



There are moments in school which bring joy. Waking up to snow on Wednesday must have been such a moment of awe and wonder for all the children. Being allowed to play in the snow, throw snowballs and build snowmen/angels/people at school was pure joy not only for the children but for teachers too. I wonder how many children at other schools were allowed to play in the snow at school this morning. Probably very few.

Amanda Spielman, Ofsted's chief inspector, recently called for a change in the risk-averse culture in our schools, claiming they have become places where children are so wrapped in cotton wool that they will struggle to deal with the sorts of risks we face in everyday life. She is proposing new training for inspectors to differentiate between safeguarding and risk aversion, and between "real and imagined risk". Schools need, instead, to be ensuring child development encompasses "resilience and grit".

Risk management is not about eliminating any incidence where something risky might take place, it is about understanding and acknowledging that risk may occur and that we need to be aware. The removal of any risky activity is not good risk management; it creates an unnatural and unnecessarily cosseted environment that will hamper healthy child development.

The chance to experience snow in our area is rare and for many children this was their first taste (literally). This is a great example of how schools can be either "risk aware" as we are, watching children enjoying experiencing snow, or "risk averse" where children are prevented from experiencing life first hand. Stephanie's talk on 'Developing Robust Children' will consider issues more fully (see Diary Dates).

Another highlight has been the comments made by numerous visitors to school in the last few weeks. Last Thursday and Friday we hosted Andrea Matheis from the Froebel Seminar (teacher training college) in Kassel, Germany. She sent a Thank You email saying:

*"Thank you very much for the great time in Annan School.
I enjoyed it very much and I'm looking forward to our co-operation in the next years.
The atmosphere was fantastic and it was very easy to feel like a part of it very quickly"*

On Wednesday afternoon, Freya Huxtable, who used to work in the kindergarten some years back came to see the new Infant House. She absolutely loved it and really appreciated the beautiful surroundings and the way the classes work. She would love to be back here!

The same afternoon we received an email from a parent who had toured the school in the morning. He was blown away by the difference between Annan and where his Year one goes to school. He said:

Thank you SO much for the tour this morning, I left feeling so excited and inspired. You are offering the kind of education that my parents have always believed in - and which I have been lucky enough to experience myself. There is such a great atmosphere there and what a fantastic environment for learning and experiencing new things. I can't imagine a better place to go to school.

Sometimes I think we take for granted just how special Annan can be when everyone is working together. The children are so happy, polite and respectful. I am proud showing visitors around, every class you go in, every member of staff you meet and every child you speak to is so full of the love of learning and is so proud of their school that visitors can't fail to be impressed.



The Joy of Learning

Some of the most joy to be had is when children get out in nature as these great Kindergarten pictures show.

School Show

Children in Elder and Willow Classes have been busy writing the script for the show for the end of the Spring Term. Children in Infant House have been busy learning songs. We have used our imagination to come up with something a bit different this year! The title of the show will be **"Tales from the Attic"**. Every child in the school will be taking part although for some of the very young kindergarten children this may be quite a small part. There will be food and refreshments available at all performances. We will need help with serving and cake making etc. Do let us know if you would like to help in any way.

The shows will be on **Tuesday 20th March at 6pm** and on **Wednesday 21st March at 2pm and 6pm**.

Tickets will go on sale early in March. More details after half term.

Chinese New Year Banquet - Friday 23rd Feb.

Sycamores/Oaks/Willows/Elders only

(Kindergarten will have their own celebration separately).

Bring Chinese food to share for lunch.

No packed lunches needed.

Veggie only, no nuts or fish/prawns please.

We don't reheat/cook so please send something which will last until lunchtime.

Children with particular dietary requirements can bring their own plate of food – labelled please.

Wear red/yellow or Chinese costumes.

World Book Day Celebration Friday 2nd March

Remember to take an "Extreme Reading Photo" over half term! Prizes to be won....

On 2nd March come dressed as your favourite book character or bring a box of clues.

School Open Day Saturday 3rd March 10am-12pm

Future dates:

12th-16th February

Wed, 21st February 1.30 – 3pm

Friday 23rd February 9.00-10.15

Tuesday 27th February 3.30pm

Thursday 1st March 9.30-10.30

Friday 2nd March

Saturday 3rd March 10am - 12pm

Tuesday, 6th March – 3.30pm

Monday 12th March

Tuesday, 13th March

Wednesday, 14th March

Spring Half Term

Kindergarten Care Home Visit

Coffee Morning & 12.15 Chinese Banquet

Parent Talk: Developing Robust Children

Infant Parent Talk on Schemas

World Book Day

Whole School Open Day

Parent Talk: Autism Awareness

Parents consultation evening

Parent Talk: Childhood & Anxiety

Parents consultation evening **(New Date)**

Week : 19th – 23rd February

Monday

Lunch: Pizza

Staff Meeting

Tuesday

Lunch: Baked Potatoes

Netball 3.30-4.30

Wednesday

Care home visit

Thursday

Kinderplay 1.30-3.00pm

After School Clubs 3.30-4.30pm

Friday

Chinese New Year Banquet 12.15pm