

Seghill First School Newsletter February 2023 edition 2

Attendance target 96.3%

Whole school attendance since 07 September 2022	92.5%
Whole school attendance this week	93.5%
82%	89.0%
98.2%	95.0%
93.7%	91.4%

Class of the week for this week is **Red** class with 98.2% attendance. **Well done Red class.** You now have the attendance octopus and you all had a dip in the sweet box this morning.

Our winner for a **dip in the attendance prize box** as a reward for having 100% attendance and no late marks for the week is **Charlie** in **Green** class.

Star of the week

Our stars of the week are-

Mrs Lyons	Harrison;
Miss Winter & Mrs Watson	Frankie L;
Mrs Bell	Mason;
Miss Neal	Brodie;
Miss Porter	Edison;
Mrs Askew	Kayson;
Miss Chappell	Tia;
Staff star	Mrs Miller.



Non uniform Friday 17 February

Children and staff are invited to wear non-uniform on **Friday 17 February** and to bring in a **donation in aid of school funds.** The money from this event will be combined with money from World Book Day to **buy books for our children.**

Birthdays

We've had lots of birthdays during the last week-

- **Harrison** in Blue class is now 9;
- **Joshua** in Purple class is 8 today;
- **Mason** in Green class is now 7;
- **Sophie** in Red class is now 6;
- **Sam and Will** in Yellow class are now 5;

Happy birthday to you all. We hope your birthday was special and fun.



Spring term events and activities

Friday 17 February	Non-uniform for school funds
Friday 17 February 9:00am	Celebration assembly
Monday 20 – Friday 24 February	School closed for half term holidays
Monday 27 February	School opens for all pupils
Thursday 02 March	World Book Day book sale and coffee morning
Friday 10 March 2:30pm	Year 4 class assembly
Thursday 16 March 12 noon	Mother's Day lunch
Friday 17 March 12 noon	Mother's Day lunch
Friday 17 March	Red Nose Day
Monday 20 March	Easter times tables challenge starts
Wednesday 22 March	Movie night for children in Years 1 to 4
Friday 24 March 2:30pm	Year 3 class assembly
Monday 27 March 3:30 to 5:30pm	Meetings for parents and carers with class teachers
Wednesday 29 March 3:30 to 5:30pm	Meetings for parents and carers with class teachers
Thursday 30 March 9:00am	Celebration assembly
Friday 31 March	School closed- staff training day

Topic homework

Your child will be coming home today with their **February half term topic homework**. This is an extended piece of homework to be completed in their topic homework book and handed in no later than **Wednesday 8th March**. During this time there will be no Maths or English homework set. Please note that even though we will not be sending home maths and English homework at this time, spellings will still be given out each week and children should continue to read at home and return their reading book and reading record to school every day.

Topic Homework is given instead of three weeks' worth of maths and English homework. With this in mind, we expect to see a minimum of three tasks that are completed to a high standard, and reflect the equivalent of three weeks' worth of homework. Models, paintings and sculptures that children have completed should be brought in alongside their topic homework books.

In previous years we have received some super examples of just how creative you are, including excellent models, pictures, writing and drawings. Staff will include ideas of activities that children can complete in their topic homework, but we want to see what you can do.

Pictures of completed topic homework will be shared and celebrated via our **school Facebook page** and the **homepage of the school website**, so please keep an eye out for them.

We would really appreciate your support with Topic Homework so all children have at least three pieces of high-quality work which they can be very proud of.

World Book Day 02 March 2023

Staff are planning activities to take place on World Book Day on **Thursday 02 March** and throughout the week. Mrs Watson has a **£1 book voucher** for every child. In addition to this, she has also managed to secure a **free copy of one of the £1 World Book Day books** for every child in the school.

Mrs Watson has organised an **author visit** with **Stuart Reid** for all year groups on **Tuesday 28 February**. Stuart has written many children's books, including the Gorgeous George series of books.

Please note that **we will not be dressing up this year for World Book Day**. We agreed some time ago that we would dress up every other year, and as we dressed up last year, we will not be dressing up this year.

The **book sale and coffee morning** will be taking place in the hall on **Thursday 02 March** from **8:45am**. Books will be on sale. If you wish to donate any books, please send them into school by Wednesday 01 March.

Hot drinks and juice will also be available. In order to limit the financial burden on parents and carers, we will be charging **£1 per adult** to enter the book sale and coffee morning, but there will be no charge for hot drinks. Children will also be provided with a drink.

Any money raised from the entry fee and the sale of books will be used directly to **buy books for our children**.

Attendance monitoring

We have sent out more **attendance letters** this week where attendance is **less than 90%**. When attendance **falls below 90%**, a child is then defined as a **persistent absentee**. We currently have **25 out of 91** children in Reception to Year 4 who are persistent absentees. In real terms, this means that nearly one third of our children are missing the equivalent of half a day every week. Our whole school attendance figure is significantly below national and Northumberland averages

I appreciate that there may be very valid reasons for a child's absence and very few parents fail to support their child by securing good attendance. However, as a result of our current attendance figures we must write to all parents and carers when their child's attendance is causing concern.

If you are worried about your child's attendance or if there is a medical reason that is impacting on your child's attendance, please let us know.

Link to activities for February half term activities

Here are some links to ideas for activities for the half term holidays-

<https://www.visitnorthumberland.com/explore/things-to-do/events/family-events>

<https://www.northeastfamilyfun.co.uk/2019/02/whats-on-for-kids-north-east-february-half-term.html>

<https://letsgowiththechildren.co.uk/events/northumberland/>

<https://www.chroniclelive.co.uk/special-features/25000-national-trust-free-family-23878320> This is a link to the Chronicle website with information about free family vouchers to visit a National Trust property.

Celebration assembly Friday 17 February

We hope you will be able to join us for our **celebration assembly** at the end of this half term. It will take place on **Friday 17 February from 9:00am in the school hall**. Please drop off children at their classroom doors and come around to the main entrance at the school office.

Reminder about jewellery in school

Earrings

Our uniform policy states that children can wear “**one pair of plain stud earrings**”. Some children are wearing more than one pair of earrings and earrings that are not plain studs. Please support us to keep everyone safe by ensuring that your child wears one pair of plain stud earrings if their ears are pierced.

Watches

We have noted that a number of children have started to wear a watch which also has a built-in camera that can take photographs and videos. Some of these watches also have games on them. We very much encourage children to wear a watch for school if they would like to do so, but **watches with cameras and games should not be worn for school**.

Hair colouring

We have also noted the increase in children, especially boys, with **dyed or tipped hair and tramlines** shaved in. Our school policy states-

“Our expectations for hairstyles reflect our high expectations for school uniform. With this in mind, extreme hairstyles are not permitted. This includes shaved shapes or lines, Mohicans, extensions, bleaching, streaks, bright colours and styles which require styling products to maintain them. Plain hair bands, bobbles and slides are acceptable.”

We do not want to get into a cycle of excluding children or placing them in isolation due to their non-compliance with our school uniform policy. However, we do have a clear policy which is being totally ignored by some.

Research into the minimum age for hair colouring of any type shows that the minimum age is 16 years old. The reason is that all legal colouring products used in the UK are labelled as “not intended for use on persons under the age of 16”. If that were not reason enough, children can often be more sensitive to the chemicals in colour than adults. If a child has the potential to develop allergies (and this can come back to their individual genetic make-up), exposure at an early age may increase their allergic sensitivity earlier.

Please demonstrate your support for our expectations by following the guidelines on hairstyles in our uniform policy.

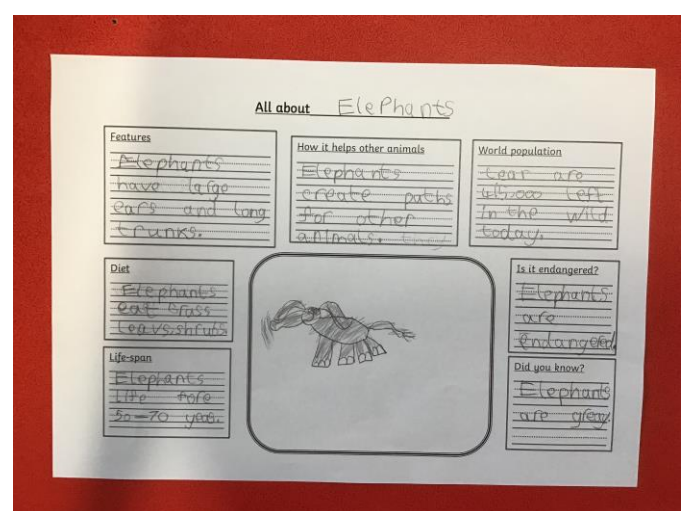
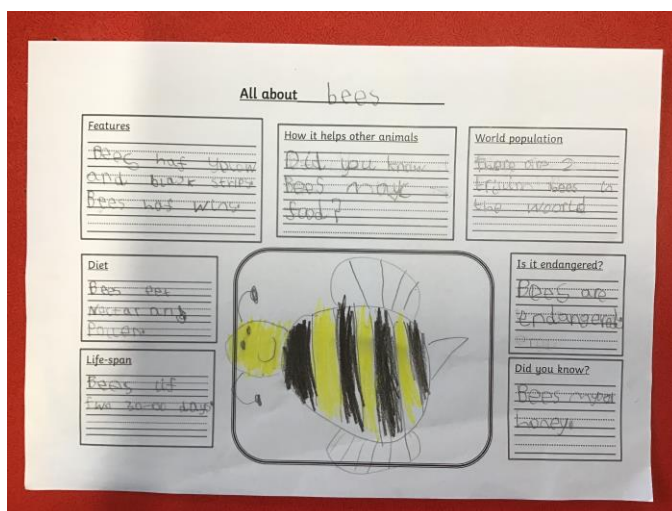
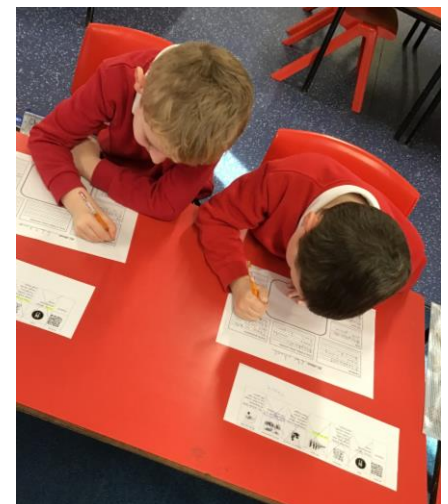
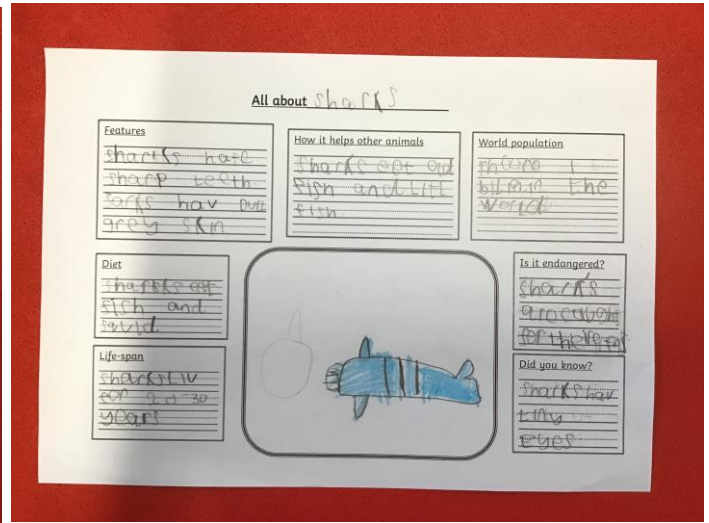
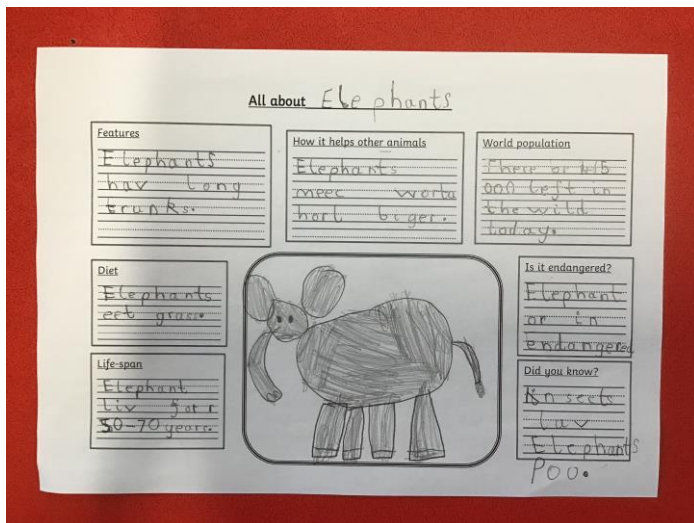
Staffing in Early Years

Mrs Kembrey will be back at school next week following her maternity leave. We are all looking forward to having Mrs Kembrey back.

Sadly, that does mean that **Miss Porter** will be leaving us at the end of this half term. We have loved working with Miss Porter and I know she has loved working here. She will have a week to handover to Mrs Kembrey before she leaves to ensure a smooth transition.

Key stage 1 spotlight

Miss Neal says, "In KS1 our current topic is 'Amazing Animals'. This half term we have focussed our work around the book 'The Most Important Animal of All'. Last week, we researched all of the animals and decided which animal we thought was the most important. This week, we have written our own non-chronological reports about our chosen animal, using our research. Our reports included information on the animal's features, diet, world population, life-span etc. In ICT, we will be typing our non-chronological reports up!



Well done Year 1. Thank you for sharing your lovely work with us. I was wowed by your writing this week.