

Seghill First School Newsletter October 2020 edition 2

Attendance

	% attendance not including Covid-19 absence	Number of days missed not due to Covid-19 absence	Number of days missed due to Covid-19 absence
Blue class	94.0	45.5	32
Green class	93.4	34.5	11
Red class	96.2	26.5	61
Yellow class	98.8	8	9
Orange class	93.9	46	39
Whole school	95.3	160.5	152

Whole school attendance is currently **95.5%**. **106.5 school days** have been missed due to absence. This does not include any Covid-19 absences.

152 school days have been missed due to Covid-19 absences.

If your child is absent from school, please remember to **contact us on the first day of absence before 9:15am** to let us know why they are absent and when you expect them to return to school.

Birthdays

Our birthday boys and girls in the second half of October are-

- Freya in Orange class Nursery age 4;
- Alannah and Willow in Orange class Reception age 5;
- Bobby in Yellow class age 6;
- Emily, Blake J and Olivia in Red class age 7;
- Jimmy in Green class age 8;

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



Star of the week

Our stars of the week for the last two weeks are-

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Mrs Bell's star | Katie and Jake; |
| • Mrs Lyons' and Mrs Watson's star | Willow and Jimmy; |
| • Mrs Knowles' star | Jay and Ava-Betty |
| • Mrs Kembrey's star | Olivia and Ellie; |
| • Mrs Askew's star | Caiden and Frankie; |
| • Mrs Edmondson's star | Tiger; |
| • Mrs Hurst's star | Emily M; |
| • Miss Chappell's star | Matthew; |
| • Miss Chappell's staff star | Mrs Lyons. |



HALLOWEEN THEMED NON-UNIFORM ON FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER

Children are invited to wear **Halloween themed non uniform on Friday 23 October and pay a donation of £1**. Children can embrace this as much or as little as they wish. We do not usually do this, but are doing so this year as children will not be trick or treating or having Halloween parties because of the current restrictions.

Children's outfits need to be compatible with doing their normal lessons, playing outside and going to the toilet!! There may be a couple of games and little treats for them too. We do need some rules to make sure everyone is safe and not too scary- no masks, swords or weapons please.

Bitesize- important information

PE days for the autumn term B- NEW

Children in all year groups should **come to school wearing PE kit on their PE days next half term too**. We are not changing into PE kit in school. They should wear their school jumper/cardigan and polo top as normal with plain black or dark joggers or leggings and trainers. They can wear shorts underneath if they wish.

PE days for each class for **autumn term B** will be-

Blue	Green	Red	Yellow	Orange
Tuesday and Wednesday	Tuesday and Wednesday	Tuesday and Thursday	Tuesday and Thursday	Wednesday

After school clubs for autumn term B

Next half term clubs are for Yellow class (multi skills on Tuesdays) and Red class (team games on Thursdays). Letters have been sent to parents of children in these two classes. The cost for your child to attend each club for 7 weeks is **£14.00**. If you would like your child to take part, you will need to pay and give consent using **School Gateway by Friday 23 October**. We are not sending out permission slips nor are we accepting cash.

Possible circuit breaker and extended two week half term holiday

I am being asked about whether we will be having an extended two week half term break, which will part of a potential "circuit breaker" two week lockdown. I have absolutely no information relating to this. If we are placed in a local or national lockdown, I will find out about it at exactly the same time as you. When the Prime Minister announced the national lockdown and school closures in March, all headteachers found out at exactly the same time and in the same way as everyone else in the country. We had no advance notice of it happening. If we are placed in a local or national lockdown, we will implement our contingency plans as per the instructions given by the Prime Minister at the time of the decision.

Critical workers and possible lockdown

Thank you to parents who completed and submitted the survey on critical workers in October edition 1 newsletter.

If a local or national lockdown is put in place, children of these parents will be offered a priority place in school.

Reminder about telephone calls from class teachers

Class teachers are making telephone calls to parents to update you on how your child has settled back into school and their targets for this term and beyond. These telephone calls are instead of face to face meetings.

Parents of children in Red and Green class who have not spoken to class teachers yet will receive a call on Wednesday of next week. Class teachers from Orange, Yellow and Blue calls have made all of their calls. If you have not spoken to the class teacher yet, please ring school to give a time when they can ring you back.

Individual photographs

Our school photographer, Michelle Fowler, will be in school on **Monday 19 October** to take **individual photographs** of all children.

We have worked with Michelle and her team to carry out a risk assessment so this activity can go ahead while keeping the children and staff safe. However, we **will not be able to offer family photographs** this year- older and younger siblings will not be able to come into school to have their photograph taken with our pupils. If you have any concerns about the processes around individual photographs being taken, please do not hesitate to ask.

Autumn term topic homework

Today we are sending home your child's **topic homework**. The purpose of topic homework is for your child to learn and explore more about a topic that we are learning about in school. They can do this through **drawing, making and writing**.

We have given your child a **Topic Homework book** to record their work in. Most children will be working in the same book that they have previously completed their topic homework in. We ask that your child uses a maximum of **4 pages** in their Topic Homework book.

We would also love to see **drawing, paintings, models and sculptures**, as we have a very strong tradition of children making the most amazing pieces to bring into school for their class topic homework display. If your child does make something to bring in for the topic homework display, please send it into school in a **named carrier bag**. All items will be placed in quarantine, and then put on the topic homework display in each classroom. Photographs will be taken and shared on the school website and our Facebook page.

Topic homework is being given out today to all year groups. The deadline for topic homework to be completed and returned to school is **Wednesday 11 November**. This means that your child has 12 school days plus half term week and 3 weekends to do this work.

While children are busy with their topic homework, we will not be sending home any English or maths homework. However, they will still have **spellings** to learn and we still expect them to **read 5 times each week**.

We are looking forward to seeing all of the children's imagination and hard work coming to life when they return their topic homework to school.

Advance notice of BBC Children In Need annual appeal

We will be supporting the BBC's annual Children In Need appeal in school on **Friday 13 November**. Children and staff are invited to come to school in **non-uniform**. There is no specific theme. Children can wear Pudsey/Blush/Children In Need inspired clothes if they wish, but it is not a fancy dress day. We are hoping for a donation of **£1 per child**, but will be happy with any donation.

Our school theme for Children in Need is **fabulous 40**, to coincide with the 40th anniversary of The Children in Need appeal. What can your child do 40 times? 40 skips, 40 forward rolls, 40 star jumps, name 40 countries, count to 40 in Spanish, draw 40 spots on Pudsey's eye patch? I'm sure that you can come up with some amazing ideas for what your child can do 40 times. You've got 4 weeks to get practising at home. Teachers will ask children to show what they can do on Friday 13 November. We will share photographs on the website and the school Facebook page. There will be prizes for the best and most original fabulous 40s in each class.



Fundraising

We will not be holding a Christmas fayre in the traditional sense this year. However, we are intending to hold a **raffle, virtual tombolas** and provide **Christmas Eve packs** to order.

Hopefully I will be able to meet with the **fundraising committee** soon then we will send out more details after half term to let you know what will be on offer.

VE day anniversary coin

I am delighted to announce that today, every child in our school will receive a **VE Day 75th anniversary coin** courtesy of **Seaton Valley Council**. Many events planned to commemorate VE day on **08 May 2020** were cancelled due to the restrictions in place at that time. The Seaton Valley councillors had planned to distribute the coins to children at VE day events in Seaton Valley. Although this could not happen, the councillors really wanted the children in Seaton Valley to have something to remember this important event in our history. Our very grateful thanks goes to Seaton Valley Council for their kindness to our children.

Bitesize- guidance for parents and carers about children's health

Should I send my child to school?

It can be hard to judge whether a child showing any symptoms of illness should be sent to school, especially at the moment. The NHS has developed a handy guide for parents to support them in deciding to send their child to school or not.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

This covers Covid-related symptoms but also other common childhood conditions such as impetigo, chicken pox and cold sores.

Should I book a Covid-19 test for my child?

The link below gives guidance on when you should book a Covid test for your child.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-parents-and-guardians-when-you-should-book-a-coronavirus-test-for-your-child>

Covid checker

A quick guide for parents, called a Covid checker, has been produced to advise parents about symptoms, actions and when children should return to school.

<https://northumberlandeducation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/covidchecker-schools-v0.4.pdf>

Blue class cycling with Richard Rothwell

Next half term children in Year 4 will be taking part in cycling sessions provided by **Richard Rothwell** and Mrs Bell. We have worked with Richard for a number of years now and have great respect for his expertise and knowledge of cycling. Richard has his own company, which specialises in offering a range of cycling experiences for riders of all abilities from beginners to elite, endurance riders.

The children in Year 4 will be split in to two groups. Starting on **Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 November**, group one will cycle with Richard and Mrs Bell and group two will work in school. On **Monday 07 and Tuesday 08 December**, group two will cycle with Richard and Mrs Bell and group one will work in school.

The first session for both groups will start on the school yard but the children will quickly progress to taking part in **guided rides in the local area** with Richard and Mrs Bell. In previous years, the children managed to complete a ten mile guided ride, so the bar has been set very high.

Richard will constantly assess the children's ability and progress. He has produced an **outline plan** for each of the days, but the plans for each day will be adjusted according to the children's progress on the previous day. **Risk assessments** for all activities have been completed and will be available to view in school should you wish to see them. Richard has undergone a **DBS check**.

Children should come to school wearing their **school top and jumper** with their **joggers and trainers** for cycling. The children must have a **waterproof coat** and I would highly recommend **gloves** as their hands will get cold when holding the handlebars. It might also be useful to bring a spare pair of joggers and shoes or trainers to school so they can change at lunchtime if they get wet or muddy in the morning. They will need to take their **water bottle** out with them for each cycling session.

Richard will bring the **bikes** to school and provide a bike for each child matched to their height. He will also provide **cycle helmets**. Please do not send in your child's bike or cycle helmet from home.

This is an excellent opportunity for your child to learn to ride their bike safely and improve their cycling skills under the guidance of a professional. Groups will be allocated after half term. We are paying for this using our **Sports Premium funding** so there is no charge for this activity.