



Seghill First School

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Dear Parents and Carers

The end of a school year is always a time for reflection. This is our final newsletter of this academic year and it has been one of the most challenging ever. Having got off fairly lightly in previous years, we were hit very hard by Covid in January. Large numbers of children and staff were absent and we came close to having to close. However, we made it through. We proved ourselves to be resilient, adaptable and creative in the face of rapidly changing circumstances that we had no way of controlling, or even really understanding.

Our children continue to be delightful and a credit to us both in school and beyond. As the rules have changed and we have been allowed to get out and about much more, we have been able to take our children out more and provide more opportunities to enhance their learning. This is something that we love to do and will always try to do. We have been able to subsidise every trip that we have offered this year, and asked for a maximum of £5.00 for any of the trips that we have arranged.

We have been able to subsidise and pay for opportunities for our children by using money from our fundraising activities. Again, we have not had a full programme of events this year, but we have worked around the circumstances to still have a Christmas and summer fayre. Our recent summer fayre raised £850 for school funds, which is amazing. Thank you for your donations to our stalls, buying raffle tickets and having a go at all of our stalls. Thank you to all the fundraisers who have worked so hard both behind the scenes and at the events to make them so successful.

We are very fortunate to be so very well supported by so many parents and carers who ensure their children are ready for learning every day- we are very grateful. The children are always very smart for school. Please remember that we have lots of pre-loved uniform in school that is available to anyone- you just have to ask. Also, please don't feel you have to buy new uniform for your child unless they need it. There is nothing to say that your child must have new things for September if their current clothes fit them well and are in good condition.

The arrangements for September are as follows-

Class	Teacher	Support staff	Entrance door
Nursery	Mrs Askew	Miss Barratt	Early Years classroom door via the school drive
Reception	Miss Porter		Early Years classroom door via the school drive
Year 1	Miss Neal	Mrs Miller and Mrs Jose	Year 1 classroom door via Cheviot View
Year 2	Mrs Bell		Year 2 classroom door via Cheviot View
Year 3	Mrs Watson	Mrs Ellison	Year 3 classroom door via the field
Year 4	Mrs Lyons		Year 4 classroom door via the field

All teachers are staying in the same year group as they are in now. Each classroom can be accessed via the school drive and the path leading around the school, the gate at the top of the yard or from Cheviot View. Please use the nearest exit gate to leave the site. We will no longer be operating a one-way system.

We have welcomed three new arrivals this school year- a daughter for Mrs Thomas, a daughter for Miss Collier and a son for Mrs Kembrey. It is lovely to have such good news. We've had some staffing changes, with maternity leaves and with Mrs Knowles retiring in the autumn term. We also wish a very fond farewell to Miss Elliott, who is leaving the Early Years team as she has secured a full-time post in a neighbouring school. Thank you for all of your hard work and we wish you every success. We also say goodbye and send love to Emily and Daisy who are moving to new schools in September.

I continue to be supported by a dedicated team of staff who I believe, do more than any other team in any other school to prioritise the safeguarding of children and their academic and emotional development. The staff put an unbelievable amount of effort into planning exciting opportunities, helping children with their work, sourcing and even supplying resources and equipment and planning bespoke opportunities to meet the needs of individuals. I do believe that our children would prosper so much less without the all-round care that they get from the adults in school and I am immensely grateful for that.

I also continue to be supported by a dedicated team of governors who are an effective group, able to use their strengths to good effect. These unpaid volunteers do a huge amount to support our continued school improvement. I must say a personal thank you our Chair of Governors, Mrs Hall. She does a great deal of work behind the scenes and always provides a listening ear for me to discuss any ideas, issues or concerns.

Today we say goodbye to our Year 4 children and know that we are sending them off to middle school in September as well prepared as possible and a credit to their families and our school. Our love and very best wishes go to Matt, Archie, William, Johnny, Mya, Ellie, Holly, Riley, Mason, Olly, Kaycee-Marie, Dylan, Willow, Mitchell, Jimmy, Freddy, Joey and Jayden.

I would like to end this message by looking forward to next year. I know that the school is in as strong a position now as it ever has been. Next year we will continue work as hard as we can to continue to recover the gaps in learning and get the children's learning back on track while providing the same level of care and support as we have done this year.

We hope you all have a relaxing summer and look forward to hearing about all of your adventures.

Best wishes
Tracey Chappell