



SEATON SLUICE MIDDLE SCHOOL

One of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

Alston Grove, Seaton Sluice, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE26 4JS

Tel: 0191 2370629 Fax: 0191 2373970

Email: ssms@svf.org.uk

www.svf.org.uk

Executive Head Teacher: John Barnes

Head of School: Karen McSparron

17th June 2022

Year 4 Transition Week

Monday 11th July - Friday 15th July 2022

Dear Year 4 Children, Parents and Carers,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to Seaton Sluice Middle School.

We work very closely with our feeder First schools to ensure that the transition from First to Middle school is reassuring yet exciting, enjoyable and informative. We have a full week of activities planned which we know will ensure that the children are happy and excited about joining our school. The process will also provide the opportunity for staff across the school to get to know the children before they begin the new academic year in September.

During this week, the programme will be as follows:

Monday 11th July

The children will be visiting Warkworth Castle. First and Middle School staff will accompany the children as they explore the castle and get involved in the fun activities that have been planned. The children will need a packed lunch, sensible footwear and sun protection/waterproofs for unpredictable weather. The castle will be the stimulus for our week-long activities at the First Schools and Middle School. First Schools will be sending out further information regarding the trip soon. If your child does not attend any of our feeder First Schools and lives outside of our usual catchment, please get in touch (see email below) as we would love for you to be part of the transition process and our First Schools are very accommodating. They would be happy to welcome your child to join their Year 4 class for the first 2 days. This will also welcome the opportunity to develop new friendships.

Tuesday 12th July

The children will work in their respective First Schools. They will meet our Year 5 Team and this will enable staff to get to know the children in the classroom environment.

Wednesday 13th - Friday 15th July

The children will spend these days at SSMS. To allow for a gentle, comfortable arrival; we would like the Year 5 children to arrive at the later time of 9.15am and school will end at the earlier time of 3.00pm. The children can be either dropped off or those children who are local to the school may like to use this opportunity to have a 'practice run' of walking/scooting/biking to school. We insist that your child **MUST** wear a helmet if they choose to ride/cycle to school. Year 5 staff will greet the children in the yard and direct them. On Wednesday, the children will meet their form class teacher and will be placed in their form class for the rest of the week where we have a wonderful range of activities that will cater for all of the children's interests as well as offer the opportunity for them to mix and develop new friendships.

Equipment

During the week, your child should wear their usual First school uniform and all stationery will be provided.

Medication

First Schools will share all information regarding your child's medical needs but if your child is currently on any medication, please send it with your child on Wednesday with clear instructions about dosage (including inhalers).

First Schools also pass on information regarding allergies and this information will be shared with all staff at SSMS but please get in touch if you have any concerns or queries. Please be aware that we are a Nut-free school.

Contact

Of course, we understand that you may have introduced a mobile phone to your child with regards to their new level of independence. We completely understand that this is an anxious time for parents/carers but during school hours, your child is prohibited from using their mobile phone on school grounds. All phones are collected on entry to class and must remain turned off until the children leave the premises. Mobile phones are kept safely in your child's classroom. You WILL be informed if we are expecting your child and they do not attend. Hopefully by putting in place our usual routine during transition, your child will adjust quickly.

Lunchtimes

We operate a cashless system for lunches. When your child attends our school in September, parents will be required to use the MCAS APP which not only a platform to share information but enables parents to add credit to their child's account and have access to some information regarding their purchases at school. The children will pay for purchases in our canteen using their fingerprint which is directly linked to their account. More information will be shared during the Transition Meeting on Thursday 14th July about this process. During Transition Week, we will be taking your child's fingerprint so they will be able to top up their account with money using our machine in school. However, until we have all the children on our cashless system, your child will be able to purchase their lunch using money. Money MUST be carried in a purse/wallet and kept in a pocket. Lunch costs £2.10 for a main meal and a pudding but there is also the option of buying additional items from the canteen. If your child receives a free school meal then it will be provided. Those children still have the option to make purchases. Of course, the children may choose to bring in their own packed lunch which is absolutely fine.

At break times, we have a tuck shop which is offered on a rota basis between Key Stage 2 (Year 5 and 6) and Key Stage 3 (Year 7 and 8). During transition, the children may use this luxury on Friday only so that they can experience this new level of independence. Purchases will be made in the same way as lunches.

We will continue to work closely with our partnership schools to ensure that transition to Middle school is as smooth as possible. We look forward to meeting you all next month.

Please contact me directly should you have any questions/queries:
katie.middlemiss@svf.org.uk

Yours faithfully,

Mrs K Middlemiss
Head of Year 5