

Seghill First School Newsletter September 2022 edition 4

Attendance target 96.3%

Whole school attendance since 07 September 2022	95.4%
Whole school attendance this week	94.2%
95.3%	94.0%
96.0%	89.3%
97.9%	95.0%

Class of the week for this week is **Purple** class. **Well done Purple class.**

Class of the month for September is **Purple** class with 96.6% attendance. **Well done Purple class.**

Star of the week

Our stars of the week are-

- Mrs Lyons Jasmina:
- Miss Winter & Mrs Watson Olivia;
- Mrs Bell Alannah;
- Miss Neal Brodie;
- Miss Porter Zack;
- Mrs Askew Isaac;
- Miss Chappell James R;



Birthdays

We've only had one birthday during the last week and that is **Ollie** in Red class who is now 6.

Happy birthday Ollie. We hope your birthday was special and fun.



Commemorating the life of HRH The Queen

A rose bush has been planted in the village to **commemorate the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.**

Sophie in our Year 1 class was chosen to help George Arnott to plant the rose. What a lovely idea.



Leave of absence during term time requests

Last academic year we modified our approach to dealing with requests for leave of absence during term time to reflect the situation at that time. We authorised most leave of absence requests, including those where reasons relating to the impact of Covid-19 were provided.

As the global picture is now currently very different to this time last year, and hopefully stays that way, we are writing to remind you of the process and law around requests for leave of absence during term time.

Fact 1- Parents and carers requesting leave of absence during term time must **submit the request at least two weeks in advance** using the **leave of absence during term time form**.

Fact 2- The only leave of absence during term time requests that will be authorised are those where **evidence of exceptional circumstances** is provided.

Fact 3- Leave of absence that is taken **without a leave of absence request form being submitted** will not be authorised and will trigger an application from school to the Local Authority for a **fixed penalty notice** to be issued.

Fact 4- Leave of absence that is taken **which has not been authorised** is extremely likely to trigger an application from school to the Local Authority for a **fixed penalty notice** to be issued.

What are exceptional circumstances?

It is impossible to list examples of exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances are occasions when it is impossible to take a holiday outside of term time. One example could be where a parent or carer works in a factory that has two-week annual shut down and this is the only time that holidays can be taken. This leave of absence request would need to be supported by a letter from the employer.

What are not exceptional circumstances?

We are usually provided with reasons why parents and carers want to request a leave of absence during term time, but we are rarely provided with evidence of exceptional circumstances. These examples **are not** exceptional circumstances-

“We did not know when the school holiday was”;

“The holiday was booked by a grandparent/relative as a surprise”;

“My child normally has good attendance”;

“We’ve not taken them out of school before”;

“It is cheaper to go outside of term time”.

The term dates and holiday dates are posted on the front page of the school website. Paper copies were circulated last academic year and an electronic copy was sent to all parents at the beginning of this term.

What happens if the leave of absence request is not authorised?

Leave of absence during term time requests are only authorised where **evidence of exceptional circumstances** is provided. If your leave of absence request is not authorised, it will clearly state on the letter that you receive what the next steps will be-

*“You should be aware that failure to secure your child’s regular attendance at school can amount to offence contrary to s444 (1) of the Education Act 1996. In accordance with current guidance, this absence, if taken, will be unauthorised absence and as such is capable of triggering a referral to the Local Authority Education Welfare Team for a **Fixed Penalty Notice**. Should a referral be made and the Local Authority decide to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice, then **you will be required to pay a Fixed Penalty of up £120**, (you should also be aware that a Fixed Penalty Notice can be issued individually to each parent in respect of a child) failure to pay may result in prosecution before your local Magistrates Court.”*

We do completely understand that the cost of family holidays during the school holidays can be astronomical. However, we have a **legal duty** to follow the law around attendance, including only authorising leave of absence requests that have evidence of exceptional circumstances and referring to the Local Authority for a fixed penalty notice to be issued for all unauthorised leave of absence requests.

Macmillan Coffee afternoon

Thank you so much to everyone who came to our Macmillan Coffee afternoon this afternoon **and for the donations of cakes and goodies**. As always, there was a lovely feeling in the hall.

We have raised an ABSOLUTELY AMAZING £350 for Macmillan.

All of this money will go directly to the Macmillan charity to support them to continue their amazing work.

Congratulations to our **raffle winners**- James, Jack, Owen and Leo, Ella A, Callum and Christina.



Meetings with class teachers

We have arranged our meetings for **parents and carers to meet with their child's class teacher** on these dates-

- Monday 17 October from 3:30pm for Nursery, Reception and Years 2, 3 and 4;
- Wednesday 19 October from 3:30pm for all year groups.

We will be circulating the arrangements for booking appointments in the next newsletter. Please make a note of the dates.

It is really helpful if you can bring your child along to the meeting, so they are involved in the conversations. Meetings will take place in the hall.

Events coming up this half term

Autumn term interviews for parents and children with class teachers	Monday 17 October from 3:30pm for Nursery, Reception and Years 2, 3 and 4
Autumn term interviews for parents and children with class teachers	All year groups Wednesday 19 October from 3:30pm
Celebration assembly	Friday 21 October at 9:00am, including harvest festival
October half term holidays	Monday 24 October to Friday 28 October 2022

World space funday lunch Thursday 06 October

We will be serving our autumn term census lunch on **Thursday 06 October**. The meal will have a "world space funday" theme.

Golden tickets will be hidden underneath the plates. One child in every class will win a **special prize** if they find a golden ticket under their plate.



Bikes and scooters on the school site

It is great to see children using their bikes and scooters to get to and from school. Unfortunately, we've had a few incidents where there has been a tangle between a child on a bike and a pedestrian and a very close shave involving a child on a bike and Mrs Lyons classroom door.

In order to keep everyone safe, please can all children using their **bike and scooter dismount and push it while on the school site**. Thank you.

