

# Seghill First School

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Headteacher: Miss T Chappell



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Dear Parents and carers

I end this week feeling prouder than ever to be Headteacher at Seghill First School. Having stuck together, we've made it through another week; under the current circumstances that feels like a small victory! I fully expect the days, weeks and months ahead to be hard. All of us will no doubt have to endure hardships we never anticipated in 2020.

The staff team have been simply brilliant this week. Nothing has been too much trouble. As Headteacher I am very proud to work with such a dedicated team; every member of staff has ensured the wellbeing and happiness of our children and each other during these unprecedented times. Our governors have also been on hand to give support, advice or just listen mainly to me railing on about not having the right amount of information at the right time. Likewise your support as families and members of the local community has been so important and much appreciated.

Despite the current uncertainty the children have continued to work very hard this week with their usual determination and enthusiasm. Who knows, for our Year 4 pupils today may be their last day at our school; at the moment we simply just don't know. If it is, they leave us taller and certainly wiser than when they started! But most importantly, they are fast becoming the young people I am sure will help make society a better, fairer and more equitable place. They are kind, thoughtful and determined; as a staff we are all incredibly proud of their achievements here.

Thinking ahead to practical arrangements for the next few weeks and months, we have been asked by the Government to provide childcare for Key Workers and vulnerable pupils. As a school staff we will be proud to step up and do our bit. Please be aware, that due to logistics the service we provide will not mirror the usual day to day education your children receive.

Although only one parent needs to be classified as a key worker, in the first instance, if you can care for your own children then please keep them at home. The fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society. Ideally, I would like to have as skeletal a staff in school as possible in order to keep staff and their families safe and sound too. If you don't need this service immediately, but might do so in the future please just contact the school office by email. A link to the list of key workers is on our school website.

If your child is remaining at home for childcare please don't rely upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions. Additionally, please try to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults. We cannot continue as "normal".

Home learning packs or how to access learning at home during this period of closure will be coming home with children today. Again, I am very grateful to staff for the time and effort they have put into bringing the home learning provision together.

Don't forget to keep checking our website and Parentmail for regular updates.

Thank you once again for your patience and understanding in this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

Tracey Chappell  
Headteacher