



Sedgefield Primary School

Learning Together for Life



Issue 91 February 2024

It's incredible to think that we are almost half way through this academic year! We have lots to look forward to in the remainder of this term.

DATES

February

6th Y1 Class Assembly (9.05am)

6th Safer Internet Day

8th Reception Trip to Locomotion

16th Break up for half term

26th Return after Half Term

26th Parents' Evening

28th Parents' Evening

March

4th Early Years & Y1 Mothers' Day Lunch

5th Y2 Class Assembly (9.05am)

5th Y2 & Y3 Mothers' Day Lunch

7th World Book Day

7th Y4/5/6 Mothers' Day Lunch

12th Y5 trip to Captain Cook Museum

14th Y1 trip to Preston Park

15th Comic Relief Red Nose Day

21st Y5 and Y6 Brass Concert at Sedgefield Community College

21st PTFA Disco

27th 2.00pm KS2 Easter Service (to be confirmed)

27th Break up for Easter Holidays

April

15th Children Return

19th Short Reports sent out



On a very icy, January morning, Reception were excited to go on a coach to 'Move with Max'. It was an under the sea theme and they enjoyed taking part in a variety of physical activities.



All of the children enjoyed the Escape Room Challenge organised by Go Well. Children from Year 3, 4 and 5 can be seen in the photos. They showed great team work and resilience in solving a variety of group work challenges.

Website and X (Twitter)

Please don't forget to keep checking our website: <http://www.sedgefield-pri.durham.sch.uk>. We try to keep it updated so you have all of the information you need. You can also access our X (Twitter) from there, so you can keep up to date with things as they're happening, however, it now will only work if you are a Twitter user.

Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 6th February is Safer Internet Day and our children will be discussing all aspects of keeping safe online. Why not ask your child what he/she has learnt? Whilst we all try to keep our children safe online, things change so quickly and there always seems to be a new hazard out there. You might find some of these sites for parents useful in keeping your own knowledge up to date: <http://www.net-aware.org.uk> <https://www.internetmatters.org/> <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>. We are advised that online 'chatting' whilst gaming and inappropriate content on social media sites (which should only be accessed by over 13s anyway) cause the majority of issues, but things change constantly. It is important to keep checking in with your children.



Year 6 have been learning about light. They were asked to demonstrate how light reflects off an object and into our eyes for us to be able to see it.



Year 5 and Year 6 visited our local fire station. Y6 even experienced what happens when they are called out!

Pupils in Years 3, 4 and 5 have been learning about First Aid and what to do in an emergency situation. They talked about the importance of being able to give the correct details and location to a call handler. They also had the opportunity to do CPR on a dummy and find out about defibrillators. We are fortunate to have one outside school and one inside school.



Attendance and Punctuality

As you will be aware, Headteachers can only authorise term time absence in **exceptional circumstances**. The Local Authority must ensure that all schools evaluate parents/carers request for absence in the same way. They are keen to point out that the definition is that the absence is '**rare, significant and unavoidable**', therefore a yearly family holiday, even if holidays are dictated by an employer's rota, does not meet this definition. More than seven days unauthorised absence within a 12-week period may lead to the Local Authority taking action.

A number of children currently have an attendance below 90%, which is classed as being persistently absent. We will be sending out attendance reports for all of those children before half term (even if we are aware of the reasons for absence) and would ask parents/carers to work with us to improve their child's attendance. Some children can find it difficult to catch up after being absent and supporting children when they return takes up valuable teacher/TA time. It can also impact on their friendships, as they have missed what others have been playing together in their absence.

We also ask parents/carers to consider the impact of persistent lateness on their child. Coming in after the bell on a regular basis can lead some children to be reluctant to come to school and start a pattern of non-attendance. Therefore, we request that all parents/carers make every effort to ensure their child arrives on time.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

January's attendance winners were Year 3, with an attendance of 97.4%. 20 children in Year 3 were in school every day in January. They will be enjoying a bit of extra playtime as a reward.

Governor Vacancy

We still have a vacancy for a Community Governor. Community Governors can be anyone from the Sedgefield Community, so could be a relative, neighbour or friend. If someone you know would like to know more about what being a Governor involves, please get in touch with Mrs Cox. We know that we have many relatives/community members who have lots to offer and hope that they will consider this as an opportunity to really get involved in the decisions that are made about our school. The deadline for expressing an interest in the Community Governor vacancy is Thursday 29th February.