

Simonside Primary School

Bedeburn Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 4LG

T: 0191 286 0776

e: admin@simonside.newcastle.sch.uk

w: www.simonside.newcastle.sch.uk



Headteacher: Mrs Hills

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to welcome you and your children to the start of another exciting school year at Simonside. The first term is always a special time, filled with new beginnings, and we are thrilled to have your family as part of our school community.

Settling In: A Warm Welcome to All

The return to school can sometimes be an anxious time for children (and their parents and carers!). All our staff will be on hand to welcome everyone, guide you and answer any questions you may have. Our staff will always work tirelessly to make sure every pupil feels safe, cared for, and inspired to learn. We have some new staff to welcome:



Mr Bradley ~ Caretaker

Mrs Anderson ~ Teaching assistant

Mrs Allen ~ Teaching assistant

Miss Singh ~ Teaching assistant

Mrs Carter ~ Deputy Headteacher

Congratulations to Miss Balmer who got married over the summer! She is now called Mrs Betts.



I am extremely excited to start my own 'new beginning' as Headteacher at Simonside. I absolutely love this school and will do everything I can to strive for **excellence**. My vision is to lead a school where **every child feels valued, inspired, and empowered** to reach their full potential. I am committed to working closely with staff, families, and pupils alike to build on the strong foundations already in place, while also embracing new **opportunities for growth and improvement**.

I believe that open communication and genuine **partnership between home and school** are at the heart of every child's success. Together, I am confident that we will make this academic year memorable, positive, and a successful one for all.



**Artsmark
Silver Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England



PROUD TO BE A
MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL



Highlights for the First Term

- **Classroom Learning:** Our teaching teams have designed engaging lessons and activities that foster curiosity and creativity. Class teachers will be sending out class booklets which outline the learning that will take place this term/year. They will also provide an overview every Friday on Class Dojo. Please read these as they pose learning questions to ask at home based on what they have been taught in class.
- **New Clubs and Enrichment:** We will be writing to you about after school clubs, breakfast club and wrap around care. Details to follow about how to book these.
- **Year 6 Residential to Ford Castle:** We currently have 20 children going to this. Forms to complete will be sent home with the children on Wednesday 3rd and will need to be returned the following day. If you would like to go it's not too late but please let the office know as soon as possible and no later than hometime on Wednesday 3rd September.

Autumn dates for your diary:

Monday 1st September ~ Training Day

Tuesday 2nd September ~ Training Day

Wednesday 3rd September ~ First day back. Please be on time! School starts at 8:45am and finishes at 3:15pm.

Half term: Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October

Last day of term: Friday 19th December

We will send out detailed diary dates this week with all the planned events and activities.

Reading

We know that there is a strong correlation between those children who read and those who achieve high marks academically. Please support your child with reading for pleasure at home as much as possible. Your child's class teacher will be in touch about reading homework.

Reminders for Parents

- **Attendance Matters:** Regular attendance is vital for learning. Please ensure your child arrives on time and let us know of any absences.
- **Healthy School:** We encourage healthy eating. If your child has a packed lunch please avoid sugary/high fat foods.
- **Uniform:** Please check that all uniform items are named. We have a great deal of second-hand uniform that will be on display at the start and end of the day. Please help yourself.
- **Contact Details:** If you have changed your address or phone number, please update the school office as soon as possible.
- **Parking and Road Safety:** Callerton Secondary school will be opening this term in their new building. Please be mindful of the likely increase in traffic on Bedeburn Road, especially when crossing the roads. Callerton carpark will remain closed to parents but ours will stay open. Please only park in marked bays and drive slowly around the one-way system. If there are no available parking bays, you will need to keep circling the carpark until one becomes available or park elsewhere. There will

be staff on hand from Simonside and Callerton to ensure that our carpark is only being used by our families.

- If your child sustains any injuries at home and/or has marks on them please ensure that you report this to your child's class teacher or teaching assistant at drop-off or before the school day starts.

Communication

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's time in school please talk to your child's class teacher or teaching assistant in the first instance. This can be done at the start or end of the day. You can also make an appointment at the office if you wish to speak to a member of staff. From September we won't be using the messaging function of Class Dojo anymore. Staff will continue to post stories on Class Dojo. Please do look at these as they keep you up to date with learning in the classroom and also provide support for helping your child learn at home.

Thank You

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we can ensure that every child enjoys a happy, safe, and successful year at Simonside. We wish all our families a wonderful start to the term and look forward to all the memories we will make together.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Hills
Head Teacher