

# SOUTH GOSFORTH FIRST SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

27.3.18

Dear Parents and Carers



After a weekend that almost felt as if 'spring had sprung', we head into the last week before Easter. We can't believe just how quickly this half term has passed and are all hoping (optimistically) that we can all enjoy some sunshine over the Easter weekend.

Many of the children will be bringing in Easter eggs for the Decorated Egg competition this week and so we are eagerly anticipating a crowded school entrance with an 'eggy aroma'!

### What has been going on in school?

#### **Playleaders**

Year Four children have received training so that they can support the youngest children in school at playtime and lunchtime. They take the minimum of equipment out with them and support simple games. Reception children love having older buddies to play with. A lovely by-product of the Playleader's role in school is stronger relationships between children in different year groups and friendly communication in our corridors, the dining hall and assemblies.

#### **Class Assemblies**

Both 2R and 2F shared some of their learning in their class assemblies - reflecting on the Topics they have been exploring recently; The Fire of London and Living Things. As ever the children loved to see their families here in school. Assemblies require teamwork and real cooperation and we are proud of all their efforts.



## **School Council**

Our team has represented our school at joint Trust activities and is also working with the PTA to think about how to spend a sum donated by the group.

They are also going to work with their classes to get feedback on the work of the school and how we may make school life experiences for the children even better.

## **Visits out of school**



KS2 have made two visits out of school to the Discovery Museum (to the Science Works Workshop) and to a Live Tales writing workshop. The children have made the most of their experiences and we do appreciate the rich resources available within our City that support learning.

Year Four also visited Gosforth Central Middle School to share in their performance of 'Olivia'. Unfortunately the First Schools did need to leave before the end of the performance as it did start later than expected, but they certainly appreciated the talent and energy of the performers. It is always a delight to go to the Middle School and see ex-pupils in their 'new' setting. We are so proud of them and all they have achieved.

The two Reception classes went out to Walker Activity Dome to participate alongside other Newcastle schools in PE activities. It was a busy afternoon for everyone and the children worked hard. Thanks to the parents who supported the visit.

## **Dance Festival**

Newcastle holds a Dance Festival each year and although we have participated in the past, we did not join in last year. This year we asked the children in Year 3 and Year 4 if there was anyone who would like to be part of a dance club at lunchtimes and a group of our children came along. They have been practicing on Wednesday lunchtimes. There are no entry requirements apart from the enthusiasm required to participate.

The festival celebrates the talents of children who have been working for years as a group and also those children who just want to 'have a go' and are beginners. The atmosphere is very inclusive and we really hope the children enjoy the experience.

### In-school events

#### **Coffee Mornings**

Year One welcomed parents and carers into school for a coffee morning. It was lovely to see those who could make the event and we do appreciate both your attendance and the donations you leave in school. Every penny donated does get spent on the children.

#### **Science Week**

Mrs. Ingram, as our Science co-ordinator, has been working with the other schools within our Trust to develop shared STEM (Science, Technology and Maths) activities. The whole school worked on challenging activities throughout the week and evaluated their outcomes. It was lovely to walk through school and see children working hard to solve the problems they had been set. They did not all manage to achieve success in terms of building a tall tower using only pegs and sticks, or creating a glider that flew beautifully, but they did demonstrate a degree of resilience and determination and these are qualities that we encourage in school.



### Sports Relief

Miss Parker did a great job of organizing a busy and energetic day for us, with Zumba in the morning and Lee Sterry activities in the afternoon. Well done everyone for taking part with such enthusiasm.



### Parents Evening

We were so pleased to see so many family members at our recent Parents Evening. It is almost inevitable that we overrun, as both teachers and parents have so much to share. However we are grateful that parents take such a positive approach to these sessions and are ready to engage in a positive discussion about pupil progress and pastoral issues.

### Assessment

We are currently working closely with children in Year One and Year Two to monitor progress in relation to the Phonics Test we will be administering in June, preparation for SATS. The children are working very hard and we hope that all we are doing with them in school is going to support end of year outcomes. We are pleased to see that so many families are supporting their child/children with regular reading and homework as this makes such a difference to both the children's motivation and progress.

### Toys for Refugees

A huge thank you to all of our parents and children who donated toys for refugees who came into the country with nothing. We have had to close the donations for now as we received so many that they now have no storage space left.

### School Closure

Finally - we really appreciate the approach that parents took in relation to the time we were closed due to snow. We understand that many of you had work commitments and the school closure did not make your lives easy, but you accepted the decision made by school. Thank you

for this - we would not make those decisions lightly and we appreciate the fact that you supported us in tricky times.

#### Events to come

- 27th March - Dance Festival for a specific group of children. All parents have been informed.
- 29th March - Class Assembly for 1L (9.10 am)
- Friday 30th March - Not at school as this is Good Friday.
- Saturday 21st April - Family Activity Day - 2 - 4.30pm and all welcome.