



Seaton Primary School

Valley View, Seaton, Devon, EX12 2HF

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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

17th May 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Half term is just about here and a quick reminder that we break up on Thursday of next week and return on Tuesday 4th June. I wish everyone a wonderful half term break. The weather has been fine of late and I hope it continues so we can all get out and about.

STAFFING UPDATE

This has been an extremely busy half term with a number of teacher vacancies to fill here at Seaton Primary School. I have dedicated a large part of my diary to showing around potential candidates; shortlisting applications and running lengthy and very rigorous interviews. This is a very involved process to undertake for both the interviewees and the interview panel members but we have just concluded everything that we need to. The response to the three adverts we had has been excellent, especially as recruitment is an ongoing issue in education within England. Seaton Primary School is clearly a place where many teachers want to come and work. We have a great reputation and all the candidates loved the feel of the school and what we had to offer. This made the interviews we undertook very competitive. In September we will be having the following teachers joining us –

Key Stage 2 – Miss Jenna Banat (currently teaching at Willowbrook Primary School in Exeter)

Key Stage 2 – Miss Becky Smith (currently working at Bridport Primary School)

Key Stage 1 – Miss Melanie Sloan (newly qualified teacher)

I am really looking forward to working with each of the new teachers. They will offer a great deal to our school community and they are excited about the prospect of coming to work with us. All the teachers will be invited to come in after half term to meet the staff, pupils and their new classes. I wish them the very best for their future careers.



SWIMMING POOL

The pool is looking great! The children are thoroughly enjoying the lessons and are eager to get stuck in. WE ARE SO LUCKY TO HAVE THIS FACILITY (I might have mentioned this before!). Please, please support the swimming programme. Mr Delfosse has sent out a lengthy and detailed letter explaining the present and future ambitions for the pool. It is all plausible but we need your backing and this will involve a small, but regular financial contribution from ALL parents.

NEW CURRICULUM

Recently I included a section in the newsletter informing you about how we were revamping / refreshing the school curriculum. The main curriculum drivers for Seaton Primary School are going to be –

‘Health and Wellbeing’

‘The Locality’

‘Global Citizenship’

We already have an excellent reputation for developing a curriculum that makes the most of first hand learning experience and we all want this to continue into the future with many more new and exciting opportunities for our pupils.

We are currently looking into the potential of having ‘hook’ activities to kick off a project. This may involve an excursion, special visitor etc which will help enthuse a theme or topic. Along with this we are considering having a big question to run through the term. For example instead of studying the ‘The Norman Conquest’ we would ask a question along the lines of ‘Why did the Normans build so many castles?’ This was be the underlying direction for a term’s investigation to follow and this will add deeper meaning and context to the learning.

History, geography and science are subjects that offer great themes and interests to base a project around but we are not going to forget about the arts, RE, languages, PE, computing and all the other areas of the curriculum. We are going to be devoting a lot more time to planning within these areas and looking how children progress across a full range of subjects takes place. Every school has had a pretty relentless focus on Maths / English for a number of years and this has been particularly driven by the Government focus on these two areas. The tide is now turning and for the better too! The new OFSTED inspection framework will likely focus on

- What our curriculum offer looks like?
- What are the curriculum content choices and sequencing?
- What does progress look like?
- What knowledge is being learnt and retained and how is it being applied?

Staff all feel that this is a really positive focus for the short and long term future.

BOTTLES WANTED

Children are invited to wear non-uniform on Thursday 27th June in return for a bottle for the Summer Fete tombola. Any bottles accepted – fizzy pop, ketchup, bubble bath, wine.... Please bring your donations to your class teacher on the day.

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.



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. Children must not swim for 2 weeks after an episode of sickness and/or diarrhoea.

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.

THELMA HULBERT GALLERY ACTIVITIES

Join us at THG (Thelma Hulbert Gallery) for lots of art activities this Half Term!

Saturday 25 May, 5-8pm: Garden Party

Join us to celebrate the opening our new exhibition: 'Paper Play' and the launch of 'In Honiton' events week

Family art activities including magic wand-making, origami and Gail McGarva's magical storytelling boat

Face painting, delicious gourmet burgers and wood-fired pizzas, live music and bar.

Free art activities, donations welcome. Pay bar and food.

Tuesday 28 May: 2 Drop In workshops

Storyboat – Join Gail McGarva in her magical storytelling boat

Hands Full – A playful drawing and writing workshop creating paper sculpture with artist Sophia Clist

Drop in anytime between 11am and 3pm. All ages/abilities welcome. Free, suggested donation £2/child.

thelmahulbert.com info@thelmahulbert.com / 01404 45006

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday 21st May	Sponsored Scramble (details to follow)
Friday 24 th May	School Closed
Monday 27 th to Friday 31 st May	Half Term
Monday 3 rd June	Staff Training Day NO PUPILS IN SCHOOL
Tuesday 4 th June	Pupils return to school
Monday 17 th June	Year 3 Fossil Trip
Wednesday 19 th June	Woodroffe Taster Day (Year 6 pupils who have places at Woodroffe)
Friday 21 st June	Whole School Sports Day
Thursday 27 th June	Non Uniform in return for a bottle for the Fete
Friday 28 th June	Reserve Date for Sports Day if bad weather on 21 st .
Thursday 4 th July	Transition Day for Axe Valley Academy Year 6 pupils.
Saturday 6 th July	School Summer Fete
Thursday 11 th July	Parent information meeting for new Reception parents/carers 2.30pm & 5.30pm
Tues 16 th & Wed 17 th July	Year 6 Production (details to follow)



Thursday 18th July
Friday 19th July
Wednesday 24th July

Year 5/6 Fun Day/Evening
Natural Seaton Festival
Break up for summer holidays

Best wishes,

Nic George

Head

