



# Sedgefield Primary School

Learning Together for Life

Issue 79 February 2023



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

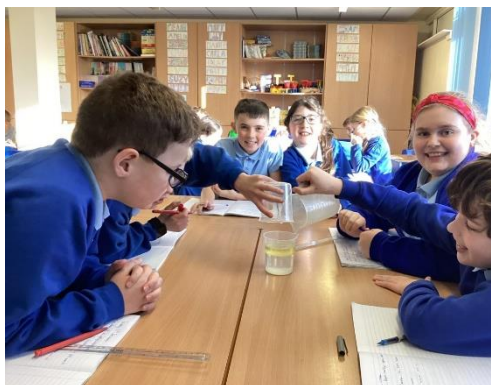
- 1<sup>st</sup> Reception trip to Locomotion
- 2<sup>nd</sup> PTFA Meeting (6.00pm)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Safer Internet Day
- 14<sup>th</sup> Y2 Class Assembly
- 17<sup>th</sup> Break up for half term
- 27<sup>th</sup> Return after Half Term
- 27<sup>th</sup> Parents' Evening
- 28<sup>th</sup> Year 3 Tunnel of Light Trip

### March

- 1<sup>st</sup> Parents' Evening
- 2<sup>nd</sup> World Book Day
- 7<sup>th</sup> Y5 trip to Captain Cook Museum
- 9<sup>th</sup> PTFA Disco
- 13<sup>th</sup> Early Years Mothers' Day Lunch
- 14<sup>th</sup> Y3 Mothers' Day Assembly
- 14<sup>th</sup> KS1 Mothers Day Lunch
- 15<sup>th</sup> Theatre Production – Wind in the Willows
- 16<sup>th</sup> KS2 Mothers Day Lunch
- 17<sup>th</sup> Comic Relief Red Nose Day
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Y1 trip to Bowes Museum
- 29<sup>th</sup> Author visit
- 29<sup>th</sup> Y4 trip to Ushaw Historic House
- 31<sup>st</sup> 2.00pm KS2 Easter Service
- 31<sup>st</sup> Break up for Easter holiday

### April

- 17<sup>th</sup> Return after Easter holiday
- 21<sup>st</sup> Spring reports sent out



Exploring materials properties and their changes has been this half terms' investigation in Year 5 Science. Pupils have enjoyed working alongside a Durham University Chemistry student to carry out their mini experiments in collaborative groups.



Nursery have been finding out about Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated. They retold the story 'The Great Race', watched dragon dances and made stir fry. It was delicious.



Year 6 have had a brilliant time in their outdoor activity sessions. They had great fun dressing up in camouflage clothing to hide from the teachers. Mrs Thompson commented that It was amazing how quiet they could be!

## Website and 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 Twitter from there, so you can keep up to date with things as they're happening.





This is Year 3 enjoying one of their outdoor activity sessions. As you can see, they were also in their camouflage gear ready to hide. Mrs Dodd said they were impossible to find!



Year 2's PE Core Task this half term is cat Dance. They have been experimenting how to move like a cat before they create their own routine.



Year 1 have really enjoyed experimenting with watercolour! They have been inspired by watercolour artists Emma Burleigh and Paul Klee.



In Year 4, they have been setting up a science experiment to explore which drink causes the most tooth decay. They tested water, milk, Coke and orange juice.

### Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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.

### 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 Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February.