

## Seghill First School newsletter June 2020 edition 2

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you are all keeping well and staying safe. We are writing to you at the end of the first fortnight back at school. It is fantastic to finally hear the sound of children's voices in school.

We have seven children in school from Reception and Year 1 as well as key worker children in Years 2 and 3. They have all been an absolute credit to their families and our school in the way they have adapted to how we have to work now and the changes that have been made. The children are working in one group or 'bubble' with two members of staff. They work in the hall but we get outside into the middle garden and top yard whenever the weather allows.

As always, the staff have been absolutely brilliant. They are planning work for children in school and for those engaging with remote learning. They too have had to adapt to the way we have to work now and the changes that have been made. Keeping the children at 2 metres from each other and applying the new cleaning regimes is not easy. However, they have done all of this in good spirits and with a determination to make our school as safe as it can be for our children to return to school.

It was announced earlier this week that the government will not be going ahead with its plans for all primary aged children to return to school before the end of this term. While we respect the decision made by the government, we are looking at how we can meet the needs of our children within our school setting through reopening to wider year groups.

We are proposing to move forward by offering places from Monday 22 June to children in a specific order of priority as listed overleaf.

We may be able to offer further places to other children if any places are available after we have admitted children from the groups listed overleaf and if we can safely accommodate more children in school while meeting all the health and safety requirements. We will not be offering places to children in Nursery.

We appreciate that some of you will feel that your child is ready to return to school now. We also understand that some of you will not feel ready to take that next step. 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.

The overriding factor in our decision making is always the safety of the children and the staff who are responsible for them. Routines have changed and continue to change in response to local and national guidance. But what has not changed is that the children who are currently attending school are really enjoying it and the staff who work with them are dedicated professionals who work really hard to ensure they are happy and safe.

Please continue to keep us up to date with what you are doing. You are achieving some amazing things. Ask us for help if there is something that you are struggling with. We are here to help so please don't be afraid to ask.

With love and best wishes to you all.

Miss Chappell and Mrs Hall  
Headteacher and chair of governors

## Booking a place for your child in school from Monday 22 June

As explained overleaf, we are proposing to offer places from Monday 22 June to children in the following order of priority-

1. Children in the **priority group\*** in Reception up to Year 4;
2. Children in **Reception and Year 1**;
3. Children in **Year 4 and their siblings in Reception up to Year 3**.

You will need to **request a place in writing for your child** if they are in the groups listed as 1, 2 or 3 above. Please read "what does it look like in school?" on page 3, to support you to make an informed decision.

Please send an **email to the school email address** [admin@seghill.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@seghill.northumberland.sch.uk) stating your child's name and class by **3pm on Monday 15 June**. We will then confirm pupil groupings, staffing requirements and rooms. Please do not request places via Facebook, School360 or Tapestry. There is no need to email me if you decide not to send your child back to school.

You will receive confirmation of your child's place by Wednesday 17 June.

If your child is already attending school you do not need to do anything. Your child will automatically be placed on the list of confirmed places.

If you want to contact me directly with a specific question, please contact school via [admin@seghill.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@seghill.northumberland.sch.uk)

When the bubbles have been agreed for 22 June and beyond, it is very unlikely that we will be able to accept any more children into the bubbles.

\*priority group means children with a social worker, EHCP or parents who are key workers.

## Transition arrangements for Year 4 children

Our programme of transition events for Year 4 will be very different this year to previous years. Mr Barnes has sent out letters to Year 4 parents in the last few weeks. Please use the designated email address of the school your child will be going to if you have any questions or issues you would like to discuss- [SSMStransition@svf.org.uk](mailto:SSMStransition@svf.org.uk) or [WMStransition@svf.org.uk](mailto:WMStransition@svf.org.uk)

You will see from the information on pages 1 and 2 that we are offering places to all Year 4 children. We believe that it is really important for them to come back to our school and say goodbye properly before they move off to middle school.

We will be going ahead with our **Year 4 leavers' party on Thursday 16 July**. Children and their parents are invited to attend their leavers' party from 6:00pm, which will hopefully take place in the middle garden. This will be arranged following social distancing guidelines. The event will include the opportunity to enjoy some of the elements that are usually in their leavers' assembly, plus have food with their parents and staff. We will send out more details later, but please make a note of this date.

## Social distancing

We are working really hard with the children to remind them of the need to keep **2 metres away** from their friends and staff. We need to remind ourselves of this sometimes. It goes against all of our natural instincts.

However, this is the rule and we have to try our best to follow it. We have put many measures in place to try to follow this rule in all parts of school. But they will be totally ineffective if children and staff are not following these guidelines at home. We don't want to be Draconian about this but it is really important to stress that we cannot let our guard down and start to let old habits slip back into our routines.

## **What does it look like in school?**

### **How are the bubbles organised?**

- Children are taught in bubbles of up to 15 children with two members of staff.
- Each bubble is based in one room, but not necessarily your child's usual classroom.
- Children stay within their bubble all day, every day and the bubbles must not mix: this is so we can trace everyone who has been in contact whilst in school so we can inform Public Health should a case of Covid-19 be detected in a child or staff member.
- Bubbles are allocated their own separate play area for outdoor play. Each bubble is allocated their own play equipment. This is cleaned each day.

### **What are the school times?**

- School days are from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Doors open at 8:50am to allow children to come into school one by one then wash their hands. School closes at 3pm.
- Children in the priority group who are offered a place will attend for full days from Monday to Friday.
- Children who are offered a place in Reception to Year 4 who are not in the priority group will attend for full days from Monday to Thursday. School will not be open to these children on Fridays.

### **How is school reducing risks associated with Covid-19 in school?**

- A thorough risk assessment has been carried out linked to provision and the school site.
- Classrooms have been set up to comply with social distancing; this is reinforced throughout the school day.
- Soft furnishings and equipment which carry greater risk of virus transmission have been removed.
- Children have what they need in their tray on their tables so they don't share equipment.
- Children wash their hands regularly throughout the day.
- Cleaning is carried out regularly throughout the day.
- School is only open to priority children on Fridays to allow for deep cleaning.
- There are no large gatherings eg. assemblies in the school day
- There are no after school clubs. Breakfast club and after school club are closed.
- Children do not wear school uniform: they come to school suitably dressed for the weather and playing outside, including a hat and sunscreen pre-applied if the weather is good. Please don't send them in wearing their "best" clothes.
- Children come to school wearing clean clothes every day to avoid possible virus transmission.
- Staff administering first aid or providing intimate care wear PPE.

### **What do children bring to school?**

- Children only bring a coat and a sun hat if required.
- Please don't bring school bags, water bottles, toys or anything else.

### **Meal provision**

- Packed lunches are provided for all children, free of charge.
- Each child has their own water bottle which is washed and stays in school.
- Fruit and snacks are provided during the day as well as fruit juice at lunchtime.

### **How can I contact the school office?**

- The school office is open from 9:00am to 12 noon.
- All enquiries outside these hours should be made by email [admin@seghill.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@seghill.northumberland.sch.uk) or telephone 0191 2370419. The email address and answer machine are checked every day.

### **Where do I enter the school site?**

- Children enter and exit school through designated doors from the top yard.
- The gates on Barrass Avenue and Cheviot View are the only way to access to the top yard.

### 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.

It has been 9 school weeks since schools were directed to close 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](mailto:anna.bell1@school360.co.uk)
- [amanda.lyons@school360.co.uk](mailto:amanda.lyons@school360.co.uk)
- [pamela.knowles@school360.co.uk](mailto:pamela.knowles@school360.co.uk)
- [sarah.kembrey@school360.co.uk](mailto:sarah.kembrey@school360.co.uk)
- [hannah.askew@school360.co.uk](mailto:hannah.askew@school360.co.uk)

### Remote learning using pupil packs

Teachers spend a huge amount of time putting together and printing out pupil packs in paper format. Packs have been made available at the school office for collection and delivered to children's homes. Teachers are doing this in addition to teaching the children attending school and planning remote learning on School360 and Tapestry.

As we continue to move forward, please note how we will operate from next week-

- teachers will only provide paper copies of pupils packs when the previous pupil pack has been completed to the best of each child's ability and returned to school or uploaded onto School360 or Tapestry.
- parents can collect pupil packs from the school office between 9:00am and noon. This is the only time that there is access to the school office.
- pupil packs will only be delivered by staff by prior arrangement to a family who are shielding.
- learning tasks and activities in pupil packs are designed to meet the needs of children in each year group. Teachers cannot produce packs that are personalised to the individual needs of each pupil.

Children learn by being shown how to do something and practising it. If your child is struggling with a particular task, please use the suggested resources and websites in the packs, or use one of the many websites that have been created.

A list of DfE websites are on our **school website** in the **Covid-19 information** tab in the **general resources for children** folder.

### Birthdays



Our birthday boys and girls in the first half of June are-

- Elizabeth and Declan in yellow class aged 5;
- Christina in red class aged 6;
- Emily Hall, Kai and Sidney in blue class aged 8.

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