

# Seghill First School Newsletter November 2022 edition 2

## Attendance target 96.3%

Whole school attendance since 07 September 2022	93.2%
Whole school attendance this week	90.4%
95.3%	90%
85.5%	86.7%
93.7%	94.1%

Class of the week for this week is **Orange** class. **Well done Orange class.**

## Star of the week

Our stars of the week are-

- **Mrs Lyons** Dylan;
- **Miss Winter & Mrs Watson** Beau;
- **Mrs Bell** Marnie;
- **Miss Neal** Frankie;
- **Miss Porter** Manessa;
- **Mrs Askew** Harley;
- **Miss Chappell** Beau.



## Birthdays

We've had lots of birthdays during the last week-

- **Ava-Betty** in Blue class is now 9;
- **Orla** in Purple class is 8 today;
- **Charlie** in Green class is now 7;
- **Ethan, Eabha and Thomas** in Yellow class are now 5;

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



## Covid update

As I reported in last week's newsletter, Covid has certainly reared its head in school. Mrs Lyons, Miss Winter and Mrs Miller have all been absent due to Covid. In addition to this, Mrs Ellison, Miss Ornsby and Mrs Rogage have also been absent.

It has been really tricky to get through the week with these **levels of staff absence**. Thank you everyone for their patience and to staff who have worked on their non-working days, doubled up groups, taken on duties and activities for other staff and kept us going when we thought we may need to close a couple of year groups.

**If your child tests positive**, please keep them off school. There is no official exclusion period. I would suggest that they stay at home until they are well in themselves, or until they are testing negative. Timescales for this will vary between individuals.

**If a parent, carer or family member tests positive** there is no requirement for your child to stay off school. Please test your child. If they test positive, follow the guidance above.

Please be aware that our plans will change in response to Covid levels within each class and the school as a whole. It is always worth having a **back up plan** in place for the unlikely but possible closure of your child's class. I very much hope that this is not going to be something that is needed, but experience of Covid over the last two years, and especially the last two weeks, tells us that there is little rhyme or reason to patterns of transmission.

### Arrangements for Christmas

For the first time in at least a couple of years we are crossing our fingers that there will be no restrictions and protective measures in place this Christmas. We really hope that we will be able to do everything that we would like to do to celebrate Christmas.

This newsletter contains the arrangements for all of the events and activities between now and the end of term. The arrangements may sound a bit prescriptive but we need to ask you to work with us to make sure we can offer these events and activities safely with the staff that we have available in school. We are a small staff team and we all wear many different hats in school. However, we are going all out this year to bring a bit of Christmas magic back.

### Christmas raffle and non-uniform days

Raffle tickets will be sent home on **Friday 25 November**.

Please return the **right-hand side strips to school with £2.00** in the envelope provided by **Friday 16 December**. The raffle will be drawn later that day at the Christmas fayre. Please see Mrs Elliott in the office if you want extra raffle tickets.

Thank you to everyone who wore non-uniform today and brought in a donation for the general tombola. We are asking children to come to school in **non-uniform** on two more Fridays and to bring in a donation for the tombola or raffle each time.

**Friday 25 November**- Non-uniform donations for the chocolate tombola or raffle.

**Friday 09 December**- Non-uniform donations for the bottle tombola or raffle.

The more donations we receive the more prizes there will be to be won and the greater your chance of winning.

### Santa's reading challenge

Santa's reading challenge will start on **Monday 05 December**. Our literacy lead, Mrs Watson, will be sending out more information about the reading challenge next week. It is important that children continue to read in the run up to Christmas as part of their normal routine, as this maintains fluency and interest in books. We know it can be difficult to fit everything in at this time of year, but hopefully, the "little and often" approach is more manageable than reading lots of pages once a week.



### Christmas fayre

Although we had a great time at our outdoor **Christmas fayres** for the previous two years, we are planning on an indoor Christmas fayre this year. This will take place on **Friday 16 December** straight after school.

We will have our tombolas set out in the hall and tickets arranged into packs of 5 in advance, which worked very well the last time. In addition to the tombolas, there will be other stalls and attractions. Refreshments will be available in the dining room. The raffle will be drawn at the end of the fayre.

### Christmas cards

Class teachers will provide a Christmas card box in each classroom which will be open from **Monday 19 December**. Please wait until this date before bringing your cards in.

Children should put their cards in their class Christmas card box. Each teacher will arrange for the cards to be given out, including cards that are for children in other classes and for staff.

Lists of **children's first names and surname initial** for your child's class will be sent home by Friday 16 December to use to address Christmas cards.

### **Movie night on Wednesday 21 December**

Children in Red, Green, Purple and Blue class are invited to stay after school until 5:15pm for movie night on **Wednesday 21 December**. We will ask the children to pick two movies, and then to watch one of them. Tickets cost **£3.00** and include a film, sweets and a drink.

If your child would like to attend, we have set up a payment portal on **School Gateway**. Click on **payments** and you will find the option for **Movie night December 2022**. Tick the box to give consent for your child to attend, click **add to basket** and pay £3.00 via School Gateway. There will be no after school club on Wednesday 21 December. This portal will be open on School Gateway until **Friday 16 December**, which is the deadline for permission and payments.

### **Tickets for Christmas performances**

We are delighted to be able to invite parents and carers into school to watch our Christmas concerts this year.

The dates and times are-

- Monday 19 December Yellow and Orange class concert at 9:00am;
- Monday 19 December Red, Green, Purple and Blue class concert at 2:30pm;
- Tuesday 20 December Red, Green, Purple and Blue class concert at 9:00am.

Attendance at the concert will be by ticket only so we adhere to the maximum capacity of the hall. Tickets cost 50p each. If your child would like to attend, we have set up a payment portal on **School Gateway**. Click on **payments** and you will find the options for **Yellow and Orange concert 2022** and **Red, Green, Purple and Blue concert 2022**. Specify the number of tickets you would like (maximum for 4 per family per concert), tick **add to basket** and pay via School Gateway. This portal will be open on School Gateway until **Friday 16 December**, which is the deadline for bookings and payments.

### **Costumes for the Christmas concert**

Children are invited to wear a **Christmas jumper or top for their Christmas concert** instead of their school jumper or cardigan (normal school bottoms). We are not dressing up and certainly do not expect families to provide costumes for the concerts.

### **Arrangements for Christmas parties**

We have organised parties for children in all year groups to take place in key stage groups. We will provide a treat for the children. Please do not send in any food or drinks for your child's party. All parties will take place after lunch in the hall and all children will go home at 3:15pm as normal.

#### **Tuesday 20 December Red and Green class party**

Children in Red and Green class will have their party on **Tuesday 20 December**. Children should come to school in a **Christmas jumper or top** instead of their school jumper or cardigan (normal school bottoms) as it is their concert on that morning. They can bring any other party clothes in a named bag to change in to after lunch if they want to.

#### **Wednesday 21 December Orange and Yellow class party**

Children in Orange and Yellow class will have their party on **Wednesday 21 December**. Children should come to school in **party clothes**. 15-hour Nursery children should come to school at 1:00pm and attend for the afternoon session rather than the morning session on this day.

#### **Thursday 22 December Purple and Blue class party**

Children in Purple and Blue class will have their party on **Thursday 22 December**. Children should come to school in **school uniform** and bring party clothes in a named bag to change into after lunch.

### Christmas lunch

We are delighted to be able to offer a traditional Christmas lunch to children this year on **Wednesday 21 December**. Our Christmas lunch is always extremely popular as Mrs Rogage does such an amazing job. Christmas lunches need to be ordered in advance.

We are assuming that **all children**, apart from 15-hour Nursery children, want a school Christmas lunch.

If you do **want a school Christmas lunch** for your child you do not need to do anything.

If you **do not want a school Christmas lunch** for your child you must let Mrs Elliott in the school office know by **Friday 25 November**. Please ring Mrs Elliott, send her an email or drop into the office and let her know. This must be done by **Friday 25 November** as this is the date that Mrs Rogage must submit her foods orders to meet the deadlines set by her suppliers.

Please note that we are not serving jacket potatoes on this day. Please provide a packed lunch if you do not want a Christmas lunch 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 £2.30 in the normal way via School Gateway.

### Christmas treats

Thanks to our fundraisers, we are offering our special Christmas treats again this year.

We have a pre-ordering service for our Christmas treats. This includes **reindeer dust, snowman poo, reindeer poo, hot chocolate reindeers, Grinch pills and sweet cones**.

These items cost **50p each**. If you order all six of these items, we will provide them as a special **Christmas Eve pack** for **£2.50**.

If you would like to buy Christmas treats we have set up a payment portal on **School Gateway**. Click on **payments** and you will find the option for **Christmas treats 2022**. Pay 50p per item or £2.50 per pack, click **add to basket** and pay via School Gateway. This portal will be open on School Gateway until **Friday 16 December**, which is the deadline for orders and payments so they can be processed, made up and sent home during the last week of term.



### Toy swap reminder

We have our toy swap on **Friday 25 November** from 9:00am in the school hall for parents and carers. Any items that you want to donate can be brought in during week beginning Monday 21 November. All items must be in excellent condition, with all parts included and in full working order.

### Payment deadline

The payment deadline for Christmas treats, movie night and tickets for the Christmas concerts is **Friday 16 December**. **This is 5 weeks from today**. The payment portals on School Gateway will close on Friday 16 December and they will then disappear from your options on School Gateway. We will not re-open to payment portals to accommodate payments and orders which have missed the deadline.