



Seaton Sluice First School Newsletter 2



Believe and Achieve, Care and Share, Safe and Secure, Enjoy Together

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**"Nurturing
Excellence"**

This week's whole school attendance is...

Our average whole school attendance so far this year is **92.88%**.

Our whole school attendance target is 96.2% which we know we are capable of achieving. Please remember to encourage excellent attendance with your child or children to ensure they gain the most settled, happiest and most successful school experience with us.



Pupil quote of the week!



Reading is like an infinite world with so many possibilities- a world of wonder. It doesn't just inspire people; you learn and when you learn, you get a great job which leads to success. (Austin, Year 4)

Reading attitudes across school

This week, we have been chatting to pupils from across the school about their attitudes towards reading. It has been very interesting and has certainly provided us with important feedback to discuss together as a staff. The children were asked about their reading habits both in school and out of school. This included thinking about when they read, what they read and who they read with. We asked them to think about their favourite books and if there was anything we could do in school to make reading even better for them.

As a school, we really want to bring reading to life for our pupils. We want to share stories with children and bring excitement into their worlds, by opening their minds and take them on many new adventures. However, we would **LOVE** your help! As well as reading their reading scheme books, it is important for children to **read for pleasure**. This involves encouraging your child to read books of their own choice and listening to stories that could also be read to them (for example at bed time). This generates interest, enthusiasm and sheer enjoyment. Reading for pleasure opens up new worlds for children. Research shows that reading for pleasure can be directly linked to children's success throughout their time at school and even into adulthood. It gives them the opportunity to use their imagination to explore new ideas, visit new places and meet new characters. Interestingly, reading for pleasure also improves children's well-being and empathy. It helps them understand their own identity, and gives them an insight into the world and views of others.

Here are some ideas for encouraging your child to read for pleasure:



- ✓ Set aside a special time- you could even have a special lamp that you switch on to make it cosy!
- ✓ Model reading by yourself...fiction or fact, recipe book or newspaper.
- ✓ Read to each other and try to include different people- parents, grandparents, friends and family. Don't be afraid to model the 'fun aspect' perhaps using different voices.
- ✓ Set a challenge- can they read a book from four different authors in a set amount of time?
- ✓ Have reading buddies- an older child can read to a young sibling or even their pet to boost confidence.
- ✓ Listen to audiobooks- they allow children to experience a book above their own reading level. It also allows enjoyment of a book for a car journey and is something that can be shared together.
- ✓ Listening to a story over and over again can improve vocabulary and encourage comprehension.

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Absence

We understand that if children are unwell, on most occasions, they will need to remain at home to get better. For example, if your child has a temperature, a tummy bug or one of the infectious diseases such as chicken pox, they will need to rest and the best place to recover is in the comfort of their own home. However, if they seem tired or have a mild cold or sore throat, we would encourage them to come into school. There are medicine consent forms that can be completed which give staff permission to administer medication such as antibiotics or paracetamol (which should be prescribed by a doctor). An adult is also able to come into school at lunchtime, should unprescribed paracetamol need to be administered. If your child is absent from school, please contact the school office as soon as you can on the first day of their absence or alternatively, send a message via Parentmail.

Term-time holidays

The government has issued guidance to headteachers which states that any leave of absence for holidays during the school term time, can only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

By law, the school staff must consider the academic and educational needs of the child, before they agree to any request. All term time absence should be applied for by completing the school's 'Leave of Absence' form, at least two weeks prior to not attending school.

If an absence is considered to have implications for the child's future learning or educational welfare, permission cannot be granted.

Before deciding to take your child out of school during term time, it is essential you consider the possible consequences. Children may miss significant chances to learning which will affect subsequent understanding of subjects and the ability to progress and fully participate in the future. This is because our school curriculum is designed to be progressive, building upon year-on-year learning.

In some cases, absence also disrupts friendship patterns with classmates and peers. This can leave pupils feeling isolated or like they have 'missed out' on activities and therefore vulnerable on their return.

Whilst we understand that there will be some circumstances that will be classed as exceptional, we firmly discourage term time applications for leave of absence. Time missed from school can be particularly disruptive to future learning. Children benefit from a stable and consistent learning routine. We appreciate your support and consideration in minimising any possible disruption to learning.

School Gift Protocol

In the light of the cost of living crisis and a review of school policies, staff have unanimously agreed that we should no longer accept end of term gifts. Whilst it has been lovely receiving gifts of appreciation at the end of term, we very much feel privileged to be in our roles as staff at Seaton Sluice First School and believe that we should not be rewarded for carrying out our responsibilities; we love our jobs and love the families who we work with. Staff have also been asked not to buy end of term gifts for their classes and instead, plan in some special end of term activities.

Whilst families may feel that they would like to show their appreciation, we respectfully request that gifts are no longer bought or given to staff. This will hopefully relieve pressure, with families at times wondering which staff to buy for and also feel worried about finances. We would far prefer money to be spent on school trips to allow us to take the children out of school on occasions. There will also be opportunities at school performances to contribute through collections towards the school fund account which uses money to purchase resources for the benefit of all pupils. We want to assist families in whichever ways we can- minimising additional potential stress.

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Parent Think Tank

The **Parent Think Tank** was formed in 2020, during the pandemic. The group has been made up of committed parents from each class to have a voice and represent the views of families across our school. Not only has this been a highly effective group in providing feedback and informing decision making but it has been a group that has very much given Mrs Bennett invaluable support over the last couple of years. It is a valued group that has made a significant difference to the organisation of many aspects of school life. We would like open up the invite to more parents and carers as many members of the group no longer have children at the school. The group will also be re-named the '**Parent and Carer Forum**' and meetings will take place once every term in school. Mrs Bennett will attend and chair these meetings.

The dates for this year are:

Wednesday 16th November 7pm-8pm

Wednesday 15th March 7pm-8pm

Wednesday 14th June 7pm-8pm

Attendance at all three meetings is ideal. The meetings are very relaxed with a very inclusive feel. If you are able to commit to these meetings, would like to be part of this group and would enjoy discussing together and coming up with new ideas, then please email the school office at admin@seatonsluicefirst.co.uk to express your interest. This also includes members of the group who would like to continue. Mrs Bennett looks forward to meeting for the first time on 16.11.22.

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UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS (added events highlighted in yellow)	
10.10.22	Hello Yellow Week focus on well-being and mental health
10.10.22	Hello Yellow Assembly 2:30pm
11.10.22	Voices of Virtue in assembly (Black History Month)
12.10.22	Blue Cross Assembly- safety around dogs
17.10.22	Black History Week
21.10.22	Flu vaccinations for whole school
21.10.22- 31.10.22	October Half Term
01.11.22	Parental Consultations Rec to Year 4 3:30-6:30pm
03.11.22	Parental Consultations Rec to Year 4 3:30-6:30pm
09.11.22	Tempest School Photos- individual and siblings
10.11.22	AUTUMN Achievers' Assembly (Nursery, Reception and Y1) 9:00am
14.11.22	Anti-bullying Week
16.11.22	Year 3 Trip to Great North Museum
16.11.22	Parent and Carer School Partnership meeting 7pm-8pm
17.11.22	AUTUMN Achievers' Assembly (Years 2, 3 and 4) 9:00am
26.11.22	Turning on Christmas Lights Seaton Sluice Village 4:00pm
04.12.22	St Paul's Church Christingle Service 10am
06.12.22	Nursery and Reception Christmas Production 9:30-10:30am
07.12.22	Nursery and Reception Christmas Production 9:30-10:30am
07.12.22	Reception vision screening (pm)
09.12.22	Years 1 and 2 Christmas Performance 9:30-10:30am
12.12.22	Years 1 and 3 Christmas Performance 1:30-2:30pm
13.12.22	Years 3 and 4 Christmas Performance 9:30-10:30am
14.12.22	Years 3 and 4 Christmas Performance 1:30-2:30pm
15.12.22	Dib and Dab's Christmas Mix-Up (In-school theatre performance treat)
20.12.22	Nursery Christmas Party 9:30-10:30am
20.12.22	Reception Christmas Party 1:30-2:30pm
21.12.22	Years 1 and 2 Christmas Party 9:30-10:30am
21.12.22	Years 3 and 4 Christmas Party 1:30-2:30pm
23.12.22	Break up for Christmas Holidays
09.01.23	Return to school