

# Seghill First School Newsletter September 2017 edition 2

**Whole school attendance 95.3%. Attendance target 96.3%**

## Reminders

Our classes and staff are now arranged like this-

Year group	Class name	Staff name
Nursery class	orange class	Mrs Kembrey
Reception / Year 1	yellow class	Mrs Murdy
Year 1/ 2 class	green class	Mrs O'Donnell and Mrs Watson
Year 3 class	red class	Mrs Knowles
Year 4 class	blue class	Mrs Bell

Mrs Whitelaw and Mrs Miller will support in orange and yellow class during the morning sessions and throughout school during afternoon sessions.

### School uniform

Please ensure that all items are named, including coats, and PE kit.

## Information for parents and carers

Thank you to those parents who completed and returned the school admissions form and the home school agreement by **Friday 15 September**. **We are still waiting for this information from some people despite numerous reminders and extra copies.**

## PE days for the autumn term

Orange class Monday (please come to school wearing joggers and trainers)

Yellow class Monday and Thursday

Green, red and blue class Tuesday and Thursday

Children should wear a plain white shirt, plain black or navy shorts and sandshoes or trainers for PE. Many people find it convenient to bring their kit on a Monday and leave it at school all week. Please ensure long hair is tied back for PE. Children cannot wear earrings for PE. If your child cannot remove their own earrings they should not wear them on PE days. Staff are unable to remove earrings for children.

## Annual calendar

The annual calendar was sent out with our September edition1 newsletter. We hope you found it useful to have the dates for all of our main events for the whole of the year. Please let us know if you need an additional copy. A copy is also on the school website in the "letters" section.

## Autumn term coffee mornings

We hope parents who were able to join us for the class coffee mornings this week found them useful. Information that was shared at the coffee mornings will be sent home to parents who were not able to attend.

## Vacancies on our governing body

We currently have **two vacancies** on our governing body and we would be very interested to hear from any of you who are willing to become involved in this **rewarding and challenging role**. Attached to this newsletter is a letter from our chair of governors, **Mrs Steph Hall**, which tells you about the role of governor and what you need to do to become one.

One of the vacancies has arisen as one of governors is no longer able to carry out this role. **Kerry Hall** has been a very active and supportive governor for a number of years and will be much missed by the governors for the knowledge and skills she brought to the role. Thank you for all of your hard work, Kerry.

Please let me know if you are interested in the role of governor. We would love to add to our current team of governors who share a passion for getting the best for the children of Seghill First School now and in the future.

### Reading champions

We are delighted with your response to our request for reading champions. If you have told us that you are interested we will be sending out some information about training.

We are still interested to hear from anyone else who is interested in joining our reading champions. Please let us know if you are able to help.

### Request from Early Years

Mrs Murdy and the Early Years team would be very grateful for donations of **dolls** that your child no longer plays with so they can be used in the Early Years play areas. We are already running very short of spare underwear and uniform. We would be very pleased to receive any **knickers, underpants, trousers and skirts** in smaller sizes that your child no longer wears. Please take donations to the school office. If your child comes home with spare clothes from school, **please wash the items and return them to school**. Thank you.

### Fundraising

#### Jeans for Genes

Thank you to all the children and staff who wore jeans or non-uniform today to raise money for the Jeans for Genes charity. Children have been learning about how genetic disorders affect children in their everyday life. We have used materials from the charity's website [www.jeansforgenesday.org](http://www.jeansforgenesday.org) to help our children to understand what genes do and what can happen if some genes are missing or don't work properly. **We raised £61 for Jeans for Genes**. Well done everyone.

#### MacMillan coffee morning

We will be hosting our annual MacMillan coffee morning on **Friday 29 September** from 8:45am in the hall. Please drop off your children at the classroom door as normal and come in to the hall via the school office. You will be able to buy a **cake and a cuppa for the incredible price of £1.00**. Any donations of cakes, especially cupcakes, and tray bakes, would be very gratefully received. Children will be brought to the hall so parents who come to the coffee morning will be able to see their children. If you are able to make or donate goodies for our coffee morning, please complete and return a reply slip attached. Thank you.

#### Bags2school

We have arranged a **Bags2school collection** for the **beginning of November**. Bags will be sent out after the half term break for donations of clothes, bedding etc. The bags are weighed by the Bags2school team. The heavier the bags, the more money we raise for our school. The money raised will be used to subsidise the **Christmas treat** so all children experience a special opportunity free of charge.

### Year 4 visit to Dukeshouse Wood

**Mrs Bell and Mrs Knowles** will be taking our **Year 4 children** on our annual residential visit to **Dukeshouse Wood** from Wednesday to Friday next week. Children will be taking part in activities including archery, orienteering, climbing and abseiling. This is always a brilliant visit which our children enjoy so much and learn so much from. They all grow in confidence and look like they have grown a couple of inches while they are away! Previous groups have always been commended for their excellent conduct while they are there and I am sure this will be the case again for this group. Good luck and enjoy yourselves.

### Demolition of the CIU Club

You may have noticed some signs regarding the demolition of the CIU Club. I am meeting with the demolition team at the beginning of October to discuss the details of how and when this will be done, and how we will ensure the safety of our children while work is carried out. As soon as I have any further details I will inform you. It is possible that the top yard will be completely out of action at some point.

## **GOVERNOR VACANCY AT SEGHELL FIRST SCHOOL**

Currently, we especially need people who can help us to make links within the Seghill/ Northumberland community.

- 1 x Parent Governor
- 1 x Local Authority Governor

Please note that the roles are the same despite having different titles.

### ***So, what's it like being a school governor?***

Well, actually, it's great! We have a group of dedicated governors who have the interests of the school at heart. It can be very satisfying as we are all involved and know what's happening. It can be very enjoyable and you will get to work with very nice people.

It is, of course, also a very important post- one that should be taken seriously. Our job is to work alongside the Head Teacher to ensure that the school is the best it can be. This includes looking at school standards, budgeting, resourcing, the building, safeguarding- just to mention a few things.

### ***What is the time- commitment?***

To a degree that is up to you, but the minimum governors do is one committee meeting half-termly and a Full Governing Body meeting termly, both no more than 2 hours in length. Each governor also has a 'link-governor' role meaning you may work with another governor or member of staff on such things as attendance, safeguarding or Teaching & Learning. This may take up a bit more time but it is dependent on the role. Some governors do more, some less but each of us give as much as we can.

### ***I have no experience as a governor. Is this a problem?***

No, not at all- we will train you, although we would welcome experienced governors as well.

### ***What qualifications/ skills do I need?***

Life experience and a willingness to make a commitment.

You also need to have a full understanding of the importance of confidentiality. As a parent governor, you need to recognise that you are working for the whole school and not just your child.

### ***Do I need to have an educational background?***

No. Whilst we welcome people who do, it is also very important that we have people with a range of skills beyond the area of education. In this way, we get different perspectives, knowledge and skills.

### ***Who can apply?***

Any parent or guardian can apply for the parent governor role. Anybody can apply for the LA role.

### ***What happens next?***

If you are interested in either role, firstly let Miss Chappell know. After that, I will meet with you for a chat about the role and what you can offer, and so that you can decide if it is something you would like to do. Once this is done, it will put to other parents who get the chance to vote. In the event of more than one application, parents will be asked to vote for their preferred candidate. You will of course be DBS-checked.

I hope this helps. If you would like to meet to chat through any points, please do let Miss Chappell, or myself know.

Regards,  
Steph Hall (Chair of Governors)