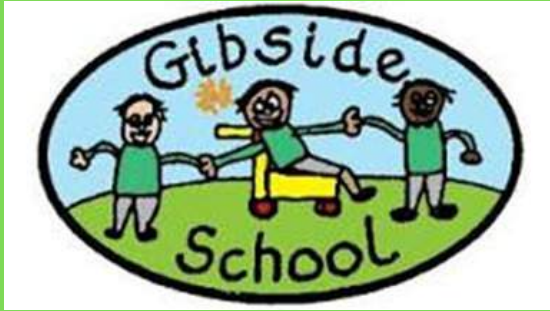


# GIBSIDE NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025



Hello Parents and Carers,

As you can see, we've had another busy half term with the children participating in lots of fun activities. We've celebrated Book Week, Red Nose Day, Black and White Day, and Holi!

Looking ahead, we have a short half term coming up, but as always, the children will still be engaging in themed topics, community visits, and a range of extracurricular activities. On 17th May, we are excited to welcome M&M Productions to school for one of their amazing performances!

I'd also like to remind you all that 27th June will be an occasional day, so school will be closed to both staff and children.

Please continue to follow our school Facebook page, where we regularly upload pictures of the children's activities and events.

As always, thank you for your continued support. I wish you all a lovely Easter break!

Best Wishes,  
Andrea Timmins



## Our classes

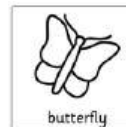
### Early Years



bumblebee



caterpillar

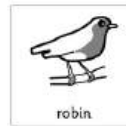


butterfly

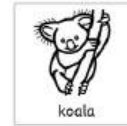


ladybird

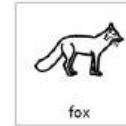
### Orange Corridor



robin



koala



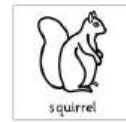
fox



badger



frog



squirrel

### Green Corridor

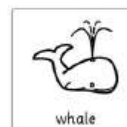


hedgehog

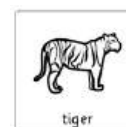


crocodile

### Blue Corridor



whale



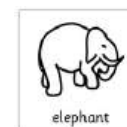
tiger



eagle



rhino



elephant



panda



giraffe



kangaroo



gorilla

### South Street



beaver



otter

# This half term at Gibside School

Crocodile Class has really enjoyed exploring our topic of 'People Who Help Us' this half term. We have had some lovely Makaton sessions, learning the signs for 'police,' 'fire engine,' 'friends,' and 'teacher,' as well as how to sign our friends' names. We have all enjoyed our sensory drama sessions, where we dressed up in different uniforms and outfits of people who help us. The children did a fantastic job of joining in and exploring the different props.



Elephant Class has had a very busy half term. We have been out in the community a lot for our 'Unity in the Community' topic, and when we took a trip on the metro, it was some of the children's first time. At Safety Works, we learned about keeping safe at home, on the roads, and around water.



Caterpillar Class has enjoyed our farm topic this half term. We have explored sensory trays with chocolate gloop and farm animals, decorated pink pig biscuits, and crafted fluffy cotton wool sheep. We have also enjoyed spending time outdoors, learning in the warmer weather and developing our gross motor skills on the bike track and during PE sessions.



Badger Class has been enjoying our topic of 'People Who Help Us' this half term. We have also celebrated a range of different occasions, including Mother's Day and the Holi Festival. The children have loved accessing Rebound Therapy and have made lots of progress during these sessions. We've also enjoyed the nice weather and have been able to get outside throughout the school day for a variety of different experiences.



This term, Bumblebee Class has explored the topic "On the Farm." The children have enjoyed the story of The Little Red Hen during their sensory sessions and helped the red hen plant wheat seeds. They have also grown some cress, taking turns to water it daily. The children have learned to make different animal noises too. June marked the beginning of spring, and during our community visits to Saltwell Park, the children spotted new flowers growing, buds on trees, and birds making nests. We also have some new spring "pets" in our classroom. The children have enjoyed watching the frogspawn turn into tadpoles, and they love to watch them swim around and eat cucumber.



Beaver class have had a very busy half term! Our topic has been Toys & Games which has been a lot of fun. In PSHE we have been working on turn taking, choice making and tidying up. We have also been considering where is best to play with certain toys and games. In Art we have used our toys to print and make pictures, we have also made up our own games using art and craft materials. We have really enjoyed our Makaton sessions and have been focussing on Makaton signs linked to our topic. In our life skills sessions we have been learning about time and are so proud of everyone's progress with this important skill. We have enjoyed our curriculum visits, particularly our visit to Herrington Park. We hope everyone has a lovely Easter and a well deserved rest.



Giraffe Class has been enjoying the lovely weather we've had recently. We have been using the sensory garden, the bike track, and the yard for outdoor learning. We had a paint fight for the Holi Festival and loved going on an Egg Hunt. This term, we have really enjoyed Music Therapy with Simon, Sue, and Mike.



Butterfly Class have had a fantastic half term! We have been busy learning all about the farm, exploring the immersive room, sensory room, and soft play, and spending lots of time outdoors enjoying the sunshine (and snow!). This week, we've been getting into the Easter spirit by going on Easter egg hunts, exploring sensory trays, and decorating eggs. Well done, Butterfly Class - a lovely half term!



Eagle 1 Class enjoyed a very interesting visit to SafetyWorks this half term. We learned a lot about water safety, road safety, and how to be 'danger detectives' around the house. The children especially enjoyed practicing how to throw a life ring and dressing up as the crossing patrol officer.





# ★ 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

This half term, Kangaroo Class has been learning about 'Unity in the Community.' We have explored our local environment, visiting places such as Bill Quay Farm, the Angel of the North, and the area around our school. We have been learning about how plants grow and how we can support our community by picking up litter and helping others. We also took a trip on local transport to the Angel of the North. Everyone loved being on the bus and practiced their independence skills by paying their own fare.



Frog class have had a great half term and have settled into their learning really well this year. Our half term topic of Seasons has been a big hit and the children have particularly enjoyed exploring this in context by visiting our forest school area.

We've explored all kinds of learning in ICT and focused on our cutting and mixing skills in cooking and nutrition.

We're looking forward to our shopping trips next half term most of all and we can't wait to see what else the children achieve!



This half term in Panda Class, we have thoroughly enjoyed our sensory drama sessions, where we role-played different job roles of people who help us. We have also enjoyed following instructions, our sensory story, and PE sessions. Additionally, we took part in lots of Easter activities. We look forward to many sunny outdoor sessions next half term!



This term, Hedgehog Class has been discovering nature and finally getting outdoors. We've combined this with our Sensory Story to explore some of the objects and experiences we might find outside, bringing them back into the classroom.

What a fantastic half term we have had in Otter Class! We have really enjoyed Practical Problems, listening to the story The Three Little Pigs. We then used lots of different construction materials to make our own houses for the little pigs. It was so much fun huffing and puffing, trying to blow the houses down!

We have also started to enjoy the weather and had such a lovely time at Big School, developing our riding skills on the bike track and enjoying the different equipment, such as the swing and the slide. Another favourite lesson for everyone has been movement, where we move in different ways to the music. We have also practiced our passing skills with the bean bags.

Well done, Otters—you have all been brilliant!



Fox Class has enjoyed Spring 2. We have explored our topic of 'People Who Help Us' by reading and exploring our sensory story, You Can't Call an Elephant in an Emergency, and through Sensory Drama sessions. We have explored the concepts of heavy and light, as well as full and empty, during Practical Problem sessions. We have also practiced making patterns in Maths!



The children in Koala Class have been learning all about colours. They have loved looking through the coloured cellophane and are starting to identify and match red, blue and yellow.



In Gorilla Class, we have been learning about how to keep ourselves safe in the community. Earlier this term, we were lucky enough to have firefighters from Swalwell Fire Station visit our school. The children had a fabulous morning learning about their role and even got to try out some of the tools they use—including the hose!





# ★ THIS HALF TERM IN PICTURES ★

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# This half term at Gibside School

Ladybird Class have been very busy this term. We have celebrated and learned about lots of different events, such as World Book Week, Red Nose Day, Holi Festival, and Easter, as well as learning all about the farm. We enjoyed sharing our sensory story The Three Little Pigs, especially using the wind machine to blow the houses down and the different materials off the table.

We have been working hard on transitions, exploring different places in school, such as the library and the sports hall. We have also been really proud of our paintings and have celebrated all of our hard work.

Well done, Ladybird Class, for a fab term!



We have had a really busy half term in Rhino Class. The boys began the term by delivering a fantastic community assembly, where we showed off our pancake-making skills. Flipping the pancake was by far our favourite part!

In Maths, we have been exploring weight and capacity. We've been developing our handwriting and reading skills in English, and learning all about 'Law & Order' in our termly topic, which has taught us about democracy, the importance of rules, and our own human rights. We are looking forward to a restful Easter break!



Whale Class has had a wonderful half term. We have made the most of the sunshine and have taken our learning outside. We've been working well alongside our friends!



Robin Class has been doing lots of outdoor learning this half term. We have enjoyed being creative, painting with chalk and water. We have also been developing our fine motor skills by using spray bottles and writing letters of the alphabet.

In Science, we created volcano explosions, and we have also enjoyed our Holi festival celebrations, where we made coloured flour by mixing water, flour, and food colouring, and then used it for our colour throw. So much learning and so much fun!



This half term in Tiger Class, we have been practicing our fine motor skills and communication. We have been learning how to request more in different areas of the school. We have also been working on fine motor skills in our writing, making Mother's Day cards, and during our switching sessions. Well done, Tiger Class!



Squirrel Class has been enjoying our Sensory Science sessions this half term. We have been discovering how to change the texture and consistency of sensory media by making fun and exciting recipes such as buttercream sand and pourable gloop. Sensory Cooking has been another favourite subject this half term, where we have encouraged pupils to enjoy the process of exploring, getting messy, and creating something independently.

Well done, Squirrels!



We have had a very busy half term in Eagle 2! We have been learning about community and had a visit from the fire service, where we found out about people who help us. We also took a trip to Safety Works and learned how to stay safe in the community. We explored different communities across the world, focusing on the tribes of the Amazon Rainforest. In English, we wrote our own diary entries from the perspective of a child living in the rainforest.

In Science, we have been learning all about plants. We planted our own cress seeds and have been caring for them. On Fridays, we visit the Newcastle United Foundation, where we have been learning how to program devices in ICT.

We have had lots of fun in Eagle 2, and we all know how to be good members of our community!





# 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...







# FOGS



A huge thank you to all FOGS members who helped prepare for and assist at our Easter Fair. The fair was a great success and was attended by many parents, carers, and friends of Gibside.

A special thank you to Warburtons Bakery for their generous donation of all the bread used at the fair.



## IMPORTANT REMINDER

### Parents of pupils going into Year 6 in September 2025

If your child is moving into Year 6 this September, please ensure you visit secondary schools. EHCP meetings will be held in September/October 2025, and you will need to name the school your child will be transitioning to.



## NEXT TERM - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April - School closes for Easter break

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April - School reopens to pupils

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May - M&M Theatre Productions in school

