



# Seaton Primary School

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

Valley View, Seaton, Devon, EX12 2HF

Tel: 01297 20922 Fax: 01297 625194

Email: [admin@seatonprimary.org.uk](mailto:admin@seatonprimary.org.uk)

Head of School: Nic George

Acting Executive Headteacher: Claire Redwood

## NEWSLETTER

16.10.2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have quite a few important updates for you this week, mostly around staffing.

Next week is the last week before half term and a well-deserved break is needed. Normally I visit my family in Wales but for the first time ever I won't be allowed to enter the Principality and prevented from crossing the Severn Bridge due to local lockdowns.

This has been the most demanding half term of my career spanning 30 years. There has been so much to juggle and at the same time, make sure that the school continues to move forward. A huge thank you for your support this half term and for all the hard work the Seaton Staff have put in.



### COVID UPDATE

If you are coming into the entrance to see Cath in the office, then **please wear a face mask.**

On occasions we have to seek advice regarding COVID, especially if it is something that doesn't fit into our guidelines. My first port of call for advice is to ring the Department for Education helpline (0800 046

8687). Please ring the above number if you require further information on COVID. Any child / adult displaying any COVID symptoms in school, do have their temperatures taken using a remote thermometer and this is undertaken in a discreet area.

### LEARNING IN THE EVENT OF A POD CLOSURE

We continue to remain fully open which is excellent but we have also prepared in case a pod has to temporarily close down. Learning will then go straight onto Google Classroom and teachers will be delivering the same lessons as they had planned for that period of time, though some resource tweaks may be inevitable.

Teachers will be supporting home learning via video link, demonstrations etc. Let's hope we don't have to do this, but is becoming evident that a growing number of schools in Devon have had to do this recently.

### STAFFING UPDATE

Recently we have been advertising for a new post of **Deputy Headteacher**. The interviews are taking place in school next Wednesday and Thursday and we will have four excellent and very experienced candidates to choose from. This is an exciting, new and very senior post for the school. This week the Governors and I have been visiting the candidates in their own school to watch them teach and go on tours of their schools, which has been a very informative task to undertake. Claire Redwood our acting Executive Headteacher is due to depart at the end of the Spring term and we are looking forward to strengthening our team before she departs.

**Natalie McNeice** has joined the staff last week and will be working with pupils to support their speech and language development.



Finally, **Mrs Kate Burkill** is expecting a baby at the start of the Spring term. As you can imagine she is very excited and looking forward to being a mother. Her post is now being advertised.

### TEACHING and LEARNING

The focus for this week in school has been on learning environments and how they support children's learning. We have been paying particular attention to displays and working walls.



A number of us have had our Level 3 Safe Guarding training updated this week and some staff have completed the final stage of the advanced First Aid Certificates.

Miss Redwood has been busy talking to groups of children about how they learn best and what support they find most useful.

### SCIENCE AT SEATON PRIMARY SCHOOL

This year, we are undertaking the **Primary Science Quality Mark**- an exciting opportunity to further develop science across the school. The aim of the program is to raise the profile of Science within our school community and to increase the children's science capital. In doing this, children should gain a wealth of scientific knowledge, practise a wide range of skills and their curiosity will be sparked. Over the academic year, I will be sharing a range of initiatives and ideas with staff, children and parents to achieve this.

I would like to start by sharing Seaton Primary's Science Vision with you all:

## Science at Seaton



We believe that Science should stimulate and excite children's curiosity about natural phenomena and events in the world around them, and that their curiosity should be satisfied with knowledge.



Since Science links practical experiences and ideas it can and will engage learners at all levels.



Science is about developing and evaluating explanations through experimenting, researching and modelling using first hand experiences.



Children will learn to question and discuss Science based issues that may affect their lives and the future.



Children will learn both in and about our local environment, as well as important issues surrounding its future.

### PARENTS EVENING

This is going to be a tricky one this term but we will be having them..... but not as you know it! Unfortunately due to COVID restrictions, we won't be able to hold the usual face to face meetings. These will likely take place over the phone or on a video call. We are looking at the best possible platform to use and will let you know the dates and formats as soon as possible



## ONLINE BOOKING FOR SCHOOL DINNERS

After half term the school dinner ordering system will move to online via Parentmail, this will be set up for all children, including those in receipt of free school meals. The new system will enable you to book your child's meal choices in advance. There will be more information sent out regarding this via Parentmail over half term, however please do let the school office know if you do not have access to Parentmail and you require it.

We do understand that it may take a while to become familiar with the new system, if you do need assistance with this at all, please do contact the school office and we will be happy to help you.

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We have a significant number of families who are entitled to free school meals. If you fit the criteria then not only will your child receive a free school meal but the school gains a whopping **£1320** towards supporting your child's education. This can also help pay towards trips, uniform and clubs etc and many families have seen the benefits of it. If you think you may be entitled then please log on to the Devon County Council Citizen Portal or phone **0345 155 1019** Please also pop into the office for more advice and information on how to apply.

## NUTS

May we respectfully ask parents/carers NOT to provide their child with nuts for their mid- morning snack or lunch, as we have some children in school with severe nut allergies. We thank you for your co-operation with this.

## SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS – YEAR 6 PARENTS

Please do apply if you haven't already done so, the closing date for submitting your secondary school application is **31<sup>st</sup> October 2020**

### Applications for secondary school places need to be made via DEVON County Council

(<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-secondary-schoolplace>).

**Due to the current situation, please contact the schools directly:**

Axe Valley Academy: <https://axevalley.devon.sch.uk/> Tel: 01297 32146. Email: [admin@axevalley.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@axevalley.devon.sch.uk)

Colyton Grammar School: <https://www.colytongrammar.com/> Tel: 01297 552327. Email: [admin@colytongrammar.com](mailto:admin@colytongrammar.com)

Sidmouth College: <https://www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk/> Tel: 01395 514823. Email: [enquiries@sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk)

The Woodroffe School: <https://www.woodroffe.dorset.sch.uk/> Tel: 01297 442232. Email: [office@woodroffe.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@woodroffe.dorset.sch.uk)

## NOTIFYING THE SCHOOL OF ILLNESS

There are three main ways of notifying the school if your child is going to be absent.

1. Telephone the school – 01297 20922 – Leave a message
2. Parentmail message.
3. Email the school – [admin@seatonprimary.org.uk](mailto:admin@seatonprimary.org.uk) We require you to notify us by 9:00am if your child is not attending school that day.

Please keep us updated each day, otherwise we have to call for an update for our records and this can be time consuming. We currently have to legally advise the Department of Education everyday of any child that is absent due to either self isolating, COVID symptoms or a non-COVID related absence.

If your child suffers with sickness and diarrhoea please remember to keep them off school for 48 hours after the last incident to prevent the spread of the infection.

Thank you for your co-operation with this.



**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Individual pupil photos (Tempest Photography)**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November – Flu Vaccinations**

Very best wishes and have a great weekend,

**Nic George**

Head of School

