



Christmas is here!

It really is the most magical time of year to work in a school, amongst children who are so full of excitement and anticipation for the 'big day' ahead!

It has been a real pleasure to see pupils taking part in all of their wonderful enrichment activities and singing and dancing with their friends.

As the term comes to an end, I would once again like to thank all of the children, staff, parents, carers, families and governors of South Gosforth First School. It has been a real pleasure to work alongside all of you so far and I am truly excited for the next part of the journey to begin after the holidays.

Wishing all of the SGFS family a warm, restful and happy Christmas and a brilliant new year!

Best festive wishes

Mr Adams

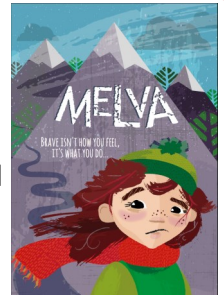


Christmas Performances

Little did I know before starting as Head Teacher here at South Gosforth First School that the school was so full of such amazing performers!

The EYFS performance of 'Twinkle, Twinkle Christmas Star', KS1 performance of 'Everyone Loves a Baby' and KS2 performance of 'The Christmas Code' truly did 'blow my socks off!' The children delivered their lines clearly and beautifully and they really did sing their hearts out. It really does show what wonderful, confident, vibrant children we have here in school and it made me really proud to be Head Teacher here. A huge well done to all who were involved!

'Melva' - Gosforth Civic Theatre



I have a real passion for the Arts and I am thrilled to announce that we have managed to secure places for our KS2 children to attend a theatre production of a show entitled 'Melva' at the Gosforth Civic Theatre at the beginning of March. 'Melva' is a project for 7-11 year olds which uses a theatre production about anxiety and worries to improve children's understanding and personal practices for good mental and emotional health.

I am so excited for our pupils to see the show and I think that the ideas which are explored within it will really help our children to learn positive strategies to manage their feelings and emotions. We really can't wait!

Pupil Coaching & Mentoring Days

On Wednesday 29th of January, we are going to have a 'Pupil Coaching and Mentoring' Day! Research suggests that the best way to enable children to succeed in their learning is to give them the opportunity to talk one to one with their class teacher and have a supportive conversation about their strengths and how they can make improvements. This will take place for pupils from Y2 to Y4 and I am sure that it will be a positive experience for all involved.

School Choir & Singing Provision

I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Hook who has lead the choir and singing practice in school so brilliantly over the last few years. After Christmas, myself, assisted by Mr Crown, will be leading on whole school singing provision and the school choir. This will take place on the same day as it has done previously. Ear plugs at the ready everyone!





'Talk For Writing'

In Spring term, we are going to be introducing a teaching approach called 'Talk for Writing' across school. This is a very structured and systematic method of teaching children to 'internalise' writing structures and then use these models to innovate and create their own pieces. We think that this approach will really help a lot of our children with their writing confidence and are looking forward to seeing the positive results that we hope this teaching method will bring!

Handwriting Focus

Alongside 'Talk for Writing' we are also going to be having a real focus on handwriting across school. Any extra support or practice that families could be doing at home with this alongside their children would be extremely helpful.



Changes to Reading Provision

Before we break up for the Christmas break, all children will be bringing a letter home linked to some changes that we are going to be making to the teaching of reading across school. This has largely come about because of new guidelines from Ofsted and we have worked very closely with Newcastle Head of School Effectiveness, alongside other consultants to ensure that our new provision is fit for purpose for our children. This new system for school and home reading will be in place after Christmas and it will look different to what is in place currently. Please rest assured that this has been very carefully thought about and planned by the staff and we believe that this new system will enable our pupils to make rapid progress in reading.

A big thank you to those who have donated books to our class libraries! For anyone who still hasn't, any donations would be grate-



Key Dates for Spring Term 1

Please see below a list of key dates for next half term. **Please note that there is a teacher training day on Monday 6th January, so pupils will return to school on Tuesday 7th.** I noticed that this had been crossed out on the key dates document on our website. This is an error! The training day will still be going ahead.

January		
Mon 6 th	Training Day	
Wednesday 8 th	Pantomime (M&M Productions – in school)	Whole school
Thursday 9 th	Prospective Parents Tour	9.10 am
Tuesday 14 th	'Book Look' for parents and children	8.30am - 9.15am
Wednesday 15 th	Year 4 Class Assembly	9.10am
	'Book Look' for parents and children	3.30pm - 4.15pm
Thursday 23 rd	Bike – it – Breakfast	8.15 – 8.55 am
Friday 24 th	Y3C Class Assembly	9.10am
Wednesday 29 th	Phonics Meeting for Y1 parents	6.00pm
	Pupil Coaching & Mentoring Day	All Day
Thursday 30 th	Phonics meeting for Y1 parents	9.05am
February		
Wednesday 5 th	Y3 Coffee Morning for parents and children	9.05am
Friday 7 th	Y3I Class Assembly	9.10 am
Wednesday 12 th	Y4 Coffee Morning for parents and children	9.05 am
HALF TERM – Wk. beginning 17.02.20		