



# 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

Acting Executive Headteacher: Claire Redwood

## NEWSLETTER

4.12.2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We come to the end of another very busy week here at Seaton Primary School and the excitement of Christmas is lovely to hear amongst the children. Our big Christmas tree has gone up in the hall today, thank you to the PTA for organising this.

Our Chair Governors Zoe Briant-Evans has now written to all parents and staff to say that Seaton Primary School will be defederating from the Axe Beacon Federation and will become a stand-alone primary school as of 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021. This is a huge decision by the Governing body to take and I am delighted that they have placed faith in the staff and I to take the school forward into the future.

Being a Head Teacher is quite a different role from being Head of School. It has greater challenges but the role will enable me to make sure that the school fully serves its community to the upmost and will help ensure that we have the staff and resources to guide the school in the right direction, for both present and long term future. We still want to work with other schools and collaborate with training, pupil events etc but this will happen on an informal basis. Seaton Primary School still needs to look outward into the future and keep in touch with the very best of practice and opportunities that are out there.

Ms Claire Redwood, will continue to be with us until Easter 2021, with the role of Leadership Support Person which is excellent news, as there is still a great deal we want to work through during the Spring term.

Running a large school is a huge responsibility and this cannot be achieved by one person. It is a team effort and I need a strong leadership supporting me and taking on key responsibilities. Key staff here include -

**Mrs Kelly Hodkinson** (Deputy Head from January 2021)

**Mrs Annie Eriksson** (Assistant Head)

**Miss Sam Curnock** (Key Stage 1 Leader)

**Miss Michelle Mabin** (Early Years Leader)

**Mr Ed Hunt** (acting SENCO) and **Mrs Maeve Kay** (SENCO)

**Ms Tracey Salter** (Pastoral Care Manager)

**Ms Sarah Elliott** (School Business Manager)

**Ms Emma Smith** (Kitchen Manager)



Each member of the Seaton staff has their own key role - from teachers who are subject leaders, teaching assistants who provide essential support to our caretaker, kitchen staff, swimming coach, MTAs and cleaners. The dedication and ability of these individuals to serve Seaton Primary School is imperative.

The other group that we need support from the is school **GOVERNORS**. Currently we have an interim governing made up with some Seaton parents but the interim governors need to eventually relinquish their roles so others can take over. Often school governors are made up from volunteers from the school community who support the school team to be the best they can and ensure that we offer great value for money and are doing a first-rate job for the pupils.

**WE NEED GREAT GOVERNORS IN THE FUTURE and THAT COULD BE YOU!**

Have you skills and interests to bring to the governing body?

- *Do you understand **finance**? Do you run a **business**?*
- *Do you know something about **premises or work in health / safety**?*
- *Do you know about **tech** and making the most out of it?*
- *Have you an interest or background yourself in **education**?*
- *Do you know about the **law, human resources or employment**?*
- *Have you a background or interest in **special educational needs**?*
- *Or are you a really keen parent, who wants the best for **all children** attending the school?*

**Please get in touch with me if you would like to find out more about this exciting and very rewarding role.**

Work towards the 3<sup>rd</sup> January has now begun. The office staff are really busy checking through documentation to make sure it fits Seaton Primary School and we have the necessary policies and approaches in place. This is a considerable job and we are getting there. Our website is currently being updated and there is some re-branding going on too, starting with new signs out the front of school which are currently being designed.

### **GOVERNMENT CHANGES TO TESTING**

Hot in the news this week is that the Government are and will be making some significant changes to testing in primary schools this year due to the COVID disruptions.

Initial reports state that -

- ***The multiplication tables check will be non-statutory, so it does not have to be administered by schools in 2021.***
- ***The grammar, punctuation and spelling test at key stage two will also be non-statutory, so it does not have to be administered in 2021.***
- ***Key stage one assessment in reading, writing and maths will be by teacher assessment only. The tests used to inform teacher assessment at key stage one will be non-statutory, and no new key stage one tests will be made available in 2021.***
- ***There will be no teacher assessment of science in 2021 at either key stage one or key stage two.***
- ***Key stage one phonics and the autumn term year two additional phonics check will go ahead***
- ***Key stage two Sats in reading and maths and teacher assessment of writing will go ahead in 2021. The administration of these will be made more flexible with an extended timetable variation window.***



#### **COVID UPDATE**

Thank you for observing our face covering request. Pupils do not need to wear coverings and we thoroughly respect that all parents are not able to wear face coverings for health reasons.

Please remember pupils need a **minimum of items** being brought to school.





### TEACHING and LEARNING

This week have been reviewing the various elements of school improvement we have been working on and setting our goals for next term. We have also been undertaking follow up lesson observations with teachers to see how they are progressing with their targets and the outcomes have been really positive.

Miss Crockett led an excellent PE training session this week for teachers with 'The Real PE Programme'. Not only did she get everyone huffing and puffing but the training is deepening teachers' understanding of PE.

6ZC - Have done a total of 155 miles this week 😊

### Year 4 Anglo Saxon-Day

On Monday, Year 4 had a fantastic day exploring what life would have been like in the Anglo-Saxon times. It was great to see children starting their school week wearing tunics, brooches and cloaks. They spent the day cooking traditional Anglo-Saxon cakes, writing potions, solving a rune puzzle and making clay pots. We all had an exciting trip back in time!

KS1 - Have been busy enjoying their learning in the woods, this included English with a focus on adjectives and nouns. Next week we will continue our outdoor learning with a walk to the beach.

### Win a Christmas Hamper!

Whilst the PTA is unable to do many of the usual fundraising activities, we have a brilliant way to raise free donations for the school.

All you have to do is sign up to support us with [Easyfundraising.org.uk](http://Easyfundraising.org.uk).

As a thank you, the PTA has a Christmas Hamper to give away. To be in with a chance of winning just follow these steps:

1. Sign up using the link below and go to the site you want to shop at through the easyfundraising app or website.
2. Take a screen shot of your donation raised (it doesn't matter if it's only a few pence).
3. Email screenshot to [ptahamper@outlook.com](mailto:ptahamper@outlook.com) by midnight on 15th December
4. You will receive a reply with a raffle number.

The winning number will be announced on the Seaton Primary PTA Events facebook page on Wednesday 16th December. Thousands of popular retail sites like The Happy Puzzle Company, Etsy, Argos and eBay are on there. The idea is to get people signed up and raising donations all year round. You can raise surprisingly large donations when purchasing insurance, broadband, switching energy companies or booking travel online. Another local school has raised over £4000 this way! It all goes towards paying for items and experiences to help enrich our children's education and school life. Thanks from the PTA.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/seatonpspta/?invite=NI8DJJ&referral-campaign=s2s>

Congratulations to November's 100 Club Winners Faith, Lucy and Becky. If you haven't already secured a number or would like to increase your chances of winning a cash prize please email [treasurespta1@gmail.com](mailto:treasurespta1@gmail.com) for more information.



### Christmas Bauble colouring competition

Please can we ask that any completed bauble designs for the Lloyds Bank colouring competition, are handed back into school by **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December**.

Thank you

### Pupil Premium

We have a significant number of families who are entitled to free school meals.

**Please note that if you have a child in reception class**, as you are already they are entitled to a universal free school meal until **Year 2**. However, your child may be entitled to **pupil premium and income based free school meals**, that can last up to **year 6** potentially. If you fit the criteria then not only will your child receive a free school meal but the school gains additional funding to support the schools interventions and your child's learning. 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 school office for more advice and information on how to apply, if you do need any assistance to log on to the portal , then we would be happy to help you with this.

### 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.

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day**

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Pupils break up for Christmas**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Non-Pupil Day**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Pupils return to school**

Very best wishes and thank you for your continued support.

**Nic George**

Head of School

