

Seghill First School Newsletter April 2021 edition 1

Welcome back

It is lovely to see everyone back in school following the Easter break. The summer term is always such an exciting time at school, and hopefully we will be able to do more as the road map to recovery moves along stage by stage.

You will see below the events we have planned for this term. We are working on the principle that the key dates identified in the road map to recovery will go ahead as planned. However, we are also taking a cautious approach. We are very keen to provide opportunities that we know that children and parents really enjoy, but we won't be inviting parents and carers back into school for indoor events this term. This is not because we don't want to see you; far from it. But we don't want to place anyone at risk or run events in a way that means they are not enjoyable.

Please can I draw your attention to our **whole school visit** on Thursday 01 July. We are taking all of the children out of school for a treat. Parents will not be asked to contribute to the cost of the visit. We want the children to have a special day out, hopefully as a whole school.

Sports days will take place during PE lessons during w/b Monday 21 June. The **summer fayre** will take place during w/b Monday 28 June. We will decide on the date when we know the weather forecast for that week so we can hold this event outdoors. Cancelling and rescheduling events is no fun for anyone, so hopefully by doing it this way, we will end up with good weather and a successful outdoor summer fayre.

Monday 03 May	Bank Holiday- school closed to all pupils;
Friday 14 May	summer fayre non-uniform 1;
Monday 17 May	class photographs;
Friday 28 May	summer fayre non-uniform 2;
Friday 28 May	school closes for May half term;
Monday 07 June	school reopens to all pupils;
Tuesday 15 June	Bags2school collection;
Friday 18 June;	summer fayre non-uniform 3;
w/b Monday 21 June	sports days will take place during PE lessons this week;
Wednesday 23 to Friday 25 June	Year 4 visit to Dukeshouse Wood;
w/b Monday 28 June	summer fayre will take place during this week;
Thursday 01 July	whole school visit;
Monday 05 July	transition week;
Wednesday 07 July	full governing body meeting;
Thursday 15 July	Year 4 leavers' party from 6:00pm;
Friday 16 July	school closes for summer holidays.

Birthdays

Our birthday boys and girls in April are-

- Charlie age 4 in Orange class;
- Theo and Kieran age 5 in Yellow class;
- William age 6 in Red class;
- Freya and Klay age 7 and Riley age 8 in Green class;
- Adele and Connor age 9 in Blue class;
- Mr Ruler is also celebrating a special birthday this month.

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



Ongoing protective measures

We ask that you continue to follow these principles-

- bring your child to school **every day** and **be on time**;
- follow our **one way system**, even if you think there is no-one checking;
- wear your **face covering** and maintain a **distance** from other parents and carers while on the school site.

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 all stay at home until you have the results. Missing one school day to ensure that no-one in the family is positive is better than potentially bringing Covid into our school. All staff continue to do their twice weekly lateral flow tests at home. So far all results have been negative. Some staff have received their first Covid vaccination.

Reporting a test result to school

If your child shows symptoms of Covid-19, please arrange for them to take a test and self-isolate until you receive the results.

Parents must inform school of any test result, even if the test result is **negative**. **Parents must inform school of any test result** even if your child's year group is **currently closed or if school is closed due to a weekend or a school holiday**. Please email school via admin@seghill.northumberland.sch.uk

Please don't send us a message via School Gateway, our school Facebook page or Tapestry. These systems are not always checked every day and a delay in notifying us of a result could mean that other children and staff being put at risk.

If you are worried about the safeguarding of a child, please ring school on 0191 237 0419 or our **safeguarding number** 07785 180484. This mobile number can also be used to report a Covid test result if you do not have email access. Your call may go straight to answer machine, but messages are checked every day.

Reminder about drop off routines

Orange, Yellow and Blue class children start school at 8:45am. Green and Red class children start school at 8:50am. Please ensure that your child is **closely supervised** before school. Children should not be running around next to staff cars, in the garden parallel to the drive, on the trim trail or on Cheviot View.

Also, please remember that drop off time is very busy for staff. Teachers and teaching assistants are trying to get children safely into their classrooms. They cannot engage in lengthy conversations with parents and carers at the same time. If you do need to discuss an issue with your child's class teacher, please phone the school office to make an appointment for a call back or contact the class teacher directly using their email address.

Star of the week

Our stars of the week for the last two weeks are-

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| • Mrs Bell's star | Kai and Lauren; |
| • Mrs Lyons' and Mrs Watson's star | Johnny and Mitchell; |
| • Mrs Knowles' star | Coby and Christina; |
| • Mrs Kembrey's star | Marnie and Francesca; |
| • Miss Neal's star | Freya and Ollie; |
| • Miss Chappell's star | Jack and Connor. |



Well done, stars. Who will be chosen next time?

Summer term curriculum

We have planned our teaching of **foundation subjects** into one and two week blocks for the rest of this term. We have done this to give the children as much opportunity as possible to be **immersed in each subject**. It is hard to get going on any topic if you are only learning about it once a week. We have had a two week history topic and we are in the middle of a two week science topic.

For the first two weeks of this term, children have been learning about the Queen in our **history topic**- her family and her role in our country and beyond. We have had celebrations for her birthday and Blue class have been learning about her role as head of the Commonwealth.

This week and next week, our **science topic** is focused on plants and forces. Hopefully the children will have been keeping you up to speed with the planting that they have been doing so far.

When our science fortnight comes to an end, we will be moving into **art fortnight** and then a **PSHE week** before the end of this half term. Subjects which have not yet been covered will be the focus during the second half of the summer term.

The focus for each subject runs through the **whole school**. Although children in each class will be looking at different elements, the overall theme is the same in every year group.

Photographs from our history topic are on the front page of our **school website** and have been posted on our **Facebook page**. Please look out for further photographs from the rest of our topics.

Staffing update

Mrs Askew and her husband are thrilled to be expecting their second baby. Mrs Askew's maternity leave was due to start at the end of the summer term. However, due to complications that Mrs Askew is suffering during her pregnancy, she has been identified as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable. She has been advised to work from home unless we can guarantee strict social distancing and use of face masks. We can guarantee that staff wear face coverings and maintain a social distance at all times, however, we cannot expect our youngest children to keep a distance of 2m from Mrs Askew or wear face coverings. We have therefore had to take the decision that Mrs Askew could not return to work after the Easter break in order to protect her and her unborn baby.

Mrs Askew was understandably very disappointed, as she was desperately keen to be at school. However, she accepts that this is the only safe option for her at the moment.

We have been able to appoint Miss Tamara Neal to work as the Nursery teacher from now until the end of the summer term. **Miss Neal** completed her final teaching experience here a couple of years ago and is well known to our school. She is working closely (but remotely) with Mrs Askew and is also being supported by Mrs Kembrey and the rest of the Early Years team while she becomes familiar with our routines and procedures. Miss Neal has settled in very quickly and is already doing a great job.

Bank holiday Monday 03 May

Please don't forget that Monday 03 May is a Bank Holiday and **school is closed**.

School Gateway

If you have not yet downloaded the **School Gateway app**, you may be missing out on important information. School Gateway is used to send out texts, newsletters and letters via email. It is also used for all bookings and all payments, including school meals and milk. If you are having trouble with School Gateway, please take your phone to the school office and see **Mrs Elliott**, who will help you to resolve any issues.