



# Seaton Primary School

*"Caring now, for the future of our community, those in need, our lifestyles, one another, our education and the future itself"*

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Head of School: Nic George

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## NEWSLETTER and UPDATE

26.6.2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you find this newsletter both useful and informative. There are some important points for you to absorb going forward, so please have a good read.

### **PODS and GROUPS**

We have set up a further two learning pods to help manage our Year 6 and essential workers' pupils. I know some of you would have been hoping for more classes to open but under the current rules set out by the DFE we have reached capacity.

The Government originally set out that schools should look to open to Year 6, Year 1 and **Reception as well as firstly prioritising vulnerable children / children of key workers**. We have a lot of children who fit into the latter groups especially as the main local employers are Tesco, care homes, the NHS and a range of educational establishments. Our strategy has been to focus on Year 1 and 6 initially as they can adhere to social distancing rules easier. In addition, the Foundation unit, being open plan is not conducive to being split into learning pods so easily. The take up for Year 6 was extremely high and this needed additional staff and space to meet this. We looked very carefully at opening to reception classes and we knew the uptake for this pod was high from our initial survey and very likely to have risen from when we first surveyed parents. The number of staff available to take these pods was not enough and suitable space limited. We also looked at a rotation of pupils coming in but this was not possible under government guidelines. We did not take this decision lightly at all and I am frustrated that we couldn't open to Reception this term. The staff there, have continued to work tirelessly throughout lock down not only teaching in school but providing home learning.

***The reception team are keen to get back in touch with all their pupils and are looking for further opportunities to do so very soon. The team will be in touch with you shortly.***

### **LOOKING FORWARD**

The Government has announced that all primary school pupils will be back in school in September. We are hoping to receive further guidelines about this and how this will happen. It has been an incredibly frustrating time for us as well as you, but we are hoping that the end is in sight. The Covid lock down has been much more severe and drawn out than we could have ever imagined. Fingers crossed that normality is not far away for all schools. It feels inevitable though that there will be some Covid guidelines still in place in September, but fingers crossed that these do not interfere with the full opening of school.



### PICKING UP END OF SCHOOL REPORTS

End of year reports are due out on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July**. Please can you pick up your child's report that day from outside the school office. We will set out the reports on a number of tables from **8:20am until 3:30pm**. Social distancing will apply and staff will be available to hand them out. **Try to avoid drop off and pick up times if you can.**

### NEW CLASSES AND STAFFING

We are intending to let you know who your child's **new class teacher is by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July**.

Before your child returns in September we are looking to find some creative ways for the children to meet their teachers. Your child's new teacher will be touch with you via parent mail before the end of term.

The staff and I are really looking forward to getting back to normal and welcoming all the children back in September. We will be appointing a new teacher next week and this will be the final part of the staffing jigsaw for September

### GOVERNMENT CATCH UP GRANT

The Government has announced that it is providing a substantial grant to support schools in helping their pupils to catch up on missed learning. We are all eager to see what that looks like and what opportunities it may offer for the future. Further details are expected from the government.

### SEATON SCIENCE SHARE

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Seaton Science Share. It was great to see lots of you taking part and discovering something new, and lovely that many of you have been out and about exploring. I am still waiting for some responses to be able to share some work on the school website and with the local paper. Please check your parentmail and respond as appropriate!

### Seaton Primary School requires a **School Kitchen Manager**

This is a permanent job. Grade E: (£23369-£26317 pro-rata, £12.11 - £13.64 per hour pay award pending)

Hours per week: **30** Weeks per year: **40**

For an application, please visit our website at <http://seatonprimary.org.uk> to download an application pack. All applications to be completed on the DCC application form. CVs will not be accepted.

Completed forms should be sent to [admin@seatonprimary.org.uk](mailto:admin@seatonprimary.org.uk). Closing date: **Noon, 1st July 2020**

### THINGS I HAVE NOTICED THIS WEEK

- My neighbour has informed me that his solar panels have been working extremely well in the sunshine and he is delighted
- Raspberries are in season and with yoghurt and chopped nuts they make a delicious dessert
- I need a fan in my office – it gets so hot at times!
- You can still only travel 5 miles in Wales
- Camp sites open on the 4<sup>th</sup> July in England
- Our school pool is being cleaned this week

### STAFF VIDEOS

Here is my Friday poem '**Zebra Question**' by Shel Silverstein. I should say a thank you here to my daughter who is more than happy to help out and play the fool with her Dad!

<https://youtu.be/0UI9wQOWT8U>

My very best wishes to you all and stay safe.

**Nic George**

Head of School

