

Seghill First School Newsletter January 2022 edition 1

Welcome back

We would like to extend a warm welcome back to all of our children and their families, and wish you all a happy new year. I really hope 2022 is a much better year for us all.

Ongoing protective measures

Children will continue to be taught in **key stage bubbles**- Early Years, key stage 1 and key stage 2. Children will stay in these bubbles for playtimes and lunchtimes too.

At this time, we are not asking parents and carers to wear a face covering at dropping off and collection times, but ask parents and carers to exercise their own personal choice in this matter. We do ask parents and carers to take responsibility for **social distancing** while on the school site.

Please continue to follow our **one-way system** when dropping off and collecting children. There is **no exit from school via the school drive** at either 8:45am or 3:15pm.

Ventilation in classrooms

We are advised to ventilate classrooms as much as possible. During the winter months this can make classrooms quite cold. A thermal vest, t-shirt or something similar is therefore advisable under school uniform, for those particularly cold days.

Staffing

It is highly likely that we will face challenges with staffing during the following weeks or months. Your child's class may therefore be covered by a different adult.

Whole school / partial school closure

In the event of extreme staff shortages, we may need to close some year groups. If this happens, some children may need to access learning from home – in such circumstances, classes may be temporarily combined and priority given to vulnerable / key worker children. This would be a last resort, but I wanted to make you aware of this possibility. Please consider what your household 'Plan B' will be, in the event that your child's year group is temporarily closed and your child needs to learn from home.

Staffing update

Well, it has been an "interesting" start to term.

Mrs Lyons and Mrs Ellison have both had falls at home over the Christmas period. Mrs Lyons has broken her ankle in two places- not on the same side as last time. She is having x-rays on Monday and hopefully will have a cast put on instead of wearing a moonboot. Mrs Lyons was in school on Wednesday wearing her boot and on crutches, but after one day, her ankle had swollen and she was in agony. She has been at home resting on Thursday and today- Mrs Hansell and Miss Winter have been teaching Blue class.

Mrs Ellison had a suspected broken heel, but it has now been confirmed as a very badly bruised heel. She has a moonboot matching with Mrs Lyons, and won't be back at work for a while.

One of our students and one member of staff have tested positive for Covid-19.

Four new students will be joining us on placement from Monday. Mr Reynolds and Miss Craig will be working in key stage 1 and Miss Ho and Miss Al-Janabi will be working in EYFS. Miss Winter and Mr Findlay will continue to work in key stage 2.

Postponement of class coffee mornings and class assemblies

Guidance still states that non-essential visits and large school events should be suspended. Events and activities which require parents to come into school should also be suspended. With this in mind, we have postponed our scheduled spring term class coffee mornings and our class assemblies for this term.

This is not what we want to do, but it is what we must do in light of the current rates of transmission. Teachers will be sending out information instead which will be shared with you in paper and electronic format.

Spring term PE days

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Green	Red	Yellow	Red	
Purple	Purple	Orange	Green	
Blue	Blue		Purple	
	Yellow		Blue	
	Green			

Please see page 3 for the extra rugby coaching sessions for Green, Purple and Blue class on Mondays.

Birthdays

Our birthday boys and girls at the beginning of January are-

- Jaylen in Green class;
- Freddy in Blue class.

Happy birthday to you all. We hope your birthday is special and fun.



Reminder about reading books and reading records

Mrs Watson will be sending out more information in the next few weeks regarding our expectations for reading books and reading records. Here are a couple of quick reminders of our expectations for children in all year groups.

Children in all year groups should bring their **reading book and reading record/ reading journal to school every day**. This is the case even if your child does not need their reading book changed. We need to have their reading book and reading record / journal in school so staff can hear them read.

Children may be given a **reading book more than once**. This is absolutely fine; as adults, we often re-read books or watch films more than once. Please don't send us a message to say that your child has already had a specific book.

Our criteria for changing a reading book is that a child has **read the book more than once, they can read it fluently, and can answer questions about what they have read**. The focus is not on reading a book once and getting on to a new book as quickly as possible. This is the case for children who are reading books from our reading scheme, rather than chapter books.

Mrs Watson will be in touch soon with further information.

Advance notice of spring term events

Although we have had to postpone our class coffee mornings and class assemblies for the time being, we do have the following events and activities in the diary for this term-

- **Non-uniform** for school funds on Friday 18 February;
- **World Book Day** on Thursday 03 March;
- **Film night** Wednesday 06 April at 3:30pm for Years 1 to 4;
- **Easter tables challenge** starts on Monday 21 March;
- **Spring term interviews for parents and children with class teachers** on Monday 28 March from 3:30pm and Wednesday 30 March from 3:30pm- these may be face to face or telephone calls depending on the guidance at that time.
- **Easter egg decorating competition** deadline Wednesday 06 April.

Mother's Day lunch is planned for Friday 25 March. Again, we will have to see what the guidance is at that time before we know whether or not this can go ahead.

Pizza party school meal Thursday 20 January

On Thursday 20 January we will be serving a special **pizza party meal**. The menu for the day will be Margarita pizza and chips followed by Neapolitan ice cream and served with juice.

Children who have a pizza party meal will have a chance to win a prize by finding a **golden ticket** under their plate or in their meal box.

Please note that we are not serving jacket potatoes on this day. Please provide a packed lunch if you do not want a pizza party meal for your child.

Parents of children in Yellow, Red and Green class do not have to pay for this meal as it is provided free due to the Universal Infant Free School Meals initiative. Parents of children in Orange, Purple and Blue class who are entitled to Free School Meals do not have to pay for this meal.

Parents of children in Orange, Purple and Blue class who pay for their child's meals should pay in the normal way via School Gateway.

Newcastle Falcons rugby coaching for Years 2, 3 and 4

I am delighted to announce that we have organised some extra **rugby coaching** for our children in Years 2, 3 and 4 with specialist rugby coaches.

This will be a joint venture from **Newcastle Falcons Rugby Club and Seghill Rugby Club** who are working together to introduce our children to the game. The sessions will take place outdoors on the yard (weather permitting) on **Mondays** during the morning or afternoon sessions (different times for each class). Each session will be coached by Dan Simpson, Newcastle Falcons Community Coach, and Steve Bailey, chairman of the newly formed Seghill Minis.

Children should come to school in their **PE kit** and be prepared to be outdoors for their rugby coaching session. An extra **hoodie or sweatshirt** might be useful as they will not be able to wear their coat.

This is an amazing opportunity for our children to receive **expert coaching**. Because this is a joint venture between the two clubs and our school, we are receiving this coaching free of charge. Ordinarily, paying for coaches to come in from a professional rugby club such as Newcastle Falcons would cost a fortune. We are really looking forward to rugby sessions starting on **Monday 10 January**.