



I love this time of year—The weather is getting colder, the nights are getting darker and the magic of Christmas is well and truly in the air!

There have been all kinds of wonderful things happening in school and there are a lot more things due to come...

From 'Awe & Wonder' Week and the Y4 Residential trip in Robinwood to Christmas performances, 'Cultural Capital' project with Amble First School and our upcoming involvement with the 'Arts Partnerships' project and more —It really is an exciting time to be a pupil at South Gosforth First School, where everyone is learning so much every day.

I hope that you enjoy reading about all of the brilliant enrichment opportunities which we are providing for the children. Please feel free to pop in for a chat or grab me on the playground if anyone is interested in anything in particular and wants to know more—I would love to see you all! Mr Adams

'Awe & Wonder' Week

The children in school had an unexpected visitor a couple of weeks ago—A DINOSAUR AND HER BABY! Mr Adams showed all of the children some mysterious CCTV footage at the beginning of the week where none other than a T-Rex was seen walking across our school field. In the middle of the week, a gigantic egg was discovered which then hatched and the dinosaur was then caught on camera walking away from our school, with her baby tagging along behind her.

The children had a truly magical week learning all about all things prehistoric! They measured dinosaur footprints, learned about dinosaur habitats and diets and even designed contraptions to protect the dinosaur egg, amongst other things.



It was a fantastic week which really was full of 'Awe and Wonder' - Watch this space for the next instalment!

School Tag Line

As you are all aware, the children, staff and families have been thinking hard about what we would like to have as our new school tag line.

After a lot of discussion and sharing of ideas, I can reveal that our new tag line is:

'Roots to Grow and Wings to Fly'

We hope that you all agree that this really encompasses what we are about as a school, and it also links really well to our owl logo. Thank you to everyone who contributed their ideas.



Y4—Robinwood

The children in Y4 had a brilliant time in Robinwood on their residential visit this week. They did all kinds of activities which involved working together as a team and overcoming all kinds of obstacles. Every pupil represented our school brilliantly and everyone showed amazing resilience and high levels of independence. It was lovely to see everyone back at school on Wednesday afternoon full of smiles and funny stories to tell. A huge thank you to all of the staff who attended and looked after the children so well.

Y3—Anti Bullying Project

3 lucky pupils from Y3 were able to attend a trip to Dinnington First School where they learned all about anti bullying and used all kinds of computer programs to make a video about it. We will hopefully be posting the video on our Twitter feed soon!

New Whole School Twitter Feed

Please everyone make sure to sign up to our new whole school Twitter feed, where we will be posting regular updates about everything which has been going on in school.

Our Twitter handle is: @SouthGosforthFS



New EYFS Unit

A special word of thanks goes out to the whole EYFS team who have worked so incredibly hard to create a brand new Reception environment which has lots of different areas for the children to explore and learn through their play. It really does look amazing and the excellent provision in Reception really is meeting the needs of all learners.



Feedback Policy

We have recently implemented a new marking and feedback policy in school which places much more focus on giving our pupils 'live verbal feedback' at the time of learning, which we believe is much more meaningful for our children. This will mean that marking will look slightly different in pupils' books going forward. The policy will be available to view on our website soon. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if anyone has any questions.

Children In Need

Thank you to everyone for your kind donations for our 'Children in Need' non-uniform day! We raised almost £350 for this wonderful cause! Everyone had a great day!



'Cultural Partnerships' & Arts Projects with Dance City

Next term, some of our pupils will have the opportunity to take part in some wonderful 'Cultural Capital' projects.

One of them will involve the children working alongside actors, performers, professional speakers and even poets on a public speaking project where they will be delivering a talk around 'Sustainability in Gosforth' at the Newcastle Council Chambers and University. This will really help to develop pupils' confidence and speaking and listening skills.

Another group of children will be visiting Dance City to work on an expressive dance project all about embracing diversity in the community! So exciting!

Christmas Performances

We are so excited for the upcoming Christmas performances which all children across school will be taking part in. Whilst it is fine to take a photograph of your own individual child before or after the performance, may I gently remind you to not take any photographs or videos of all of the children during the show. Thank you!



Donations Needed!

Fabric: We have recently had 2 large seating units donated to us for use in our library. They are great for the children to sit on and read, but they really need a bit of TLC. We would like to recover them in pieces of fabric, so if anyone has any large pieces of material which they could donate to school, it would be very much appreciated.

Class Library Day

On **Friday 6th December** we are going to have a 'Class Library Day'. We would really like to add some lovely books to our class libraries which children can access whenever they would like to—This really helps to children to love reading! In light of this could we ask that the children bring in a book (or a few books if you have them) from home which they have read and wouldn't mind donating to school. Then next Friday the children will have a book sharing session and take home a book which another child has kindly donated. These books will then be stored in school and be added to our class libraries. If everyone was kind enough to donate even just one great book, that would mean that each class had a bank of 30 books which the children could read and enjoy throughout the year. We really would be so grateful for any of your donations.

New Curriculum

This academic year, we are having a close look at developing our curriculum across school. As part of this process we need to think really carefully about our 'intent' and the key drivers behind our curriculum design and what we want it to give to our children.

I feel that it is really important that parents, carers and families should have the opportunity to offer their thoughts about this. If anyone has any feelings or ideas about which integral attributes should lie behind what we deliver in school, please email them across to Mrs Dixon in the office or catch a member of staff and we will take these all in to account when thinking about any further developments.