

Seghill First School Newsletter May 2022 edition 2

Attendance

Whole school attendance **this week is 89.8%**. Attendance **since September is 90.7%**. Attendance for each class since September is-

Nursery	91.6	Reception	90.8
Year 1	87.8	Year 2	93.5
Year 3	88.9	Year 4	93.2

Blue class is the **class of the week** with the best attendance of 97.2%. **Well done, Blue class.**

Summer term diary dates

Please note the following diary dates for this term-

- w/b Monday 16 May walk to school Week;
- Thursday 19 May Superhero Lunch- see page 3;
- Thursday 19 May meeting for parents of children in Year 1 about the phonics screening check at 2:30pm- see page 2;
- w/b Monday 23 May key stage 1 assessments during this week- see page 2;
- Wednesday 25 May Sportivate fundraising circuit challenge- see page 3;
- Friday 27 May celebration assembly for parents and carers in all year groups at 9:00am;
- Friday 27 May whole school outdoor lunch from 12noon to 1pm followed by Jubilee activities;
- Monday 27 May to Friday 03 June school closed for May half term;
- w/b Monday 06 June Year 1 phonics screening checks this week;
- w/b Monday 13 June year 4 Multiplication Tables checks this week;
- Tuesday 14 June summer term full governing body meeting at 5:00pm;
- Wednesday 15 June Reception new starters meeting at 9:00am;
- Thursday 16 June Purple and Blue class visit Hexham Book Festival;
- Wednesday 22 June to Friday 24 June Year 4 visit to Dukeshouse Wood;
- Wednesday 29 June Red and Green class visit to Bamburgh;
- Friday 01 July school closed in lieu of the Queen's Jubilee;
- Monday 11 July to Friday 15 July transition week for Year 4 children;
- Wednesday 13 July open evening at Whytrig Middle School at 6:00pm;
- Thursday 14 July open evening at Seaton Sluice Middle School at 6:00pm;
- Thursday 21 July Year 4 leavers' assembly at 9:00am;
- Thursday 21 July Year 4 leavers' party at 6:00pm;
- Friday 22 July celebration assembly for parents and carers in all year groups at 9:00am;
- Monday 25 July to Friday 02 September school closed for summer holidays.

Queen's Jubilee

In school we will be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee during week beginning Monday 23 May with a range of activities in school.

On **Friday 27 May** we are asking children and staff to come to school **dressed in red, white and blue**. Parents and carers are invited into school at 9:00am on Friday 27 May to our **celebration assembly**. This will be our first celebration assembly in a while due to the restrictions that have been in place, so we are really looking forward to it. All children and staff will be eating our school meals and packed lunches together in the middle garden and we will spend the afternoon doing Jubilee themed activities.

Please note that school is closed on **Friday 01 July** as our partnership day in lieu of the bank holiday.

National testing in Years 1, 2 and 4

In the last newsletter we told you about the assessments that will be taking place in school this term. We will be assessing all of the children by the end of term, as well as children in Years 1, 2 and 4 taking part in national assessments.

Children in **Year 4** complete the **Multiplication Tables Check**. Children in **Year 2** complete the **end of key stage 1 assessments**. They will work on tasks to assess their knowledge, skills and understanding in reading, maths and spelling, grammar and punctuation (sometimes known as SPAG). Children in **Year 1** complete the **Phonics Screening Check**. Children in Year 2 who did not achieve the pass mark when they completed the Phonics screening check earlier this year will also retake the Phonics Screening Check.

As a school, we receive very strict guidance on how and when we can administer these tests in school. However, we try to make the experience as stress free as possible for the children. We make sure that when they complete the tests they are working with staff that they know well and we keep everything as low key as possible. When we mention tests, sitting in silence in the sports hall in individual seats does spring to mind. Please be assured that this is nothing like how we tackle the tests in our school.

Mrs Watson has organised a **meeting for all parents in Year 1** (and some parents in Year 2) to give more information about the Phonics Screening Tests and how you can support your child to do their best. This will take place at **2:30pm on Thursday 19 May** in Red class classroom. We hope you can join us.

Star of the week

Our stars of the week are-

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Mrs Lyons | Holly and Jimmy; |
| • Mrs Hansell & Mrs Watson | Coby and Ella; |
| • Mrs Bell | Orla and William; |
| • Miss Neal | Theo and Francesca; |
| • Miss Porter | Caiden and Brodie; |
| • Miss Elliott | Sam and Rowan; |
| • Miss Chappell | Frankie L and Charlie W. |



Birthdays

Our birthday boys and girls from the end of May are-

- Archie in Orange class;
- Dominic and Owen in Red class;
- Frankie and Esme in Green class;
- Joey and Jay in Purple class;
- Archie in Blue class.



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

Staffing update

Mrs Thomas left us last Friday to start her maternity leave. Miss Elliott has taken over as Nursery teacher, and will remain in this post until Mrs Askew returns from her maternity leave at the beginning of July.

We have seen lots of pictures of **Mrs Kembrey's** little boy Danny. He is doing really well and they are settling in to having another little one at home. She sends her best wishes to everyone.

Sportivate fundraising event

Mrs Lyons has shared a letter with parents and carers about our **Sportivate fundraising circuit challenge** on **Wednesday 25 May**. We hope this will prove to be a way to encourage our children to take part in healthy activities and raise some money for school funds to be spend specifically on PE and/or play equipment. Hopefully we will be able to get some photographs of the children taking part in their circuit challenge to share with you.

Spellings for children in key stages 1 and 2

Please can we remind you of our **expectations for spellings for children in key stages 1 and 2**. I know that many of you do support your child and **practise their spellings at home and ensure their spelling book is back in school by Wednesday every week**. However, a check last week revealed that only 50% of children in key stages 1 and 2 had practised their spellings at home and returned their book to school by Wednesday.

We are working hard to try to get all the children back on track with their spellings after the disruption we had to learning over the previous two years. Spellings are set by your child's Read Write Inc phonics teacher so they are matched to the story book and sounds that they are working on, or by Mrs Lyons for her group.

When spelling books are not returned to school by each Wednesday the children cannot do their spelling test in their spelling book and they have nowhere to stick the next set of spellings in, leading to them being lost and not learnt for the following week. Children who are not practising their spellings at home are struggling during the weekly spelling test and this is not good for their confidence. Practise does not make perfect, but it does make permanent. **Please could we have a big push on practising spellings at home and ensuring spelling books are returned to school by Wednesday every week.**

Superhero lunch served on Thursday 19 May

On **Thursday 19 May** we will be serving a **Superhero Lunch**. The menu for the day will be

| **Captain America jumbo sausage in a bun with chips and Green** |
Lantern peas followed by Batman biscuit and Marvel-ous milk

You do not need to do anything to secure a Superhero Lunch for your child. Children will be asked if they are having a school meal or packed lunch on the day of the meal. Superhero Lunches will be prepared on site by Mrs Rogage according to the numbers she is given.

There will also be a chance of one child in each class who has a Superhero Lunch to win a **Golden Ticket**. Golden Ticket winners Will have a choice from a range of **Superhero prizes**.



Term dates and holidays for next academic year

We will be sending home a copy of the **term dates for the next academic year** with your child tonight. There is a copy on the school website and a link to it [here](#)

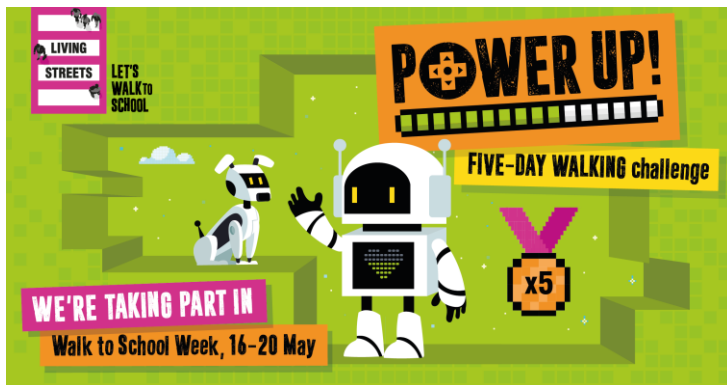
We hope that having these dates in advance will allow you to plan and book any family holidays and events outside of term time. As a partnership of schools, the headteachers in the Seaton Valley Learning Partnership continue to work together closely. In all previous years, we have been able to plan our training days and holidays to be the same for all partnership schools throughout the academic year. However, the different strategic and operational needs of the schools mean that we have not been able to keep exactly in line with this for 2022 - 2023. All holidays are the same for all schools, however not all of the training days are the same for all schools. Please note this if you have a child in more than one school in our partnership. We hope to be able to return to complete parity across all schools for holidays and training days for the following academic year and beyond.

Walk to school Week next week

Our school is taking part in **Walk to School Week** next week from **Monday 16 May to Friday 20 May**. The nationwide event is organised by walking charity Living Streets and designed to help pupils experience first-hand the **importance of walking to school**. Travelling actively to school can mean that children will be well on their way to reaching their recommended 60 minutes minimum of physical activity per day before even reaching the school gates. Not only will it set them up for a positive day in the classroom, but it will also help create healthy habits for life.

What do I need to do as a parent/carer? We are asking you to support Walk To School Week by making arrangements so that your child can travel actively to school, helping our school reduce congestion and pollution around the school gates. Walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling all count! This is a link to give some tips <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/what-you-can-do/nwm-tips>

We are also sending the children home with a **scavenger hunt sheet** and a **family I spy sheet**, which can be completed by your child over the course of the week on the way to or from school. There will be prizes for all completed scavenger hunt sheets and all completed family I spy sheets.



We know that a small number of our families have to travel by car to get their child to school as they live too far from school to walk. However, many of our children live close enough to school to travel actively to school without the car, so hopefully this will be something that the vast majority of people can do.

School visits and curriculum enhancement

We are delighted to be able to re-start our programme of school visits. This has been something that we have always done, but this has been very limited by national restrictions over the last two years.

We have organised a school visit to **Bamburgh** for children in Red and Green class on **Wednesday 29 June**. The children will visit Bamburgh to support learning around their current topic of **Grace Darling**. The visit will give the children the opportunity to visit the Grace Darling Museum, find out about her life and visit the local church and her grave.

We have organised a school visit to **the Hexham Book Festival** for children in Purple and Blue class on **Thursday 16 June**. The children will visit the Hexham Book Festival to develop their understanding of authors by meeting two real life best-selling authors- **Hannah Gold and Joseph Coelho**.

We are also preparing for our annual residential visit for our Year 4 children to go to **Dukeshouse Wood** in Hexham. All 18 children in the class are taking part in this visit, which is excellent news.

A huge congratulations to our Year 4 children for their fantastic **cycling** with Mrs Lyons, Miss Neal and Richard Rothwell from Cycling Generation. Both groups spent a day and a half being taught by Richard and going out on at least one bike ride. Richard provides the bikes and helmets for the children and shares his many years of experience and expertise. Children completed 4 mile, 9 mile and 14 mile rides, which is amazing. Some children could not actually ride a bike before these sessions with Richard, so the impact has been enormous.

If you have not seen the pictures yet, please check out our **school Facebook page** and the **front page and gallery of our school website**.