

2nd November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a bit of a cold snap recently and winter coats are the order of the day. I hope you find this newsletter useful and many thanks for attending Parents' Evenings this week. If you did not make it then please make the time to catch up with the class teacher as soon as possible.

FOCUS FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT THIS YEAR

At the start of every year the staff and I sit down and reflect on the previous year. As you are aware the goals in education rarely stay still for long and we constantly monitor the ongoing performance and results over time.

This school year our focus is on –

1. Continuing to ensure that we have quality teaching embedded in all classes with consistent good practice (this includes effective approaches to teaching sequences, assessment, marking and feedback).
2. Raising standards in writing (ensuring that links between phonics, reading and writing skills make links with the writing process)
3. Continuing to ensure that all pupils in EYFS have access to high quality continuous provision activities which promote early writing, numbers and phonics.
4. Further developing the roles of school's senior leaders in supporting / promoting the school's ethos, values and learning behaviours.

STAFFING UPDATE

Jess Stone has recently been appointed as the new Deputy Kitchen Manager. Jess successfully completed a Food and Hospitality Apprenticeship and became a general catering assistant four years ago. She has shown great skills and commitment and worked her way up. The kitchen manager and I would like to say very well done to Jess.

On occasions we have vacancies cropping up for folk to clean, work in the kitchen and to supervise in the hall and on the playground during lunchtimes. If you are interested in any of these positions then please let me know. They often work well around family times and it can be on a cover basis too.

Today we say farewell to one of our teaching assistants Trudi Hartnell. Trudi has worked at Seaton Primary School for at least the last five years and has made a great contribution during that time. She has also been a very valued member of the school PTA over the years and we all wish her the very best for the future.

VOLUNTEERS

We are on the lookout for more volunteers across the school to come in and give our staff a hand. Have you some time to help out in classes? Hearing some children read? Or even becoming one of

our library team? Please see me if you can help out. There is a little bit of paperwork to do but we really value the work of our volunteers in school even if it is for just a couple of hours a week.

NEW PHONES

We have a new phone system across the Axe Beacon Federation so it should be easier for you to contact the school office. If you call the office to report an absence you will need to press 1 and leave the details of your child's name, class and reason for absence. If they are unwell please give a brief description of their illness rather than simply saying that they are ill. This helps us to monitor if there are any specific illnesses that we need to know about. You can also report absences by emailing the school (admin@seatonprimary.org.uk) or by using Parentmail. Please be assured, we will always contact you if we don't hear from you but we ask you to please contact us by 9.30am. If you are ringing to say that your child is going to be late due to a medical appointment or for any other reason please remember to tell us if they will need a cooked lunch.

NATIVITY

Information regarding how to apply for Nativity tickets for Reception and KS1 families will be circulated on Friday 23rd November. Tickets are very popular so as in previous years we will be using an email ordering system that will go live on that date.

SEND PARENT GROUP

If any parents/ carers would be interested in setting up, or helping to set up a SEND Parent Support Group can you please contact Mrs Kay by either leaving a message and contact number at Reception or emailing m.kay@seatonprimary.org.uk. The aim of this group would be to meet informally once per month to share information, events, strategies and generally support each other in helping our young people and families.

Many thanks,

Mrs Kay

PTA FUNDRAISING

Seaton Primary PTA is a registered charity and is now linked to easyfundraising.org.uk. This means anyone who signs up for an account with easyfundraising.org.uk and chooses Seaton Primary School PTA as a cause, can raise funds when they shop, with no extra cost to themselves. Please use the link below to sign up for an account. It's very quick and easy and could raise a lot of money for resources and equipment for the school. Through the website you can shop at most online retailers such as Amazon, Ebay, Argos, Asos, Tesco and many more. You can also compare deals on car insurance, energy and broadband etc and earn us donations that way. If you download the easyfundraising app to your phone, it makes it even easier so please do sign up!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/seatonprimaryschoolpta/>

WAITROSE CHARITY GREEN CHIP TOKENS

PLEASE VOTE FOR SEATON PRIMARY USING THE GREEN TOKENS GIVEN TO YOU AT THE CHECKOUT. During November (30/10/18-27/11/18) we have been chosen for the Community Matters Programme in the Sidmouth branch of Waitrose. At the end of the month, Waitrose will donate a proportion of £1000 to Seaton Primary School, based on the proportion of votes their customers cast for us and the two other good causes. Customers cast their votes by placing a green chip in one of the 3 boxes available, each one representing a charity or organisation. Please vote for us! We would like to purchase more resources for our Nurture Room.

STAMPS

Don't forget we collect used postage stamps at school for the Children's Hospice South West. The box is on the shelf outside the office. Thank you.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER - FAMILY PHOTOS

Spaces are filling up fast. Please book now to avoid disappointment. (We still have a few slots from 5.10pm onwards). The school photographer is visiting on Tuesday 13th November. After school, from 3.30pm he will be available to take family group photos. If you would like to book a family photo please contact the office to book a slot. (Please note siblings are normally photographed together but the after school slots are for families where the whole family can be photographed together). Family group photos make ideal Christmas presents!

HEIGHT AND WEIGHT CHECKS FOR RECEPTION AND YEAR 6 PUPILS

Parents of pupils in Reception and Year 6 will have received an email at the beginning of term regarding height and weight checks. Please read the email carefully and return the reply slip if you do NOT want your child to be checked.

NON UNIFORM DAY – FRIDAY 23RD NOVEMBER

Children are invited to wear non-uniform on Friday 23rd November. We are asking for chocolate items to be brought in that day for the chocolate tombola at the Christmas Bazaar.

ABSENCES

When children are absent from school we ask that you contact the school by phone (20922), Parentmail or email (admin@seatonprimary.org.uk) by 9.30am at the latest. If the phone is engaged please leave a clear message on the answerphone remembering to tell us the nature of your child's illness or other reason for absence. If your child is going to an appointment before school and likely to come in late, when leaving your message please remember to let us know if they need a cooked lunch booked for them. When children are missing at register time we do not automatically book a lunch.

If no contact by a parent is made to the school by mid-morning then members of school staff have to visit the home and if no response is gained then the police are informed of a missing child.

SINGING LESSONS

Singing lessons are available in school with Mrs Elliott on Friday afternoons. Please call 01297 624019 for further details.

SICKNESS & DIARRHOEA

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.

HOLIDAY REQUESTS

We cannot authorise holidays in term times unless there are exceptional circumstances. (e.g parents of forces children). Devon County Council are now tightening their rules on this issue and fines are again being issued for 5 or more days absence across the academic year. I totally understand some of the circumstances on the request forms, however, rarely can a holiday be authorised. Any time off school must be requested via the absence request form available from the office.

Unauthorised absences due to holidays is a concern for the school – please AVOID taking them!

PUPIL PREMIUM

To qualify for Pupil Premium (the old free school meals) parents need to be in receipt of certain benefits.

Not only will your child benefit from a dinner each day (if they want it) but the school receives £1320 towards supporting your child's education. The money is primarily spent on our academic and pastoral support staff but each pupil is allocated £80 per term towards a variety of costs to support families e.g. subsidy of school uniform and trips. To see if you are entitled please log onto the Devon County Council Citizen Portal.

NUTS

ALL YEAR GROUPS.... we respectfully ask parents NOT to provide their child with nuts for their mid-morning snack or lunch as some children have severe nut allergies.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday 13th November Photographer visiting school for individual pupil photos (and family photos after school.)

Thursday 15th November Open morning for prospective parents. Tours at 9.15am and 2.15pm

Friday 23rd November Non-uniform day in return for chocolate items.

Friday 30th November Christmas Bazaar in the evening

Monday 19th November Height & Weight checks for Reception and Year 6 pupils. (see email)

Tuesday 11th December Carol Service for KS2 at 6.30pm (Ticket allocations nearer the time)

Wednesday 12th December Carol Service for KS2 at 2.30pm and 6.30pm (Ticket allocations nearer the time)

Monday 17th December KS1 Nativity 2pm & 6pm (Ticket allocations nearer the time)

Tuesday 18th December KS1 Nativity 9.30am & 6pm (Ticket allocations nearer the time)

Friday 21st December Last day of term (School finishes at 1pm after an early lunch).

Monday 7th January Training Day

Tuesday 8th January Pupils return to school

Mr Nic George HEADTEACHER