



Loving Summer!

Welcome back! We all hope you had a refreshing Easter break. This is always a fantastic, yet very busy time of year! SATs are just around the corner and there is lots of trips, residentials, sport, music and drama to enjoy

A Broad and Balanced Curriculum

The latest Ofsted guidance puts having a broad and balanced curriculum at the core of school life. This is a step away from data driven agendas focussing on assessment and standards in Maths and English. At South Hetton, we welcome this with open arms and see it as an excellent opportunity to review our whole curriculum to give every child a balanced and varied experience through their time in school.

As well as looking at the design of our curriculum and the way in which it will be taught, we have been trying out some 'Linking Learning Projects' last term. These projects aim to give the children an opportunity to learn more independently about something linked to their topic and using the skills they have developed that term. We gave it a try last term and the children really enjoyed it. Activities varied including making African mud huts in Y2 to holding a Brazilian Carnival in Y5. Watch this space for this term's projects.

TRIPS

As the weather improves, we have more trips and more opportunities for outside learning. Last half term, Year 2 visited the Botanical Gardens as part of their rainforest topic. Year 5 were also studying rainforests and they welcomed in visitors to deliver a survival day in school. They made shelters, filtered water, started fires and ate bush tucker. Year 1 had their spring trip to Broom House Farm. They were looking once again at the changing seasons. Year 6 visited the safety carousel to learn about staying safe in a variety of contexts. Finally, Year 3 visited Robinwood for 3 days of adventurous activities. They had an amazing time dodging piranhas, swinging in the trees and climbing up walls! We have so many fabulous trips to look forward to this term!

Year 5 Drama

Once again, our Year 5 children put on a fantastic show at the Academy at Shotton Hall a few weeks ago. Having worked with actor in residence Kelly Ogden since before Christmas, they developed a fabulous piece of historical drama. They covered the gunpowder plot, Captain Cook, the Victorians and both World Wars. The children were superb and yet again really stood out from the other schools. We have more budding thespians on our hands. It is always a great chance to perform on a proper stage, with lights and sounds. The experience does wonders for the confidence of the whole class. Watch out for a DVD coming soon!

After Hours on the School Yard

Now the light nights are here the school grounds are open later. Please chat to your children about respecting them and also respecting each other. In addition to this some of our own children have been not respecting the grounds as we have asked them to. It would be a shame for the village to lose such a good facility.

The same goes for when they are out and about around the village. It is important to respect other people and their property

Goodbye and Good Luck

School would like to announce that Mrs Watson has successfully gained a promotion as Deputy Head Teacher at Dene House Primary School and will be leaving us at the end of term. Mrs Watson has worked here at South Hetton since 2003 and she is a fantastic teacher and a loyal and dedicated leader who will be sadly missed by staff, parents and pupils. We thank her for all her work, commitment and devotion to her role as English leader and classroom teacher as well as her kindness, compassion and her smiles. We will be keeping in touch with her regularly as Dene House Primary is in our Academy Trust and I am sure you will join the staff in wishing her every success in her new role.

Friends of South Hetton Primary:

The Easter coffee afternoon and children's tombola raised a fantastic total of £441.50. The valentines Discos raised £128.43. Thank you to everyone who helped and contributed to these events. Details of the summer fayre should be released very soon.

Money raised has been used to purchase new science equipment and hopefully renovate the rainbow room. Anyone willing to get involved can you please contact Mrs Ryall or come along to one of the meetings.

Safeguarding

Keeping our children safe is of the highest importance. If you have any issues or concerns please approach one of our safeguarding leads. These are Mrs Griffiths, Mr Ruddick or Mrs Thompson. Alternatively, speak to any member of staff who are fully trained and will pass on any concerns using the appropriate procedure.

Attendance

Please see the attendance by class for last term. As a school, we are still trying to improve both attendance and punctuality. We will continue our 'In the line by 10 to 9' initiative on a regular basis.



Class Organisation

The organisation of classes for next year will be finalised after half term. We are in the processes of securing an experienced Y6 teacher from Acre Rigg Academy to join our team from September.

Comic Relief

For Comic Relief this year we raised a grand total of £384.85. Thank you to everyone for their support to ensure we raised a good amount for the charity.

E-Safety

Unfortunately, despite assemblies and workshops, we are still having a number of issues with the children using social media and other games or apps with online chat. Please be aware of what your child is doing online and talk to them about using them responsibly. There are new apps and games becoming popular all the time.

If you would like some more information about keeping children safe on apps like Tick Tock, Instagram and You tube, then please look at

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/resources/platform-guides/>

Meet the Governors



Sheryl Elliott

I have two children currently at South Hetton Primary. I am very committed to improving the school not only for my own children, but for all children and for our village as a whole. I love my involvement in the school community and have a special interest in key Stage 1 and the behaviour and welfare of the children. I live in South Hetton, but work in Teeside as an NHS Psychologist, my link with school helps me stay involved in village life.

Joanne Burn



I am a parent governor with a daughter in school. I am very passionate about our school and strive to help make us the best we can be. The foundation subjects and science are my focus subjects and I am very keen to get parents involved in school life. I have lived in South Hetton most of my life and I also work in the village at our family business.



Football

The football team ended their season with heartbreak after a penalty shoot out defeat in the Adamson Cup. A decent second half of the season gave us a 12th place finish in the league. Goal scoring has been added to the team from new boy McKenzie Moore. However, in the cup, their finishing deserted them and the game finished nil-nil despite dominating the game. The game went straight to penalties and heartbreakingly we missed all three with the opposition only scoring their third and final kick. The team have been a credit to the school in their attitudes and behaviour.

The Year 1/2 team and Year 3/4 team both enjoyed their SSP competitions held at Soccerena. They both won the odd game but were not successful in progressing out of the groups. The year 3/4 boys also played in the County Cup competition but struggled on the night to get goals. They did improve as the games progressed and there is some hope for next season.

The girls team start their league campaign soon. However, recently they were in County Cup action with high hopes of progressing to the semi finals after finishing runners up in the SSP competition before Christmas. Needing only a draw, a couple of silly errors in their decisive game found them 3-0 down at half time. They did score two goals in the second half but couldn't get the draw they needed to go through to the next round. We hope for better luck in the league!

Dance

The annual dance festival was once again a superb event. We took a large group made up of children from Year 6 and Year 4. They performed a routine inspired by Mary Poppins which included the songs Chim Chimney, Step in Time, Sister Suffragette and of course the brilliant Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious.

Jenny May Foot also performed a solo routine to 'Show Off' from the Drowsy Chaperone. The SSP staff were blown away with both performances and both have been invited back to perform in the show case in just a few weeks time. Well done to all the boys and girls for their hard work and to Mrs Woolsey for putting it all together.

Cross Country

We finished the cross country season with a rearranged Saturday morning race at Langley Park. We had enough runners for a full girls team although we only had one boy runner. Once again, well done to all those runners giving up their Saturday mornings to represent school.

Basketball

Our basketball team put in a solid performance in their event. The team had a number of weeks coaching from Mr Adey from Easington SPP and took their skills into the competition with relish. More accurate shooting may have delivered even more success.

Hoopstars

Year 2 enjoyed their trip to the Hoopstars festival. We have some fab Hula hoopers and I think Miss Hilton enjoyed it too!

Destination Judo

Destination Judo came into school over two days recently delivering Judo taster sessions. Each class from reception to Y6 got the chance to wear a real judo jacket and have a grapple on the mats as the hall was turned in a dojo for the morning. The children all received a voucher for a free taster at one of Destination Judo's clubs. For more information see Mr Ruddick.

Active 30

We continue to encourage the children to be as active as possible before, during and after school.

We encourage children to walk, bike or scoot to school. We want our lunchtimes to be as fun and active as possible. We also have sports leaders to organise activities.

Our after school clubs have been free to all children and we regularly consult with the pupil parliament about these activities.

For more information about sports clubs in and around our community please contact Mr Ruddick. We are developing links with a whole range of local clubs.

Easter Fun.

The children had great fun at the end of term. There were some great decorated eggs and Easter bonnets. Egg-rolling was as fun as always and the children covered every part of school cracking clues for the Easter egg hunt. Some children also decorated Thornton's eggs.

Easter Performance

Well done to Year 4 on their eggcellent Easter service. The singing was great and it was very interesting to learn about springtime celebrations from other religions. Well done to Miss Halliday and Mrs Hartwell for organising.

Dropping Off and Picking Up!

Please take care at the beginning and end of the school day. Please think carefully when parking and dropping off children. We have had a number of incidents which could easily have had a tragic end since Christmas. Please also take care not to block driveways or obstruct the pavement so that buggies are able to get past without moving on to the road. **The school car park is for use by staff and official visitors only.**

We encourage biking or scooting to school as it is a great way to keep active. However, once the yard is busy please make sure bikes and scooters are placed in the rack provided. School accepts no responsibility for these items before and after school.

On the school yard, please be reminded that e-cigarettes should not be used and please do not smoke at the gates into the yard where children are walking through. Also please be aware that dogs are not allowed on the school yard.

We thank you for your cooperation in these matters.

School Uniform and PE Kit

Can we take this opportunity to remind parents about school uniform. Leggings are not part of school uniform and should not be worn. Shoes or trainers should also be black in colour. Shoes or boots with a heel are not appropriate for school.

PE kit should be in school at all times. We would prefer children to wear a t-shirt in their house colours (these can be purchased cheaply at ASDA). Football shirts are not part of PE kit. Appropriate footwear should be provided as well as warm kit for outdoor sessions. Long hair should be tied back and earrings must be removed unless recently pierced. In this case, plasters must be provided until the ears have healed. If children are unable to remove their own earrings, then please remove them before school.

Caring for the Environment

Thank you for all the bottle tops brought in for Millie in Year 5. they have now been sent away to be recycled and made into something else! Year 5 have also been cutting down on single use plastics. They all made a pledge to use refillable bottles in school. Sunderland AFC donated some free water bottles to help them in their pledge. We also filled our battery bin in the great battery hunt! We are definitely a green school!

Pop Ins.

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended our latest pop ins. 70% of parents booked an appointment and 89% of those parents who booked a slot with their child's teacher attended.

Values

We have been working very hard using our school values. The value for May is determination (Perseverance). The value for April was Britain (Independence)

School Website!

Our website is updated weekly with letters and other important school information. Find us at:
www.southhetton.durham.sch.uk

What Do You Think?

In each Newsletter we ask for parents' views about our school. Do you have any suggestions? Is there anything we could do better? What are we doing well? Any general comments? Just pop your comment into the box below, cut across the line and send it into the school. (Only include your name if you would like to!)