

GIBSIDE NEWSLETTER

21ST FEBRUARY 2025



Hello parents and carers,
Welcome to the first edition of the Gibside School newsletter for 2025!
We've had a busy half term. The children have enjoyed lots of fun activities and visits as part of their learning. I hope you enjoy looking at all the photographs.

There are a couple of things coming up next half term that I would like to remind you about. Firstly, our amazing Friends of Gibside School (FOGS) fundraising team will be hosting a coffee morning on Wednesday 5th March between 9.30 and 11.30. Please come along if you can. They'd love to talk to you about what they do and listen to your ideas too. FOGS contribute so much to school life, often funding special events for children such as the upcoming World Book Day events. Obviously, there will be some delicious cakes to make it worth your while too!

Secondly, we will be celebrating the wonder of books throughout the first week back next half term. Our special dressing up day is on Friday 7th March. Children (and staff) are encouraged to dress up as their favourite book character. This year's theme is the amazing work of Roald Dahl. Follow us on Facebook to see how much fun the children are having.

I hope you all have a lovely half term break.

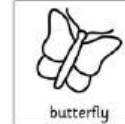
Best wishes,
Angela Whistler
Headteacher



Our classes Early Years



bumblebee



butterfly

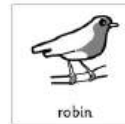


caterpillar



ladybird

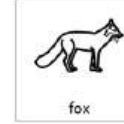
Orange Corridor



robin



koala



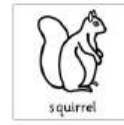
fox



badger



frog



squirrel



dragonfly

Green Corridor

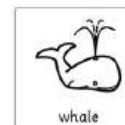


hedgehog



crocodile

Blue Corridor



whale



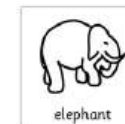
tiger



eagle



rhino



elephant



panda



giraffe

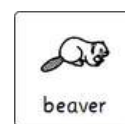


kangaroo

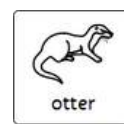


gorilla

South Street



beaver



otter

This half term at Gibside School

Dragonfly class have thoroughly enjoyed their music and PE sessions this half term. Songs with lycra continue to be a firm favourite. However, the children have also enjoyed playing the drums too! We have been watching the vibrations by the putting some rice crispies on top of the drum; we have been following start and stop instructions, and we have also been copying rhythms. In PE we have completed a range of dance movements in celebration of Chinese New Year, some animal movements linked to rainforests and jungles, and also some core skill circuits. The children have been progressing well with their balancing skills and have enjoyed practising their throwing and catching skills using velcro balls and paddles.

Butterfly class, Ahoy!
This term we have thoroughly enjoyed our topic of 'Pirates'. We have made pirate ships, dug for treasure, had fun with pirate ships in our messy and water play sessions and have loved singing 'Over the deep blue sea' in our story sessions. This week we have been getting in the mood for Valentine's Day and have had lots of fun making heart shaped biscuits, creating cards and mixing love potions. Well done, Butterflies!

This half term Bumblebee class have been exploring pirates. The children have enjoyed their weekly trip on the magic carpet to visit a pirate ship. For children's mental health week, the children looked at feelings and made their own mood monsters. For Valentine's Day the children made their loved one's cards using paint and printing skills, and a hand bouquet.

Elephant class loved our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) sessions at Newcastle United Foundation. Craig, our STEM teacher, taught us how to programme different devices. We particularly enjoyed building LEGO fairground rides and programming them to perform the desired action.

Caterpillar class have had lots of fun this half term with our Pirate topic. We have made pirate hats in art, developed fine motor skills playing pop up pirate and dug for treasure in our maths sensory tuff trays! The children have especially enjoyed our PE sessions in the sports hall, developing gross motor skills, balancing, climbing and taking turns. Well done, Caterpillars!

Badger class have been enjoying our topic of Superheroes this half term. We have done lots of different activities including sensory story, magic carpet, fine motor activities and art. We have also been accessing music therapy sessions which we have loved, as well as continuing to use the hydrotherapy pool each week.

This term, Giraffe class have learned through their superheroes topic. In PE they jumped like Superman, climbed like Batman and threw like Hulk. They explored properties of materials in sensory science, asking is there anything as stretchy as Stretch Armstrong, or anything as magnetic as Magneto. They designed superhero costumes in DT and they enjoyed stories such as Superworm and Supertato in English. They held a community assembly and were able to share all the super things they did and celebrate our real life superheroes:

Crocodile class have really enjoyed our superhero theme this half term. We have chased superheroes from our book during our sensory story 'There's a superhero in your book.' And we all explored the different props the superhero used to help save our friends. We have used our fine motor skills to free superheroes from rope, and our gross motor skills for our movement sessions. We have enjoyed making and tasting different superhero themed foods; our 'Hulk' soup was a firm favourite!

This term Eagle 1 class have been learning about Africa. We have looked at the top 5 hardest animals to hunt, such as the lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo and a rhinoceros. We visited the Hancock Museum to see if we could find the Big 5. In music we have been learning about music from different areas of Africa, our favourite came from southern African countries. We learnt how to do some traditional dance steps, and in groups we created our own dance. Eagle class most enjoyed making sunset safari pictures with water colours.

This half term at Gibside School

This half term in Panda class we have been reading Superworm. We have thoroughly enjoyed this story. In cognition and learning we have been learning full, empty, half full and millilitres. We have enjoyed exploring water and pouring it into containers to make them full and empty. In fine motor we have been practising our threading skills and some of us have learnt how to thread a needle, as we are beginning to sew on a cross stitch square! We can't wait for next half term.



In Koala class the children are learning all about colours. They love looking through coloured cellophane and they are starting to identify and match red, blue, and yellow.



Eagle 2 class have had lots of fun this half term. We have really enjoyed our topic, learning all about the Arctic. We enjoyed making a fact file of our favourite arctic animal in English and recreating our own pieces of Inuit art. We've been going on a magic carpet ride to experience life in the Arctic. We had a brilliant time learning about the Lunar New Year. We loved making our own dragon dances and trying some Chinese food!



What a fab half term we've had in Frog class. Superheroes has been one of our favourite topics yet and the children have loved the work we've been doing around this super fun theme.

Our community visits have continued to be a great success and the children have done brilliantly learning where to find their favourite items when shopping, and on how to behave in these busy public spaces. We're hoping the weather will let us get some good play and leisure sessions at Herrington park next half term!



This term, Hedgehog class have been learning about transport and different ways to get about. We studied a sensory story about a very special journey, waited for the train in an Oily Cart session, practised being vehicles in soft play, and much more. The children thoroughly enjoyed it.



Fox class have enjoyed this half term's topic of Superheroes. We have had lots of fun reading and exploring our sensory story Superworm. We worked hard in maths reading our counting story of '10 Little Superheroes', we took away each superhero from tens frames and practised our 1 to 1 correspondence. We also had lots of fun in sensory drama pretending to be superheroes!



Gorilla class have been learning all about Africa this half term and have taken part in exciting community visits to deepen their understanding. The children enjoyed exploring different animals at the Hancock Museum and learning more about African masks at the Hatton Gallery.



Kangaroo class have had a very busy half term learning about the Arctic circle. We have looked at the environment, the animals and the people who live there. We have done some fantastic research during our computing time, googling the Northern Lights, Inuit culture, Arctic animals and countries in the Arctic Circle. In English, we have been reading 'The Tiger who Came to Tea'. We loved planning our own tea party and inviting friends from other classes to join us.



THIS HALF TERM IN PICTURES

It's been another remarkable half term at Gibside! Here are some photographs to show some of the wonderful learning experiences...



This half term at Gibside School

Ladybird class have had a busy spring term. We have been learning all about pirates, exploring different props, building ships and boats out of LEGO and lots of sand play. We have celebrated Chinese New Year exploring different Chinese foods and different small world animals. In PE we have been joining Caterpillar and Butterfly class in the sports hall. We have been practising our balancing, running and climbing as well as some group games with the parachute. We have also celebrated Valentine's Day, making jam tarts and pink potions in water play. Well done, Ladybird class for such a good term!



Whale class have had a wonderful half term. We have worked hard together in our turn taking and problem solving sessions and have continued to enjoy art.



Squirrel class have had a great half term learning about Asia. We have been flying to China on our magic carpet, exploring different textures in sensory science and making lots of different things to eat in sensory cookery.



Tiger class have been really enjoying our visits in the community this half term. We have been to Seaham to visit 'Tommy'. We have scaled the heights at Northumberlandia: braving the cold conditions to make it all the way to the top! We had a wonderful time at Jesmond Dene as well. We look forward to may more in the rest of the spring term!



We have had a fantastic half term in Otter class! A highlight has been our cookery sessions and all of the children have really enjoyed getting involved. They have been making cakes and some delicious Indian sweets. The children have been measuring, mixing and had a lot of fun cracking eggs. They have also been working extremely well on their fine motor skills. They have been taking part in lots of activities such as threading, building and balancing blocks, posting buttons, using tweezers and also practicing their scissor skills. Well done Otters!



Robin class have been doing Valentine's Day inspired work in the week leading up to half term. In our Attention Autism sessions, we made heart sandcastles. We decorated these with glitter and sprinkles and then took turns to splat them which was the fun part! In fine motor we used hearts to thread and also practised our rolling and cutting skills as we cut hearts from the playdough. We made some beautiful heart pictures in art. We always enjoy being creative!



Beaver class have had a fantastic half term, full of adventure and learning. Our topic has been "Come Fly with Me... Asia," we have explored various aspects of Asian culture. We have tasted and made a variety of Asian foods; some of us tried every single food offered! In sensory science we made our own volcanoes and explored colour in a range of experiments. Through sensory drama, we have learned about Asian customs, clothing, art, and festivals. Our attention autism sessions took us "walking through" different Asian countries. We have been lucky to have Mike join us for Music Therapy this half term. The children have loved these sessions, and we hope he can come back again soon!



We have had a busy half term in Rhino class learning about Africa. We have enjoyed cooking lots of different African recipes, making sculptures, learning about African animals, and we learned about African drums in music. In science, we have been learning about the human body; we have learned how the digestive system works, our teeth, and our skeletons. We have enjoyed by learning through a range of written work and practical activities. We made our own digestive systems out of playdoh, practised tooth brushing on giant teeth, and built a life size skeleton!





SAFEGUARDING



Smartie the Penguin

If anything happens online that makes Smartie the Penguin feel worried, upset or confused, he doesn't try to fix things by himself ...

Mummy! Daddy! Please help me ...

Hi!

Always ask an adult for help!

He stops ...

Thinks about what to do ...

And always asks an adult for help!

Childnet International UK Safer Internet Centre

Co-financed by the European Union Connecting Europe Facility

www.childnet.com/smartie

BE SMART ONLINE

S SAFE Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too. Keep them safe to keep yourself safe.

M MEET Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous as this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on www.thinkuknow.co.uk

A ACCEPTING Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) to give away from where they may lead to or they may contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is or what they've sent you.

R RELIABLE You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.

T TELL Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. This could be if you or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents, carers or contact Childline - 0800 11 11 or www.childline.org.uk

BE SMART WITH A HEART Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or upset by anything that happens online.

WWW.CHILDNET.COM



NEXT TERM - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



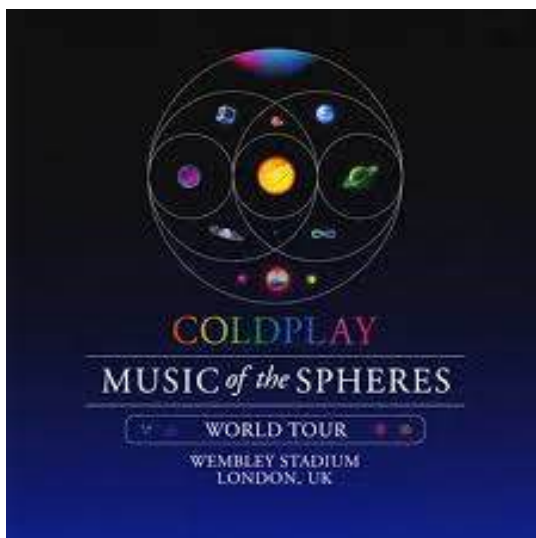
School closes Friday 21st February

School reopens Monday 3rd March

Training day - school closed to pupils Monday 17th March

Parents Evening Wednesday 9th April. 3.30 -6.30

FOGS



We are delighted to announce the winner of the 3 Coldplay tickets is

(I will add the name after the draw)