



## Seaton Primary School

Valley View, Seaton, Devon, EX12 2HF

Tel: 01297 20922

[www.seaton-primary.devon.sch.uk](http://www.seaton-primary.devon.sch.uk)

Head : Mr Nic George



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

# NEWSLETTER

26<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Four days back and it has been a bit of a whirlwind here at Seaton Primary School! There is quite a lot to absorb in this newsletter and please have a look at the dates at the bottom of the page and add them to your own diaries. During the holidays we had a couple of working parties in to revamp and replant the vegetable garden and the raised beds out the back of school. Many thanks to the Baptist Church members who volunteered to help with this work and our school staff. Our next project is to paint the benches a nice earthy colour once we have had a dry spell. I will let you know when that is!

### REVISING THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

On the non-pupil day, staff from all the Axe Beacon Federation schools got together to consider developing and revising the curriculum. Each of our schools is very distinctive but we do share best practice across all four. The curriculum drivers for Seaton are going to be -

‘Heath and Well Being’

‘The Locality’

‘Global Citizenship’

The school already has an excellent reputation for developing a curriculum in many aspects of the above and we wanted to reaffirm them and introduce some new ideas too. We are working on this and it will be in place, ready for September 2019.

### SWIMMING POOL

There were times last year when the pool was out of action due to the swimming coach being unavailable or the pool being out of operation with a service issue and this was frustrating to say the least. Staff at Seaton Primary School and the Axe Beacon Federation have been hard at work and had their thinking caps on to ensure that the facility and experience for the children is improved. During the last few months there have been a significant number of changes which will be for the better. Mr Delfosse, our PE co-ordinator, will be writing to you very shortly outlining these changes but it is ESSENTIAL now that we all get behind the school and back up what the new proposals will be.

Firstly, we have made significant investments in the pool facility. It has had a deep clean, there are new benches throughout and all necessary maintenance has been carried out in preparation to the pool re-opening on Monday. We now have our own dedicated swimming instructors – Mrs Broderick and Mrs Lawrence who have undertaken in depth training over the last few months to gain a variety of swimming teaching and pool technician qualifications. They will be leading the swimming programme from now on.



The Town Council has made a financial contribution towards the pool along with Devon County Council and we are extremely grateful to them. The pool has substantial and ongoing costs for both the present and the future. We are committed to maintaining having the pool and regular coaching for all our pupils and other pupils from surrounding schools. Mr Delfosse has always said that we aim to provide at least 12 lessons per annum for all pupils regardless of their ability and we want to not only maintain but if possible increase this too. We would love to have an all year round facility and this is a realistic aspiration.

Over previous years the school made a huge loss on the pool and this is partly down to parents not contributing towards the cost of lessons. Despite being a curriculum requirement, the government does not provide additional funding to subsidise swimming; therefore, we need EVERYONE to contribute towards the lessons. Mr Delfosse will be explaining this further when he writes to you. We have made great strides towards improving the facility and the staffing of it but we need your support to make it a long term success. We are SO fortunate to have a pool here and many primary schools in recent years have opted to close theirs due to running costs. Many of our pupils progress well beyond the necessary 25 metre goal for primary school age. Let's keep it going with your full support please!

### **STAFFING UPDATE**

Adverts for the teacher vacancies we have for September 2019 having been running both before and over the Easter holiday. We have had lots of enquires from potential candidates and the interview processes are now well in hand. Appointing new staff is quite a prolonged and time consuming process however they are very important to the success of any school. I have dedicated much of my time this half term towards this process.

We have had two new teaching assistants start in school recently who are based in the Lower Juniors. Mrs Michelle Veal and Mrs Catherine Brenton bring a wide range of skills and experience to the school and we welcome them to the Seaton School community.

### **GOVERNOR UPDATE**

Matt Heard and Gill Jordan (co-Chairs of the Governing body) wrote to you at the end of last term and will be writing to you again in the near future to update you on the work of the Axe Beacon Federation, especially in relation to its evolving structure. Please look out for this information as it is very important for all parents and carers.

### **ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK**

The focus this week has been 'Keeping Going'. We looked at the examples of great sporting moments over the last year or so with England women's netball team winning the Commonwealth Games in the dying moments and how Gareth Thomas after years of competing in cycling achieved victory in last year's Tour de France. These individuals had both many successes but also huge disappointments in the careers but the message we gave was that they didn't give up easily, they kept going and preserved. A great lesson in life for sure.

### **PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AFTERSCHOOL**

At the end of school, please could all parents and children vacate the school site. Children should NOT be on the play equipment at all. I have mentioned this before but I hear things are starting to slip!

### **COMIC RELIEF RAISED £2400**

Thank you for all your donations towards Comic Relief. We raised £2400.

### **WEAR A HAT DAY**

It was great to see children and staff wearing their hats for Brain Tumour Research "Wear a Hat Day". We raised £125 towards the charity so thank you for your donations.

### **SEATON LIBRARY DRAMA GROUP**

Are you a budding actor? Children aged 6 to 11 are invited to join a new drama group at Seaton Library. Learn about acting through fun games and drama methods. We will be working towards a play using your ideas which will be performed in the library. This will be an enjoyable and informal way of learning the process of drama. Every Wednesday starting 24<sup>th</sup> April from 16.30 to 17.15. Sessions are free. For further information contact Skevoulla Hambi-Hilder Seaton Library [seaton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:seaton.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk) 01297 21832



## 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](mailto: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.

**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.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	No School. Bank Holiday Monday
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	Ashley Wood Photos (class photos)
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Sponsored Scramble (details to follow)
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	School Closed
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Half Term
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Staff Training Day NO PUPILS IN SCHOOL
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Pupils return to school
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 3 Fossil Trip
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Woodroffe Taster Day (Year 6 pupils who have places at Woodroffe)
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Whole School Sports Day
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Reserve Date for Sports Day if bad weather on 21 <sup>st</sup> .
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Transition Day for Axe Valley Academy Year 6 pupils.
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	School Summer Fete
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> & Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Production (details to follow)
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 5/6 Fun Day/Evening
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Natural Seaton Festival
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	Break up for summer holidays

Best wishes,

Nic George

Head

