

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

Thursday 18th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I intend to write to you every time I have news rather than having monthly newsletters. So you may hear from me quite a lot!

I am keen to hear parents' and carers' views about how we can work together to continue to improve the children's experience of learning at Simonside. I will be holding informal meetings throughout the year to chat about your views e.g. what's working well and what could be improved or developed. If you would be interested in joining a meeting please get in touch with me.

Roles and Responsibilities

As a Gold Rights Respecting school we aim to focus very much on Article 12: *You have the right to give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously* (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child).

Next week children will be invited to put themselves forward for different roles in school. We have vacancies for:

- Rights Respecting Ambassadors

These children will work closely with Ms Brennan as champions of children's rights. They do a very important job of holding the duty bearers (the adults) to account. We will be launching a campaign shortly in relation to keeping children safe that we would really value the children's help with.

- School Councillors

Elected school councillors meet with Mr Goldie and senior leaders regularly to voice their ideas and opinions about many aspects of school life. Councillors represent their respective classes in sharing their views at meetings. They are also expected to report back and communicate important messages to their class about what is decided.

- Playground Leaders



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



PROUD TO BE A
MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL



Playground leaders have a special role to play at breaktimes. They make sure that all children have someone to play with, feel safe and have fun. They wear a high-vis vest so they are easily identifiable on the yards. These children need to be highly responsible so that children of all ages can trust them to help when needed. They can also share their views with staff about how to develop OPAL further.

- Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister

As our Prime Minister from last year has moved on to secondary school, we have a vacancy for Prime Minister. This year we would also like the children to elect a Deputy. These children will be expected to represent the school at special events, show visitors around the school and be able to talk about the teaching and learning that takes place.

If your child is interested in any of these positions, please encourage them to put themselves forward!

In assemblies we have spoken about **all** children having the opportunity to lead. They can all be leaders in their own way. We encourage them to lead by example, being the best they can be at all times and following the school charter:

Listen and Learn
Show Respect
Be kind

Recruiting Dinner Supervisors

We currently have two vacancies for dinner supervisors. If you are interested and would like to know more, please contact Mrs Hills or Mrs McDonald in the office. Information is on the following link:

[Lunchtime Supervisor - Newcastle City Council - North East Jobs](#)

Safety on Site

Please do not allow children to ride bikes or scooters on schools grounds. A few adults have been seen riding electric scooters on the paths. Electric scooters are for the road only. If you have to bring them on to site please ensure they are switched off and are walked in and out.

Please do not use the vehicle entrance if you are arriving or departing on foot – use the pedestrian entrance. We are just trying to keep everyone safe.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding your children is of utmost importance. Our updated Safeguarding policy is on the school website for you to read. The children have been introduced in assembly to the child-friendly safeguarding policy, which is in every classroom and referred to in lessons. We have spoken to the children about identifying their trusted adults in school who they can talk to if they are worried about anything. Please ask them about this.

Class Dojo

There has been such an understanding and positive response from parents regarding the change in messaging on Class Dojo. Thank you for your support with this. Remember that your child's class teacher will still be posting important information on the class stories about teaching and learning. It's always lovely when you like the posts!



Yours sincerely,

E. Hills

Mrs Hills
Head Teacher