

Seghill First School Newsletter June 2021 edition 1

Covid update- IMPORTANT

Following the announcement by the Prime Minister on Monday, the road map has been paused and we are not moving to the next stage. In terms of school, this means that there will be no changes to our current systems and protective measures.

- Children will continue to work and play in their **consistent class bubbles**. Children will not mix with children from different class bubbles.
- We will continue to close at **1:15pm** on Fridays. Deep cleaning is done then, as well as additional cleaning throughout the school day and after school every day.
- Children and staff will continue to **wash and sanitise** their hands regularly.
- The **movement of staff** between different class bubbles will be very limited.
- Children who **arrive late** at school after their doors are locked will not be allowed in.
- Staff will continue to take twice weekly **lateral flow tests**. All results have been negative so far.

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.

We are disappointed, but not surprised, that we are not moving to the next stage of the road map. This will have an impact on plans for the rest of the term.

If you or your child is identified as a **close contact**, please arrange for a PCR test to be taken. **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

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.

Since the start of this global pandemic, we have had one unconfirmed positive Covid case in our school. We have done very well to keep Covid out of our school. Please continue to support us right up to the end of term to keep Covid out of school.

Summer term B dates for the diary

Monday 21 June	class photographs
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;
Wednesday 30 June	summer fayre;
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.

REMINDER- class photographs are being taken on Monday 21 June.

Plans for 2021- 2022

Following our governing body meeting at the beginning of the month, I am delighted to announce our teaching groups for next year. For 2021 -2022, we have **6 single aged classes**, rather than the current 5 classes-

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
16	11	24	20	24	19

As you can see from the chart above, the number of pupils in each class will continue to be fairly small, which means that your child will receive more attention from their teacher. Moving from 5 classes to 6 classes is part of our **Covid recovery plan**, so we can try to make up for the **lost learning** caused by the global pandemic and limited attendance at school for many pupils. Please note that we are making a huge investment in providing 6 single aged classes to give us the best possible chance to support the children to **catch up, keep up and move on**. It is unlikely that our school budget can support this change on a long term basis, and we may well revert back to 5 classes the following academic year. But for the next school year, this will be the way that we organise children for teaching and learning.

As we told you in our May newsletter, there will be some **staffing changes** next year. We will share this information with you in our next newsletter.

Fundraising update

Thank you so much to everyone for their contributions to the **chocolate tombola** today, and for previous donations for the general and bottle tombolas. As always, your generosity is amazing.

We had planned our **summer fayre** to take place outdoors after 21 June and hoped that we would be able to go ahead with it, even with some restrictions in place. As the road map has been paused, and there is a still a maximum number placed on outdoor gatherings of 30, this is now unlikely. I am meeting with the fundraisers on Monday to see what we can salvage from this situation. It may be that the summer fayre is postponed until the beginning of September. I will let you know when we have formulated a plan.

The **Bags2school** collection was made earlier this week. We had absolutely loads of stuff and we raised **£71** for school funds. Thank you for your donations.

I am delighted to announce that we have ordered a whole set of new **reading books** for school, paid for from our fundraising account. We will be using the new reading books from September, or sooner if possible. The reading books for children in Reception and key stage 1 are **closely matched to our phonics scheme**, so children will read books at home which will revisit and revise the sounds they have been taught in school. We have also bought a range of more **challenging and interesting texts** for our older children. The books cost almost £3000. We can't wait to show them to the children when they arrive.

Star of the week

Our stars of the week for this week are-

- **Mrs Bell's star** Katie and Lily;
- **Mrs Lyons' and Mrs Watson's star** Alexa, Archie and Ellie;
- **Mrs Knowles' star** Layton and Beau;
- **Mrs Kembrey's star** Thea and Theo;
- **Miss Neal's star** Harry and Edison;
- **Miss Chappell's star** Declan M and Coby.



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

Birthdays

Our birthday boys and girls in June are-

- Angel age 5 in Yellow class;
- Christina and Tia age 7 and Jayden, Elizabeth, Declan L and Declan M age 6 in Red class;
- Johnny age 8 in Green class;
- Emily, Kai, Sidney and Isabelle age 9 in Blue class.



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

Whole school visit

We have planned a whole school visit for **Thursday 01 July**. Our plans were to take the whole school to Plessey Woods for a day of fun, paid for by fundraising money as a treat for the children. In order to do this, each class bubble would have to travel in a separate coach to get to Plessey Woods so we don't mix class bubbles. This is not a viable option.

We have now put in place Plan B. We are going to take the whole school out for the day in the local area, keeping them in their class bubbles and not using any transport. Children will need to bring a packed lunch to eat while we are out.

Year 4 visit to Dukeshouse Wood

We are absolutely delighted that **our residential visit for Year 4 to Dukeshouse** can go ahead next week. All paperwork for the visit, including risk assessments, have been sent to and approved by Northumberland County Council, so we are now raring to go.

This visit has been postponed from September 2020 and April 2021, so fingers crossed for third time lucky. Thank you in advance to Mrs Bell and Mrs Lyons for agreeing to accompany the children on this visit. Excitement levels are very high. God willing for a fun and safe visit.

Year 4 to 5 transition

Unfortunately, the very detailed and exciting **transition plans** that we had in place for our Year 4 children will now not be able to go ahead. This is because we cannot mix our Year 4 children with Year 4 children from other Seaton Valley first schools, which is what normally happens during transition week. I met virtually with the partnership headteachers yesterday and we are revising the current plans so we can offer as much of a transition opportunity as we can to our Year 4 children to prepare them for middle school while following current guidance.

In school transition

Our transition activities for children in Nursery to Year 3 usually take place while our Year 4 children are at middle school for their transition week. As you will have read on page 2, we are moving from a model of 5 classes to 6 classes. We cannot move our children to be with their new class mates and teachers as this will mean compromising the integrity of the current class bubbles. Please be assured that we are planning to prepare the children for the move into their new class for September, but again, this has to be done in line with the current guidance.

School uniform for 2021 - 2022

Our children always look smart for school and the very vast majority wear school uniform. I know that a lot of parents struggled to get school shoes after lockdown and many children have been wearing trainers to school. We have not had an issue with this, as many staff have been in the same boat when trying to get school shoes for our own children.

Please note that from September, we hope that everyone will have had the chance to get back to the shops and we will be expecting the children to wear **shoes for school**, rather than trainers.

