

# Simonside Primary School

Bedeburn Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 4LG

T: 0191 286 0776

e: [admin@simonside.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:admin@simonside.newcastle.sch.uk)

w: [www.simonside.newcastle.sch.uk](http://www.simonside.newcastle.sch.uk)

**Headteacher: Mrs Hills**



Thursday 18th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

School is a lovely place to be in the run-up to Christmas. The excitement grows with every day that passes!

## Thank you

A massive 'thank you' to all the parents, carers and friends who supported our Christmas performances last week. It was wonderful to see the progression through school and for the children to perform with such confidence and enjoyment. The children worked incredibly hard to learn the songs, actions, lines, and stage directions—and their dedication shone through in every performance. We are equally grateful to our staff, whose tireless efforts behind the scenes made these productions possible.



A big 'thank you' too to our school governors for all their hard work this term. They do an amazing job in holding leaders and staff to account, ensuring that the school is running at its very best. This work is voluntary and we really appreciate the time and expertise that they share for the benefit of all stakeholders.

I would also like to thank our PTFA for all their work this term, especially with organising the Christmas Fair and the Christmas grotto. They've given up a huge amount of time and we couldn't have held these events without them – thank you!

## Ms Brennan writes...



On 11th December, we had the privilege of taking our Year 6 pupils to the Action Foundation Winter Celebration. Action Foundation is a North East-based charity that supports refugees and people seeking asylum, helping them to learn English, access education and build confidence as they settle into their new communities. It is a particularly special place to me, as I volunteer there helping to run the Young Lives service.

Our pupils represented themselves and our wonderful school brilliantly. Watching them perform our school song Unstoppable on a large stage with confidence — despite some understandable nerves when they saw the



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



PROUD TO BE A  
**MUSIC MARK  
SCHOOL**



ONE (Owl North East) Trust is an exempt charity and company limited by guarantee registered in England with company number **14895735**.

The company's registered office is Throckley Primary School, Hexham Road, Throckley, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 9DY

size of the audience — was incredibly moving. I was beaming with pride as they spoke so eloquently about what it means to be a Rights Respecting School and a School of Sanctuary, reminding everyone of Article 22, which says: “Children who have had to leave their home to stay safe have the right to help, protection and care, just like all other children.”

As a school, we were also proud to contribute in a practical and meaningful way. We donated a large number of soft toys for children in families supported by Action Foundation, with our Year 6 pupils personalising each one with gift labels. Our Year 5 pupils also created positive affirmation cards, sharing messages of welcome and hope, which will be included in Christmas hampers being delivered by the charity.

Alongside performing, pupils enjoyed taking part in crafts and games — and the buffet was also a big hit! We were inspired by hearing from Ale (aged 17) from El Salvador and Abbas (aged 12) from Iraq, who shared how their lives have been shaped by the support they have received from Action Foundation. We were also delighted to meet CEO Duncan McAuley, who thanked our pupils and the school community for their generosity, confidence and compassion.

It was a truly special experience and one that perfectly reflected our school values.

### **Mrs Betts writes...**



On Friday 12th December, our UKS2 Choir visited three local care homes- Briardene, Sovereign Lodge and Trevelyan Court- to sing Christmas carols, and I could not be prouder of them. They sounded absolutely amazing, truly thinking like musicians, and performed with confidence, enthusiasm, and heart. Every child was an excellent role model and a wonderful example of Simonside's values, shining like true superstars. Their performance completely blew me away, and the residents and staff were incredibly grateful for such a joyful and uplifting visit. Well done to our fabulous UKS2 Christmas Choir - you should all be so proud of yourselves!

### **Mrs Mason writes....**

On Friday 12th December, ten children from Years 5 and 6 took part in a dodgeball competition against other schools from our trust at Throckley Primary School. Six schools competed in total, and our team played an impressive 15 games, reaching the semi-finals and finishing 3rd overall. Mr Young accompanied the group and was extremely impressed by the children's teamwork, positive behaviour and determination throughout the event. All staff are incredibly proud of how well the children represented the school and the fantastic effort they showed.

### **Dates**

Just a reminder that our last day of term is **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December**. We will be having our big end of term assembly for all classes on this day. We return to school on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January** (Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January is a training day).

As my first term as Headteacher draws to a close, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the children, parents, carers, staff, and governors for their unwavering support. It has been an incredibly busy term, full of surprises, and I've quickly learned to expect the unexpected! Yet I can truly say there is nowhere else I would rather be—Simonside and everyone within it are very special to me.

Wishing you all a joyful, restful holiday. I look forward to seeing you in the New Year as we continue our journey together, striving for excellence in everything we do.

Mrs Hills  
Headteacher



*Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year*

from all at ONE (Owl North East) Trust

Dear ONE Trust Community,

As we approach the festive season, we want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude to each of you. Your dedication, support, and commitment have made this year truly special for our schools across the Trust.

To our incredible staff – thank you for your hard work, creativity, and care that inspire our pupils every day. To our trustees and local governors – your guidance and leadership continue to strengthen our vision and values. To our parents – your partnership and encouragement make all the difference in helping every child thrive. And to our wonderful children – thank you for your enthusiasm, curiosity, and joy that make our schools such vibrant places to learn.

Together, we have achieved so much, and we look forward to building on this success in the year ahead.

Wishing you and your families a joyful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Julie Stuart'.

Julie Stuart  
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Helen Richardson'.

Helen Richardson  
Chair of Trustees