

South Gosforth First School

Newsletter

22nd November 2018

To our Parents and Carers



Questionnaires

Thank you to everyone who has returned the questionnaires we have inundated you with this half term. We do appreciate the feedback and are already using some of your comments to inform work in school. We will be putting summaries on the website once they have been collated.

Arrangements for Christmas Events

We are now well into the second part of our Autumn term and have just started to practise our Christmas performances. This year we will be doing things slightly differently so we thought we would make sure you were informed as to arrangements well in advance.

Performances will be as follows:

There will be one Reception Performance and both classes will work together on this. We will offer two tickets per family. These will be sent out via the children's book bags.

This performance will be on Friday 7th December at 9.15am

There will be two KS1 Performances with Year 1 and year 2 collaborating. Year 2 will take the speaking parts and Year 1 will be our wonderful chorus.

These performances will be on Monday 10th December at 1.30pm and Tuesday 11th December at 9.15am

There will be two KS2 Performances with Year 3 and Year 4 collaborating. Year 4 will take the speaking parts and Year 3 will be the tuneful chorus.

These performances will be on Thursday 13th December at 1.30pm and Friday 14th December at 9.15am

Each family will need to ask for two tickets for one of the two performances. Due to fire regulations we cannot offer more than this.

These tickets will be available from Monday 3rd December onwards. Parents will be able to come into school and collect tickets or email Mrs Dixon. We will not automatically send these tickets to households as we will not know which performance you would prefer to attend so it will be first come first served. Please do not ask for tickets before the 3rd as they will not be ready for collection.

We hope this will be the fairest way to ensure that tickets are distributed evenly.

Christmas Jumper Day is Friday 14th December

Carol Service

On the last Friday of the term (21st December) we hope to hold the carol service out in the yard again weather permitting and look forward to seeing you at 1.30pm for refreshments and 2pm for a short shared sing.

Lunchtime Support

We wondered if any of our parents or carers would be interested in offering lunchtime support and working as one of the lunchtime supervisors. This is usually the period of time between 11.45 and 1pm. Sometimes this post can fit in with family life if someone does not currently work full time. It could involve working over five lunchtimes or less depending on capacity. As we have growing numbers in school it would be helpful if we could add to our team over the next few months and ensure strong supervision at playtimes.

If anyone is interested and would like more information please contact Mrs Dixon, Mrs Elliott or Mrs Whitehouse.

What has been Going On?

Year Four visit the Alphabeti Theatre Company

Year Four had an action packed day when they went to work alongside the Alphabeti Theatre Company and explored themes relating to World War One, one of their Topics this half term. Not only was this an exciting and thought provoking day in itself but the experience helped the children as they prepared for their joint class assembly on 16th. Mrs Woodley and Mr Mullick were very proud of their children and delighted with the quality of the work they had produced in class to share in their assembly. Well done Year Four and thank you to all those family members who came to watch. We hope you enjoyed it.

Year Two Coffee Morning for parents and children

Year Two children welcomed their families into school for a coffee morning. The parents supported their children by purchasing some simple tokens that they could then use to 'play' on the stalls prepared. The stalls were designed by the children and their adults and included such themes as:

- Guess the name of the toy
- Guess the number of sweets in the jar
- Toy tombola
- Chocolate/sweet tombola



Everyone enjoyed their time together with parents and children mingling and chatting together and everyone still managed to find the time for a cup of tea or coffee and a bit of cake.

Thank you everyone for spending time with us in school and supporting the fund raiser for Year Two. We are delighted to say that we raised £350.00 and this will be spent on the Year Two children. Mrs Whitehouse and Mrs Renwick will let you know how they have spent this generous contribution.

Flu Immunisation

Once again our children excelled themselves when receiving the flu 'sniffs'. The nursing team were very impressed with how calm and polite they were and the morning ran smoothly. Well done everyone in school!

Children In Need - Be Bright

Well done everyone for remembering to dress in bright colours and support Children in Need. We raised £490.00. Thank you everyone for your kind donations.



Reception Coffee Morning

We welcomed our Reception parents into school today. We hope they enjoyed spending time with their children and having the opportunity to look through the Learning Journals.

We have been looking through the Reception Questionnaires returned this week and are delighted that there has been such positive feedback about the Induction process - including events and information - in both the summer and the autumn term. This will inform arrangements for 2019 - thank you.

Additional Item

We have been discussing staffing updates in school with our Governors.

We have several new members of our staff team this term and we are delighted to say that they have all established themselves as valued and hard working members of our school community.

Mr Mullick is now firmly established as our new Year Four class teacher

Miss Anwar and Mrs Dornan are our new Reception Classroom Assistants

Mrs Stephenson is a recently appointed lunchtime supervisor and will work in Reception each Wednesday morning as a Teaching Assistant. She has held this role in a different school previous to joining us.

Mrs Swinburne is also a recently appointed lunchtime supervisor and is also supporting Year One as a Teaching Assistant for four mornings and one afternoon per week.

As a school we always work to ensure that our children work with our teachers and teaching assistants to achieve to the best of their ability. Should we have staff absences we have options as to how to cover the class. As parents you may see a supply teacher welcoming your child into school but you also may see one of our teaching assistants bringing in the children. As a school we make the considered judgment with our staff team as to how to cover a teacher's absence (through illness or to cover an essential part of their role/work in school) and often the best option is to ask the teaching assistant to work with the teacher's planning and deliver it with their detailed knowledge of the children in mind. This is not a financial choice but one based on the adult's knowledge of the children and a determination to offer the very best of provision for all our children.

If this is a short -term cover arrangement we do not inform parents each time this occurs although when we are experiencing a long-term cover issue we will always keep parents informed.

Future Events

Christmas Fair: Saturday 8th December. Please do volunteer to support this event if you can. We do appreciate all support - from being stallholders to buyers.

Please see the information in this website and/or look at the school calendar on the website for Christmas dates.

With best wishes

Mrs Elliot and all here at school

