

9th November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

There are a few things to share in this week's newsletter. Please take time to have a good read of them.

#### REMEMBRANCE WEEK

The ongoing theme for assembly this week is the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1, Armistice Day and Remembrance week. The week started with me leading an assembly around how War has effected families over the generations (with many examples from my own family in the South Wales valleys). We looked at the impact of World War 1, the significance of the red poppy and we held our own minute's silence. It has been a thought provoking week so please find the time to tell your children how members of their own families were affected by war in the past.

#### MEMORY CAFÉ and DEMENTIA WORKSHOPS

All our year 6 pupils recently underwent a dementia awareness workshop led by Yvonne from the local Dementia Café which meets every month at the Methodist Church. Yvonne gave a fascinating insight into the condition and the children developed really empathy and understanding of how the condition affects patients and how they can be supported.

On the 5th November twelve children from Mr Johnson's class volunteered to visit the Dementia Café and lead a historical presentation about the Gun Powder Plot. They then followed this up with a quiz for the clients then helped them make a series of 'Guys' to go on top of local bonfires. The pupils had an excellent afternoon and Mrs Salter and I were incredibly proud of them. Yvonne from the memory Café then wrote to me later that day – I thought I would share her letter with you.....

"On behalf of all from the Seaton Memory Cafe, I would like to say a very big thank you, to you and the students who attended the very special get together for the "Guy Fawkes" event - it was special because of the coming together of the generations. The children are a credit to you and I would say ambassadors for Seaton Primary School. The feedback from members and volunteers of Seaton Memory Cafe, was very positive. We all felt very proud and were touched by the young children's overwhelming politeness. They definitely maintained the older person's respect and dignity."

#### CROSS COUNTY

Our cross country teams did incredibly well last week at the regional event held at Bicton Park. The Year 6 boys' team have made it through to the Devon Finals which are being held in Paignton early in the new year. A big thank you goes to Miss Fleming who accompanied them at the event and rallied their competitive spirits.

#### 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? Please see me if you can help out. There is a little bit of paper work 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.

## MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones have their uses of course but we have recently been inundated with requests from older pupils to look after their phones in the front office each day. Mobile phones are NOT allowed in school. The office has looked after the odd one in the past due to a special request from a parent but the general rule is..... please keep them at home!

## PHOTOGRAPHS

The school photographer is coming on Tuesday to take individual and sibling photos. After school he is available to take family group photos. We still have a few slots available after 5.15pm so if you would like to book a space please contact the office as soon as possible. Family photos make great gifts at Christmas!

CHILDREN IN NEED – FRIDAY 16TH NOVEMBER Children in Need Day 2018 is on Friday 16th November. The national theme this year is SPOTACULAR! As part of the day we will be holding a 'spotty themed non-uniform day' with a suggested donation of £1 per pupil donation (to be handed into class teachers on the Friday morning). Don't worry if you've not got any spotty clothes – maybe you could cut out some spots and safety pin them to your clothes.

## NATIVITY

Information regarding how to apply for Nativity tickets for Reception and KS1 families will be circulated on Friday 23rd November. You will receive an email through Parentmail and a paper copy of the letter will also be sent home on that day. Tickets are free and very popular so as in previous years we will be using an email ordering system that will go live on that date.

## WHOLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

This week we sent red coloured letters home regarding the whole school Christmas lunch which takes place on Wednesday 19th December. Please return it as soon as possible even if your child does not want a lunch that day. Many thanks.

## BINGO NIGHT

Rupert's Under 5's are holding a Bingo Night in Seaton Primary school hall on Friday 23rd November. Doors open at 7pm and eyes down at 7.30pm. £4 entry which includes the first game of Bingo, snacks, a raffle ticket and one drink. Raffle tickets available from Ruperts, on the night or by phoning 01297 625621.

## 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](mailto: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](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk). This means anyone who signs up for an account with [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.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.

## 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](mailto: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.

## 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.

## 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.

#### 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 16th November Children in Need (Wear something spotty for a suggested donation of £1)

Monday 19th November Height and Weight checks for Reception and Year 6 pupils

Friday 23rd November Non-uniform day in return for chocolate items. Information relating to Nativity Tickets sent out today. Ticket email goes live.

Friday 30th November Christmas Bazaar in the evening

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 23rd Nov onwards)

Tuesday 18th December KS1 Nativity 9.30am & 6pm (Ticket allocations 23rd Nov onwards)

Wednesday 19th December Whole School Christmas Lunch. Please return red reply slip ASAP

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