

Seghill First School Newsletter January 2023 edition 1

Attendance target 96.3%

Whole school attendance since 07 September 2022	92.0%
Whole school attendance this week	94.6%
81.6%	97.5%
97.7%	93.1%
88.2%	97.6%

Class of the week for this week is **Red** class with 97.7% attendance. **Well done Red class.** You now have the attendance octopus and you all had a dip in the sweet box this morning. We must give **Yellow and Blue class** a mention, with 97.5% and 97.6% attendance respectively. So close to being class of the week.

Our winner for a **dip in the attendance prize box** as a reward for having 100% attendance and no late marks for the week is **Jake** in Year 3.

Welcome back

We hope you had a lovely Christmas and wish you all a very **Happy New Year**. We had a very useful **staff training day** on Monday. The children came back to school **full of news and high spirits** on Tuesday, which was lovely to see. We are looking forward to another busy term in school.

Spring term A after school clubs

Sports club with NUFC started yesterday. Art club starts on Monday 16 January. Science club starts on Tuesday 17 January. Your child has received a letter earlier this week if they have a place at any of these clubs.

Birthdays

Our birthdays boys and girls are-

- **Denae and Jaylen** in Purple class who are now 8;
- **Layla-Rose** is now 7 and **Isaac** from Green class will be 7 this weekend.



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

Spring term coffee mornings

Class teachers will be providing class coffee mornings next week. The dates are-

Years 1 and 2	Tuesday 17 January 8:45am in the Year 2 classroom;
Years 3 and 4	Wednesday 18 January 8:45am in the Year 3 classroom;
Nursery and Reception	Thursday 19 January 8:45am in the Club Room;

We hope you will be able to join us to find out **what the children will be learning** this term. Class teachers will also be talking about **what you can do to support your child's learning** at home.

Please drop your child off at their classroom and make your way to the venue. Hot drinks will be provided.

Year 3 pedestrian training

Year 3 started their **Schools Go Smarter child pedestrian training** today. The programme aims to teach children important road safety skills, which they can use to keep themselves safe as pedestrians. The first and last sessions are classroom based. The other sessions will be practical and will take place outside. Each child will be given a **high viz waistcoat** to wear during these sessions. We are looking forward to working with staff from the Schools Go Smarter team and seeing the children become more confident with **The Green Cross Code- Stop, Look, Listen and Think**.

Spring term events and activities

A summary of the events and activities is below-

Tuesday 17 January 8:45am	Year 1 and 2 coffee morning
Wednesday 18 January 8:45am	Year 3 and 4 coffee morning
Thursday 19 January 8:45am	Nursery and Reception coffee morning
Friday 17 February	Non-uniform for school funds
Friday 17 February 9:00am	Celebration assembly
Monday 20 – Friday 24 February	School closed for half term holidays
Monday 27 February	School opens for all pupils
Thursday 02 March	World Book Day
Friday 10 March 2:30pm	Year 4 class assembly
Thursday 16 March 12 noon	Mother's Day lunch
Friday 17 March 12 noon	Mother's Day lunch
Friday 17 March	Red Nose Day
Monday 20 March	Easter time stables challenge starts
Wednesday 22 March	Movie night for children in Years 1 to 4
Friday 24 March 2:30pm	Year 3 class assembly
Monday 27 March 3:30 to 5:30pm	Meetings for parents and carers with class teachers
Wednesday 29 March 3:30 to 5:30pm	Meetings for parents and carers with class teachers
Thursday 30 March 9:00am	Celebration assembly
Friday 31 March	School closed- staff training day

Reminder Spring term A PE days

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

Children should wear a **plain white t-shirt, plain black or navy shorts or joggers, trainers and their school sweatshirt or cardigan** to school on their PE days. Please ensure long hair is tied back for PE. Children cannot wear earrings for PE. If your child cannot remove their own earrings they should not wear them on PE days. Staff are unable to remove earrings for children.

Family Learning free workshops for Nursery and Reception parents

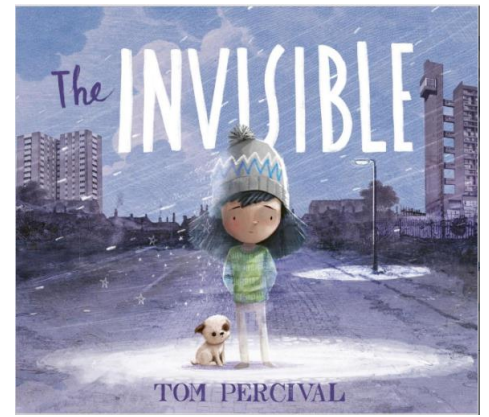
Last term we offered four free **Family Learning workshops** to children in Years 1 and 2 and their parents. They were very successful, and we can now roll this opportunity out to Nursery and Reception.

Children and their parents in **Nursery and Reception** are invited to attend the free Family Learning workshops on Tuesdays 17, 24 and 31 January and 07 February. Parents attend from 1:00pm; the children join them at 2:00pm. Each session is different. Please email admin@seghill.northumberland.sch.uk to book a place for you and your child stating which of these sessions (if not all) that you want to attend. Please come to the school office and we will take you to the Club Room for the sessions.

Learning in school this week

This week **all year groups have been working on one shared text** **The Invisible by Tom Percival**. This is a beautiful story about a girl called Isabel and her family who have to move to the far side of the city, where Isabel starts to feel... invisible. The story focuses on seeing those around us and how we all have a right to belong.

Children in all year groups have been really engaged with the story and the work they have done using the story as a stimulus.



Pirate themed funday meal on Thursday 19 January

On **Thursday 19 January** we will be serving a special **pirate-themed meal**.

The meal is shipwreck sausage in a bun served with Jack Sparrow fries, peas and sweetcorn followed by chocolate cannon ball crispy cake and shiver-me-timbers milk.

Children having a pirate themed lunch will have a chance of finding a **golden ticket** and winning a prize on the day.

There will also be a **star prize** for one child in our school to be entered into a prize draw across the authority to win a family ticket to the Pirate Quest and other attractions at Tynemouth Park.



You do not need to do anything if you would like your child to have a pirate themed lunch next Thursday- they simply need to say “school dinner please” when morning registration is completed.

The pirate themed lunch on Thursday will mean a change to the menu for next week. Thursday’s roast dinner will now be served on Friday. Next week’s menu will now be-

Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chef's choice	Pork meatballs in gravy served with creamed potato	Homemade cheese and tomato pizza served with oven baked potato wedges	Chicken wrap served with oven baked potato wedges	Shipwreck sausage in a bun served with Jack Sparrow fries, peas and sweetcorn	Roast turkey served with Yorkshire pudding and creamed potato
Sweet choice	Lemon drizzle cake with custard	Homemade chocolate brownie served with milk	Steamed syrup sponge served with custard	Chocolate cannon ball crispy cake and shiver-me-timbers milk.	Ice cream sponge served with raspberry sauce and peaches

The change in the menu will be for next week only to fit in with the pirate themed lunch.

Reminder about leave of absence request during term time

Some of you may be looking at booking a holiday in the sunshine for later in the year. I have included some **important reminders** for you to consider when booking a holiday and making a subsequent request for a leave of absence during term time so you are clear of what will happen in response to any requests.

Parents and carers requesting leave of absence during term time must **submit the request at least two weeks in advance** using the **leave of absence during term time form**.

The only leave of absence during term time requests that will be authorised are those where **evidence of exceptional circumstances** is provided.

Leave of absence that is taken **without a leave of absence request form being submitted** will not be authorised and will trigger an application from school to the Local Authority for a **fixed penalty notice** to be issued.

Leave of absence that is taken **which has not been authorised** will trigger an application from school to the Local Authority for a **fixed penalty notice** to be issued.

What are exceptional circumstances?

It is impossible to list examples of exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances are occasions when it is impossible to take a holiday outside of term time. One example could be where a parent or carer works in a factory that has two-week annual shut down and this is the only time that holidays can be taken. This leave of absence request would need to be supported by a letter from the employer.

What are not exceptional circumstances?

We are usually provided with reasons why parents and carers want to request a leave of absence during term time, but we are rarely provided with evidence of exceptional circumstances. These examples **are not** exceptional circumstances-

- "We did not know when the school holiday was";
- "The holiday was booked by a grandparent/relative as a surprise";
- "My child normally has good attendance";
- "We've not taken them out of school before";
- "It is cheaper to go outside of term time".

What happens if the leave of absence request is not authorised?

Leave of absence during term time requests are only authorised where **evidence of exceptional circumstances** is provided. If your leave of absence request is not authorised, it will clearly state on the letter that you receive what the next steps will be-

*"You should be aware that failure to secure your child's regular attendance at school can amount to offence contrary to s444 (1) of the Education Act 1996. In accordance with current guidance, this absence, if taken, will be unauthorised absence and as such is capable of triggering a referral to the Local Authority Education Welfare Team for a **Fixed Penalty Notice**. Should a referral be made and the Local Authority decide to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice, then **you will be required to pay a Fixed Penalty of up to £120**, (you should also be aware that a Fixed Penalty Notice can be issued individually to each parent in respect of a child) failure to pay may result in prosecution before your local Magistrates Court."*

We do completely understand that the cost of family holidays during the school holidays can be astronomical. However, we have a **legal duty** to follow the law around attendance, including only authorising leave of absence requests that have evidence of exceptional circumstances and **referring to the Local Authority for a fixed penalty notice to be issued for all unauthorised leave of absence requests**.

We have already lost 55 days of school so far this school year due to leave of absence during term time which is undoubtedly impacting on our overall attendance figure.