

# Seghill First School Newsletter March 2021 edition 1

## Welcome back

We have waited a long time for this, but we are DELIGHTED to have all of our children back at school. Children who have been at school since January are very pleased to see more of their friends back at school. And the children who were accessing our remote learning offer have settled back into school so quickly. We noted a spring in the step of parents on Monday morning as children were dropped off at school. And why not?

This has been a tough time for everyone, whether children have been at school or working at home. Please don't underestimate your achievements. We know that getting children to school during January and February while dashing to work or back home for phonecalls and virtual meetings was not easy for you. Supporting remote learning has been really challenging, especially for parents who were also working from home. I know some of you have told us that you were pushed right out of your comfort zone. Thank Goodness for Google!

The good news is remote learning is over and now we can concentrate on getting back into the school routines, re-establishing friendships and relationships and returning to the current normal.

The only way to continue to stop Covid-19 from spreading through our school is to keep it out of our school. Two schools in our partnership have reported positive cases this week. It is great to see the positive steps that we are taking as a country to move forward, but we must not be complacent or let down our guard now when we have done so well to stay Covid free so far. So what can you do to support us?

Firstly, please continue to bring your child to school **every day** and **be on time**. A reminder of the start and end times are below-

	Start time Monday to Friday	End time Monday to Thursday	End time Friday
Orange class children with Mrs Askew	8:45am	11:45am	11:45am
Yellow class children with Mrs Kembrey	8:45am	3:10pm	1:15pm
Red class children with Mrs Knowles	8:50am	3:15pm	1:15pm
Green class children Mrs Lyons and Mrs Watson	8:50am	3:15pm	1:15pm
Blue class children with Mrs Bell	8:45am	3:10pm	1:15pm

Secondly, please follow our **one way system**, even if you think there is no-one checking.

Thirdly, wear your **face covering** and maintain a **distance** from other parents and carers while on the school site.

Finally, please do not bring your child to school if they, or anyone in your family is **showing any of the symptoms of Covid-19**. If your child or anyone in your family is showing symptoms of Covid-19, please arrange for them to be tested and keep your child at home until you have the results. Missing one school day to ensure that no-one in the family is positive is better than thinking everything will be fine and potentially bringing Covid into our school.

There are 2 school weeks left after today before we break up for Easter. If we all follow these steps every day, let's see if we can make it to Easter with no positive cases. What an amazing achievement that would be.

### Time for reflection

It continues to be very hard for everyone at this time when we cannot see family and friends. Being stuck in the house with very few places to go can get us all down.

We wanted to acknowledge that some of our families have experienced some very sad times during the most recent lockdown, including relationships breaking down and losing loved ones to Covid-19 and other horrible diseases.

Please remember that we are here for you. Our Seghill First School family sends out a big hug to all of you who have experienced particular sadness and loss and a reminder of the importance of keeping an eye on your mental health and physical health.

### Birthdays

Our birthday boys and girls in the first two weeks of March are-

- Bailey J age 5 in Yellow class;
- Mitchell age 8 in Green class;

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                  | Emily, Lauren, Matt and Abbie;        |
| • Mrs Lyons' and Mrs Watson's star | Alexa, Isabelle, Jimmy and Olly;      |
| • Mrs Knowles' star                | Declan L, Layton, Orla and Christina; |
| • Mrs Kembrey's star               | Ella, Owen, Parker and Grace;         |
| • Mrs Askew's star                 | Emily, Ollie, Luciana and Charlie;    |
| • Miss Ornsby's star               | Beau and Esme.                        |
| • Miss Chappell's star             | Layla, Matthew, Alex and Jayden B.    |

Well done, stars. Stars were chosen from children who are working at home and children who are working at school. We will be going back to picking one star per class from next week.



### Covid-19 update

Staff do their twice weekly **lateral flow Covid tests** at home. So far **all results have been negative**. It's not a particularly nice experience but it is what we all have to do to ensure all staff are well and able to do their job.

We have had **no positive test results for children** in school and we have not had to close any groups due to a positive test result for our staff and children or via close contacts.

The testing process may well provide us with some asymptomatic positive test results. If this is the case, it will impact on what we can offer in terms of face to face teaching in school.

Given the prevalence of the virus in England, it is highly likely that we will have to **send home a whole class group**, rather than small groups of children, in the event of a **positive test result**.

It is therefore worth having a **Plan B** for child care available to you, just in case we need to send your child home to isolate for a number of days or if we have to close your child's group. Hopefully this won't happen but it's always good to have a backup plan, particularly as any changes we are required to make are likely to be at short notice.

### Spring term milk

We made the decision to give milk to all children who want it free of charge for the final 3 weeks of this term. In all honesty, I couldn't face the thought of collecting in the money and slips on top of everything else that we are trying to deal with at the moment.

We have ordered milk from the dairy based on estimated numbers- the number of replies that we originally received for milk at the beginning of the spring term. The number of children who have asked for milk is well above the number that we ordered. We have changed the order with the dairy to reflect the new numbers, however, it will be Monday next week before the revised order will be delivered to school.

### Summer term milk

Milk will be available for children who want it during the summer term.

Children who are entitled to **Free School Meals** (not Universal Infant Free School Meals) do not have to pay for milk. Parents of children who are entitled to Free School Meals and who want to order milk for the summer term for their child can do so by going onto **School Gateway** and clicking the **permission box**.

Children who are **not entitled to Free School Meals** in all year groups including Nursery, have to pay for milk. Parents of children who are not entitled to Free School Meals and who want to order milk for the summer term for their child can do so by going onto **School Gateway**, **paying for milk and clicking the permission box**.

We will send out details of exactly what to do in another letter on **Monday** of next week. The portal on School Gateway will not be open until next week, so please don't try to pay now.

Permission must be given and/or payment must be made by **Thursday 25 March** so your child receives milk in the first week back after Easter. Mrs Elliott must order milk from the dairy on Thursday 25 March as this is the deadline for orders for the first week of the summer term. Once that order is made, it cannot be changed until the following week. If you pay after 25 March, your child will not get milk until the second week back after the Easter holidays at the earliest.

### Dropping off arrangements for children in Year 4

While attendance at school was restricted during January and February, some parents of children in Year 4 started to allow their child to walk down the drive and enter the Year 4 classroom while they waited at the railings on Barrass Avenue.

We think this is an excellent idea, particularly to give the children a bit of independence before their move to middle school. Parents of children in Year 4 are invited to follow this method. Please wait until you see Mrs Bell open the classroom door at 8:45am. It's not safe to have the children on site without their adult before this time.

If you wait on Barrass Avenue, you can see your child arrive safely at the classroom and leave without entering the site and following our one way system. So it seems like a "win win" situation to me!

Please note this is only for children in Year 4 Blue class and not for children in other year groups. We still expect children in Nursery to Year 3 to be brought to the classroom door by an adult.

We will write to Year 4 parents again soon regarding the option for children to in Year 4 to leave the school site without an adult. Again, this is part of the preparation for them going to middle school in September.

### World Book Day vouchers

Children have been given their **£1 World Book Day book token**. All you need to do is to take it to your local bookseller and swap it for one of the exclusive, new and completely FREE World Book Day books. Or, if you'd prefer, you can use your book token to get £1 off any full price book instead. Please check to see where World Book Day book tokens are accepted. We would love to see which books you have chosen.

### PE days for spring term B- reminder

Children in all year groups should **come to school wearing PE kit on their PE days**. 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.

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

### What the children say about being back at school

We are quite happy to be back at school because it was boring working at home.

Lucy and Evie Year 4

I am really happy to be back at school because I love learning and I love seeing my friends and my teachers.

Adele Year 4

It's much better to be back at school than doing remote learning at home.

Nieve Year 3

I am happy to see that more of my friends are back at school now.

Matt Year 3

It is great now that everyone in my class is back so I can play with friends in my own class.

Alexa Year 2

I am happy to see my teachers and to learn again.

Zach Year 2

I am pleased that my friends in my class are back at school now so I can play with them and I like being back in my classroom with my teachers.

Freddy Year 3

Me and mam tried hard with the work at home but I am happy to be back at school and not have to do remote learning.

Jasmina Year 2