

Seghill First School newsletter July 2020 edition 2

Dear Parents and Carers

As always, we hope you are all keeping well and staying safe. This will be the last school newsletter for this academic year. Looking back, the year has ended up being rather different to the one I anticipated! I'm sure that's the case for all of us! Despite the challenges and ups and downs of the pandemic, I've thoroughly enjoyed another year as Headteacher at Seghill First School. Your ongoing support throughout the academic year has been much appreciated.

There have been many challenges throughout the year, but undoubtedly the biggest one so far has been reopening our school and ensuring that it is a safe place for our children and staff. There are further challenges ahead as we prepare to reopen to all pupils from September.

School just doesn't feel right without the children so it has been great to have some children back in school. I believe that the experience of returning to school has been very successful for those children on many different levels. The success is due to two things- the wonderful way in which the children have come back to school and adapted to how we have to do things now and the positive attitude and hard work of the staff. The staff have really supported the children with their academic and emotional well-being at this difficult time. So well done and thank you to all of the boys and girls who have been back at school and the staff who have been working with them.

Unfortunately we have not been able to welcome back all of our pupils to school. However, I have been amazed to see the learning that has been going on in many homes and gardens around the village. So many boys and girls have been working really hard and taking part in exciting and enriching opportunities provided by staff and parents. Well done to all the boys and girls who have worked hard at home. A huge thank you to staff for providing the work, and to parents who are juggling many things and still managing to support their children's learning.

As I think back over this academic year, I would like to thank two people in particular: Mrs Knowles our Deputy Headteacher and Mrs Hall our Chair of Governors. Mrs Knowles has given her time selflessly to support me to lead the school. She has listened to me rant on, talked through endless scenarios of how we can make things work in our school for our children and shared her all-round love for Seghill First School. She is a real champion for our school and I would really struggle without her. So thank you, Pam.

All governors are unpaid volunteers and all do an amazing job "behind the scenes" working alongside staff to ensure that the school is the best it can be. As Chair of Governors, Mrs Hall gives a huge amount of her own time throughout the academic year and especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. She supports me, challenges me and checks up on me and nothing is ever too much trouble. She cares deeply about our school, that's very clear to see. We are very lucky to have her as our Chair of Governors and I send her my thanks.

Annual reports have been sent out to parents via email this week. Thank you for your positive feedback.

I feel very proud to work with such a fantastic staff team who really do go that extra mile to provide an amazing service and support for our families.

Have a wonderful summer holiday and let's hope for a continuing return to "normal".

With love and best wishes to you all. Miss Chappell Headteacher

Arrangements for September

Unless there is a local or national lockdown, we are planning to re-open to all pupils on **Wednesday 02 September**, following a staff training day on Tuesday 01 September as planned.

Now that new guidance has been published we are working through the process of **revising risk assessments** and consulting with governors, staff and unions ahead of a full re-opening.

As guidance can change, sometimes very quickly, we will **confirm final operational arrangements** for each year group in advance of the new school year beginning. This will be information such as start / finish times, lunch time arrangements, where to enter / exit the school site, where your child will enter / leave the school building etc. We will be releasing information soon about the one way system that will be in place for September which is part of our risk assessment. In summary, unless there is another lockdown, you can assume your child will be returning to school from Wednesday 02 September.

Thank you to those parents who took the time to complete and submit the survey we sent out. We received 68 responses, which is less than two thirds of our children. I can confirm that we will be closing at 1:15pm on Fridays during the autumn term.

All other arrangements for September as outlined in the letter to parents on 06 July will go ahead unless we are told otherwise. Here is a link to the letter in case you missed it.

[letter to parents 06 July 2020](#)

Reminder about important changes to our service

From September, we will be using School Gateway for sending texts and emails, all payments (dinner money, clubs, trips and events) and for managing attendance. We will no longer be using **Parentmail**.

Reminder- Please note that from 01 September, we will **no longer be accepting cash or cheque payments at the school office** for school meals, clubs, trips or events. You will need to pay for these using the app or online via School Gateway. We will send out more details during the first week back in September when installation of the new system has been completed.

Please do not delete the Parentmail app or your account until we ask you to. We will be using Parentmail throughout the summer holidays to communicate with you so it is really important that you are still able to access texts and emails via this provider.

Birthdays

Our birthday boys and girls in July and August are-

- Noah, James, Freya and Isla in orange class;
- Roman, Beau and Zac in yellow class;
- Henry and James in red class;
- Mason, Mya, Nieve and Olly in green class;
- Jessica F, Emily He, Layla, Aurora, Alex, Matthew and Stephanie in blue class.



Happy birthday to you all. Birthday wishes also go to Mrs Bell who has a birthday at the end of this week and to Mrs Elliott and Mrs Watson who have birthdays in August. Extra special birthday wishes go to Mrs Knowles and Mrs Askew, who are both celebrating “big” birthdays during the summer holidays.

Contact with staff over the summer holidays

If you need to speak to any of the teachers, please contact them directly using these addresses-

anna.bell1@school360.co.uk

sarah.watson1@school360.co.uk

sarah.kembrey@school360.co.uk

amanda.lyons@school360.co.uk

pamela.knowles@school360.co.uk

hannah.askew@school360.co.uk

If you need to **report or discuss concerns about a child**, please use the dedicated email address safeguarding.seghill@gmail.com or ring 07785 180484. Please do not use these contact details for general requests or for information.

The school email address should be used for general requests or for information

admin@seghill.northumberland.sch.uk

This email address will be checked regularly. Please note that the school office is not open until Tuesday 01 September.

Term dates for 2020 – 2021 and 2021 - 2022

Headteachers in Seaton Valley have agreed the training days for the next two academic years. These dates have been added to the **term dates and school holiday lists**. They can be found on the **school website** in the **virtual office tab** in the **term dates folder**.

Please check both documents, especially if you are planning to book a family holiday, so you know when children are on holiday from school to make your plans.

Our term dates and holiday dates are quite different to schools in Newcastle and other neighbouring authorities in 2020 to 2021, including dates for the return to school in September 2020, Easter 2021 and end of summer term 2021.

Newcastle Gateshead Magazine

The **Newcastle Gateshead Magazine** is usually circulated in paper copy to all pupils. At the moment, it is only available in digital format. Please click on the link below to find a digital copy of the summer holiday magazine.

It provides endless ideas to help parents keep their children busy, productive, active and entertained including fun learning activities, sourcing books through the holidays, summer reading challenge, learning to draw, screen-free activities, summer camps, classes and courses and socialising safely. Readers can also win a 12ft Kanga Trampoline and other goodies.

[digital summer holiday magazine](#)

Parking outside school

New zig zags and double yellow lines have been marked outside school on Cheviot View and Barrass Avenue. These restrictions are there to keep our children and parents safe, particularly at dropping off and collection times. Please do not park on the double yellow lines or zig zags on Barrass Avenue or Cheviot View.

Remote learning over the summer holidays

Teachers have done an excellent job providing remote learning since March, but they will not be providing remote learning over the summer holidays. Please feel free to engage in any remote learning opportunities that you and your child want to do over the summer, including following links below and on our school website. Please note that teachers will be happy to see any work you have done but they will not be marking or providing feedback on any work over the summer holidays.

[10 tips to encourage your child to read](#)

[help children continue their education during coronavirus](#)

[help children aged 2 to 4 continue their education during coronavirus](#)

[NCC home learning pack](#)

[NCC what's on this week](#)

[boredom busters](#)

[ready for September](#)

Goodbye Year 4

We said goodbye to our Year 4 children yesterday. Even though their final year at Seghill First School has been cut short, they have done us proud. They are a lovely group of young people and we will miss them all. They have achieved so much and we wish them every success moving forward. Good luck to Jamie, Mason, Cody, Imogen, Maisie, Patrick, Jessica, Reagan and Casey.

Seven of the children were able to come to the leavers' party last night. They look great in their hoodies, which were part of their leaving gift from school.

