



Seaton Primary School

Valley View, Seaton, Devon EX12 2HF

Tel: 01297 20922

Email: admin@seatonprimary.org.uk

Head of School : Mr N George



NEWSLETTER

18th January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Another week in school comes to a conclusion. Normally I am fairly upbeat in my newsletters but today I am going to start off with a few negatives. There are a few issues taking up a lot of unnecessary time at present so let's address them together.

ATTENDANCE

Presently we have a number of children with attendance below 90% (1 in 10 days taken off school). There may be good reason behind many of these but I am looking at some ongoing trends too. Next week, all those pupils who currently have below 90% attendance will be receiving a letter from me. The purpose of this letter is to raise your awareness of your own child's attendance. I do realise that we had a bout of colds and flu before Christmas and I take that into account. If you have any issues that you need support with, then the staff are here to help you.

SCREEN TIME

I have asked Mr Simon Lewis to prepare a statement below about children and the amount of time they spend on electronic devices (laptops, tablets, game consoles, TV etc). We are seeing ever increasing issues relating to this e.g. lack of exercise in some, inappropriate viewing, and tiredness in school due to uncontrolled viewing times. Everyone must be really vigilant about these issues. Yes technology etc keeps the children content and occupied but we are seeing a rise in the negative consequences of too much screen time. I'd like all families to reflect on this and please read the points below. I am not trying to be the 'nanny state' folks but there are a growing of real issues we are dealing with. Take control parents..... set the boundaries and stick to them!

"There have been a number of scientific studies published in recent times looking into the effect of significant screen time on children. That is the amount of time they spend looking at a screen on TV, tablet, phone and computer. Whilst all present varying degrees of impact there is a growing consensus of the negative effects screens have on the quality



of sleep. Screen use, especially close to bed time stimulates the brain and can affect the release of the sleep hormone, making it harder for children and adults to get to sleep. We are seeing the effects of this in school, tired pupils do struggle more than their refreshed peers. We would strongly discourage screen use in the hour before bedtime to enable children to switch off and become calmer and ultimately find it easier to sleep.”

MEAL DEBTS

Please, please remember we DO NOT offer credit for school dinners. Every occasion you don't pay, Mrs Bee in the office has to waste valuable time chasing up unpaid bills and sending out reminders. We won't let your child go hungry of course but please pay on time and top up your account regularly. If you cannot access Parentmail please call the office to arrange payment over the phone.

There I've had my moan..... we move forward!

BOOK SWAP

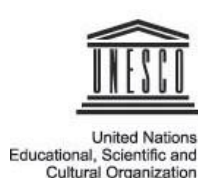
What a fantastic event for our school community! Books galore were swapped and there was a huge amount of new reading material for everyone. Many thanks to Mrs Burkill for organising this event.

TESCO TOKENS!

From Tuesday 1st January to Thursday 28th February we have been chosen for the Tesco Bags of Help Scheme. At the end of February, the project with the highest number of votes across the stores' region will receive £4,000, the second placed project £2,000, and the third placed project £1,000. Customers cast their votes by placing a blue 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. The stores in which you can vote for us are our local Tesco store here in Seaton and on the High Street in Sidmouth.

ABSENCES

Parents and carers are reminded to contact the school by 9.30am if their child is going to be absent from school due to illness. PLEASE CONTACT SCHOOL EVERY DAY THAT YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT. Please use the Parentmail app, leave a message on the answerphone (01297 20922) or email admin@seatonprimary.org.uk. If your child has an appointment that you know about in advance, please ensure you have informed the office. Please do not rely on children to pass on messages - instead please write a short note to the office staff or let us know by phone or in person at the counter. The school has a duty of care to know the whereabouts of children and when we have not been informed of the reason for



a child's absence the office staff have had to spend a great deal of time phoning various contact numbers to find out why a child is missing from school.

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, 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.

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.

FREE COURSES FOR PARENTS/CARERS

The Exmouth Academic Learning Community is offering various courses this term at Withycombe Raleigh Church of England Primary School. Topics include "Attachment and Challenging behaviour", "Sibling Rivalry" and "Language Development". For further information or to book a free place please call 01395 263397 Ext 2.

SIDMOUTH GIRLS RUGBY

Sidmouth Rugby Club invite girls (U10's and upwards) to go along and give rugby a try on Sunday 20th January from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Check out the website for more information.

AXE VALE NETBALL CLUB

Axe Vale Netball Club, based at the LED Sports Centre in Axminster are starting a new netball session aimed at year 6 girls. Starts Tuesday 22nd January. 4.10pm to 5.10pm at LED Axminster Sports Hall. For further details contact love2playnetball@gmail.com

NUTS - ALL YEAR GROUPS May 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.

STAMPS

Please bring your used postage stamps to the office. We collect on behalf of the Children's Hospice South West. Many thanks

ZUMBA

JM DanceFit ZumbaKids Classes - Book NOW for SPRING TERM 2019

KIDS HAVE FUN & IMPROVE FITNESS & CONFIDENCE LEVELS

New children are welcome to join these termly classes after the Christmas break, which are open to all children whether they attend the school or not.

Every Monday 3.30 pm - 4.15pm Seaton Little Starz* (4 - 7 year olds) - MAIN HALL

4.15pm - 5.15pm Seaton Junior Starz* (7-12 year olds) - MAIN HALL



Spring Term Class Dates: January 14th, 21st, 28th, February 4th, 11th, 25th, March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, April 1st

Total Spring Term Class Fee: £44 (£4 per class x 11 classes) Cash payments to be provided in a named, sealed envelope no later than the child's first class.

If you would like to book your child a place, please contact Johanna directly on 07739518587 or at johanna@jmdancefit.co.uk

MUSICSEEDS

Parent and child music sessions - songs, movement, instruments, fun!

Thursday mornings - The Reece Strawbridge Centre, Colyton

9.30 - Over 4's 10.10 - Under 4's

Book your FREE trial session by contacting Leah Stonex
07850 157520

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 15th February

Break up for half-term (normal time)

Monday 25th February

Pupils return to school after half-term.

Monday 4th March

Years 5 & 6 Parent's evening

Tuesday 5th March

Whole school Parent's evening

Wednesday 6th March

Whole school Parent's evening

Friday 5th April

Break up for Easter holiday (normal time).

Best wishes,

Nic George

