



A warm welcome to the Spring term at South Gosforth First School. It seems like such a long time ago now that we were in the throngs of Christmas and New Year celebrations and the children and staff are all back in school working as hard as ever!

It is wonderful to welcome back Mrs McNally who has returned to school after her knee operation and she is really happy to be back working with her lovely class.

As always, there are a lot of exciting things coming up in school—hopefully this newsletter will give you a flavour of some of the things that we will be focussing on over the coming few months. If any parents or carers would like any further information about anything which you read, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's class teacher, Mrs Whitehouse or Mr Adams.

Happy reading everyone!



Year 3 & 4 Class Assemblies

Recently Mr Crown's class in Year 3 and Year 4 did their class assemblies in front of the children, parents and carers. Mr Crown's class delivered on what they had learned in their 'Stone Age to Iron Age' topic and Year 4 shared all of their wonderful memories of the Robinwood residential. It was clear to see how much the children had learned and remembered from these experiences—Excellent all round!



New Sensory Room

Work has started on our new school sensory room! Mrs Fields has already managed to source a fantastic 'sensory dome', complete with ball pool,



disco lights and bluetooth speaker! So many of our children will get so much from using this resource. Please keep checking back for updates on progress with this amazing new space in school.

Curriculum Intent & Core

Values

Over the last couple of months, the staff have been thinking very carefully about what the aims of our curriculum should be based upon the needs of our children—this is called curriculum 'intent'. We came up with a series of statements which we believe are important for all of our pupils. The statements are as follows:

To enable our pupils to meet and exceed national curriculum expectations

To enable our pupils to be confident, fluent readers who read widely and for a range of purposes

To enable our pupils to be creative, critical and divergent thinkers who approach problems with a positive and resilient attitude

To enable our children to follow their own lines of enquiry and apply their knowledge and skills in a range of real life contexts

To teach our pupils to be responsible, global citizens who appreciate what they have, show empathy for others and celebrate diversity

To encourage our children to celebrate achievements, understand what they are good at and appreciate that everyone has something special to offer

To teach our pupils to be confident, articulate speakers who can develop and express their ideas in a thoughtful way

To equip our pupils with the skills to be emotionally intelligent and to have a strong set of core values which will prepare them for the next stage in their education and life in the modern world

We will also have 'core values' running through our curriculum which are: **Responsibility, Honesty, Empathy, Respect and Perseverance.**

Books, Books, Books!

A huge thank you to everyone who kindly donated books for our children to use in their new class libraries! All of your help is much appreciated. We are still looking to add to our collections, so **please** can we ask our families to donate any additional good quality books which you have at home but don't read any more. They really will be very well used by our children in school.

Pupil Coaching Day

We are having a 'pupil coaching' day on Wednesday 29th January. This is where the teachers talk to the children from Y2 to Y4 one at a time throughout the day to help them with their learning. It is sure to be a productive day for everyone!



Den Building

As I have already mentioned in a previous newsletter, we are in the process of sourcing a shipping container or shed in the second half of Spring term so that we can fill it with den building equipment for the children to use. The aim of this is to help the children to develop their skills of creative play, team working, problem solving and speaking and listening / effective communication. If any families have any resources that they could donate (large sheets, old pipes, pieces of wood, old unused tools or any other potentially useful equipment) which we could use for this, please contact Mr Adams via the school office and we will happily put them to good use! Thank you.

Parking on Alnmouth Drive

I have received a number of complaints recently from local residents who have mentioned that some of the parking on Alnmouth Drive around school at drop off and pick up times is causing some issues for them in terms of accessibility. I appreciate that the area around school at these times can become congested, but if our families could be mindful to please drive and park responsibly and safely and be careful to not block any cars in during these times, it really would be much appreciated by everyone.

Film Night

We are going to have a film night showing 'Toy Story 4' for pupils on Thursday 13th February. There will be snacks available and the children can come in their pyjamas if they wish. Tickets cost £3 and the money raised will go towards purchasing more books for our reading schemes and class libraries. Tickets will be available from Monday 3rd February and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

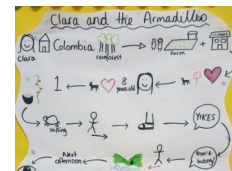


Gosforth SENCOs Twitter

Please make sure to follow the Gosforth SENCOs twitter handle—@AllGosforth for lots of useful updates and information on all things 'inclusion'.

'Talk for Writing'

You may have heard your children talking about using 'story maps' and doing accompanying actions in school to help them to remember texts which they have been reading. This is all part of a new teaching approach which many of the teachers are trying out at the moment called 'Talk for Writing'. This is an approach which was developed by a national literacy consultant named Pie Corbett and is designed to enable the children to learn stories and texts really well which they can then change and innovate to create their own versions of these texts. It is great fun and all of the children (and staff) are really enjoying trying out the different strategies which are outlined in the model. To help with this at home, you could ask your children to see if they can remember any of the stories which they have been learning from drawing a story map and reciting the story with actions. It is amazing how much this helps the children with their writing!



Sports Provision

After Easter there are going to be some changes to P.E and Sports provision, both within our school curriculum time and for after school club provision as well. I am aware that some parents were concerned that this may mean that there were less sporting opportunities for pupils to access after school. I would like to reassure parents and carers that this is absolutely not the case and there will actually be additional extra curricular P.E and sports clubs offered to children in Summer term. Lee Sterry will be providing 4 clubs per week both before and after school, and 'Grass Roots' will also be providing 2 extra curricular clubs on top of this, as well as a number of other providers. Our children are definitely all athletes in the making!

Medium Term Plans

From next week, every year group will be publishing their medium term planning on the school website every half term. This will give parents and carers a key overview of what the children will be covering in school over that half term across the different subjects. This should provide a really useful tool for families so that you can work together with your children around some of these areas and ask them questions about their learning in school.