have and they had been so enthusiastic about the Geography they had been learning about that they decided to do an assembly that included an incredible amount of facts about our amazing natural world. They presented their information within a quiz show format and loved their moment in front of the school and parents. Thanks as ever to all the family members who spared time to share this with us.



New Topics have been started for this term and the children are enjoying them. Reception have been fascinated by the adventures of Surpertato who manages to thwart the Evil Pea and rescue the other vegetables, Year One are finding out all about 'Significant people' – in their case explorers and year Two are learning all about Animals including humans. Key Stage Two do not have an overarching Topic this term but are working hard to develop skills in all areas of the curriculum and are very focused on their learning. We hope all those of you that managed to come in for the Book Looks enjoyed sharing the children's work and that you could see the progress made since September.

Parents in Year One attended **Phonics meetings** this week and had the opportunity to find out a little more about the Phonics Check that happens in June. As always they had questions to ask and we hope the session was useful.

Future Events

Spring 1 Week Five

- Tuesday 6th February: Bike – it – Breakfast: 8.15 – 8.55 am (tickets from the school office)
- Thursday 8th February: Film Night 6 – 8pm
- Friday 9th February: Break up for half term

Spring 2 Week One

- Monday 19th February: Return to school
- Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd February: KS2 to go to Live Tales event (letters to parents)

Spring 2 Week Two

- Wednesday 28th February: Reception Coffee Morning: 9.05 – 9.45 am
- Thursday 1st March: World Book Day (family members welcome from 2.30pm). Children are signed out of classrooms and can go straight home when parents/carers are ready.
- Saturday 3rd march: Family Clean- up Day in school (see PTA information).

Spring 3 Week Three

- Thursday 8th March: Class 2F Assembly

With best wishes

All of us at South Gosforth