

Seghill First School newsletter June 2020 edition 1

Monday 01 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you are all keeping safe and well. Today is the official start of the second half of the summer term and the first day of June. Things continue to change from day to day and week to week. The biggest change for us is the fact that we have opened to children for the first time since the end of March.

Today we have welcomed seven children back to our school. Although we have been closed to pupils, the building has been open and staff have been in school working hard and preparing for reopening. But it feels a whole lot better to see and hear children in school.

The children are working in one group with two adults in the hall and the middle garden. We are offering full days to children in Reception and Year 1 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. School will not be open to these children on Fridays. We are offering full days to children identified as being in the priority group from Monday to Friday each week. School will be open to these children on Fridays.

The children are working at tables and work stations spread out in the hall. Toys and equipment have been cleaned before use and will be cleaned after use. We have provided each pupil with a tray that contains their water bottle and the equipment that will only be used and touched by them. These will be cleaned at the end of the day. The children will also be outside as much as possible.

We are only using the hall and the middle garden at the moment. Children are coming in to school via the hall corridor and top yard door. We are working in one group, so all of the children are together with the adults. We have not implemented staggered start and end times nor have we had to stagger when children can move around school, have lunch or access the toilets like some schools with many more children have had to do. We are encouraging handwashing and maintaining social distancing. An enhanced cleaning schedule is in place and cleaning is done before, during and after school. Mr Ruler and Mrs Collier have changed their working patterns so one of them is in school throughout the school day to carry out the enhanced cleaning requirements.

We have completed our risk assessments and have managed to get everything in place without sticking tape everywhere to mark out 2 metre squares. School does look different but hopefully in the most positive way we could make it for our children and still following the rules.

We are continuing to discuss and plan for the next stage of the phased reopening of school before the summer. We will be circulating a survey to parents of all children in Years 2, 3 and 4 soon to gather your thoughts about your child returning to school.

Our top priority is to keep our children and our staff safe. We will do everything that we can to reduce the risks to you and your child by attending school.

If you want to contact me directly with a specific question relating to the phased reopening of school, please contact me using the admin email address, which I check every day-
admin@seghill.northumberland.sch.uk

With love and best wishes

Tracey Chappell
Headteacher

Booking a place for your child at school

Making the decision about whether or not to send your child back to school is undoubtedly difficult. Families must make the decision based on what is best for you. A number of people have spoken to us to say that they are unsure and to ask for advice. A number of people have also changed their mind about what to do.

We are happy to welcome your child back to school if they have not come in today, but there will be a time lag between you asking us and your child being able to join us. This is because we cannot arrange extra staff and reorganise the groups that we already have running in school without completing additional risk assessments.

If your child is in Reception or Year 1, or if your child is in the priority group and you would like them to start attending school, you must inform us in writing, giving 5 days' notice of your request. Children in the priority group will be allocated a place before other children.

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Remote learning using School360 and Tapestry

Teachers will continue to provide remote learning via Tapestry or School360. Many of you are engaging with these platforms regularly and are clearly working really hard to support your child to make progress and prevent them from falling behind. It is great to see the work the children are doing and how they are keeping up the good habits of doing some work on a regular basis.

I cannot stress enough the importance of engaging with remote learning. We do not expect you to complete every activity or post work every day. However, we do expect children to be doing some form of work every day and for you to engage with these systems. This will really support your child to make progress and prevent them from falling behind.

We have had 8 school weeks of being closed and some families have still not even logged on to School360 or Tapestry. We are very happy to help if you need help but we cannot help you if you haven't logged on. Please contact class teachers directly using these addresses-

- anna.bell1@school360.co.uk
- amanda.lyons@school360.co.uk
- pamela.knowles@school360.co.uk
- sarah.kembrey@school360.co.uk
- hannah.askew@school360.co.uk

Birthdays



Our **birthdays** for the second half of May are

- Owen (orange class age 4);
- Frankie and Esme (yellow class age 5);
- Jay (red class age 6);
- Tom (blue class age 8).

Happy birthday to you all. Birthdays for the first half of June will be included in our next newsletter.