

# Seghill First School Newsletter February 2022 edition 1

## Staffing update

**Mrs Lyons** has returned to work wearing a cast. She has been completing a phased return, starting with mornings only, and building up to full days.

**Mrs Ellison** is getting more mobile and is able to get around with her moonboot, but she must take extra care.

Following an unprecedented level of both staff and pupil absence, we are just about back to full strength. We have had to employ supply staff to cover for staff absence, which is the first time in many years. In addition to this, we have relied on staff working extra hours and extra days, support from our students and staff foregoing planning time to avoid closing any year groups. We have come near to having to close at least one year group a number of times, but have just about managed to get to a Friday each week. Thank you to all of the staff who have been amazing.

## Second payment reminder for Dukeshouse Wood

The **second and final payment of £60.00 for Dukeshouse Wood** is due by Monday 14 February. This must be paid on **School Gateway**. Please go to "payments" then "Dukeshouse Wood June 2022". Type £60 into the "amount" box and pay using your card or bank transfer. If you have already paid more than the £40 deposit you will need to pay the balance between what you have paid and the total cost of £100. Please make sure that you have paid the balance by **Monday 14 February** otherwise your child's place on the trip is at risk.

## Star of the week

Our stars for the last two weeks are-

- |                                   |                       |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • <b>Mrs Lyons</b>                | Joey W;               |
| • <b>Mrs Jones and Mrs Watson</b> | Callum and Christina; |
| • <b>Mrs Bell</b>                 | Beau and Declan;      |
| • <b>Miss Neal</b>                | Mason and Marnie;     |
| • <b>Mrs Kembrey</b>              | Charlie and Freya;    |
| • <b>Mrs Thomas</b>               | Thomas and Sierra.    |



## Birthdays

Our birthday boys and girls in the first half of February are-

- Sam and Will in Orange class;
- Brodie in Yellow class;
- Mason in Red class;
- Harrison in purple class;

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



## Additional Bank Holiday

An additional bank holiday, to mark the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee**, has been scheduled for Friday 3rd June 2022. As this date falls within half term an additional day's holiday has been arranged for **Friday 1st July 2022** for all schools within Seaton Valley. This date has been agreed by all Seaton Valley schools in order to provide consistency for parents who need to make childcare arrangements and to ensure exams are not impacted.

### Rugby reminder

Boys and girls in Green, Purple and Blue class continue to enjoy their weekly rugby session on Mondays with Newcastle Falcons and Seghill Rugby Club coaches. Please make sure that they **come to school in their PE kit** on Mondays and have an **extra top** to wear outside.

We are actively encouraging the children to go along to **Seghill Rugby Club** every **Saturday morning** and get **coached for free** by six qualified mini coaches at Seghill Rugby Club. Sessions are on a Saturday morning at 10.00am. If you have any question please ring Steve Bailey on 07765 926456 (WhatsApp number). What a brilliant opportunity for our children to get expert coaching for free.

### Use of fundraising money

I am delighted to announce that we have bought some more new sets of story books using money from fundraising.

The **story books** will be used in daily phonics lessons in school as a basis for teaching reading across school. The storybooks provide **structured practice for children learning to read**. Each set of books is carefully levelled to match children's growing phonic knowledge so children can read them with accuracy, fluency and comprehension.

The books cost just over £2500. These books are in addition to the £3000 worth of reading books that we bought at the end of last year.

Here are Beau, Orla, Bobby and Declan showing just some of the new story books that we have bought.



### Presentations for parents and carers to support learning

Due to the restrictions on large gatherings in school, we were unable to offer our spring term class coffee mornings at the beginning of January. I really do hope this was the last time we had to cancel these coffee mornings and we will be able to get back to having parents and carers in school very soon.

Teachers usually give out **information and guidance** at the class coffee mornings to help you to support your child's learning. We have put copies of some guidance on our website for you to refer to so you can support your child. There is guidance on the front page of the website for **Early Years, maths, reading and handwriting**. Please follow the link below to have a look and see how they can help you at home.

<http://www.seghill.northumberland.sch.uk/website>

### Advance notice of spring term events

Although we have had to postpone our class coffee mornings and class assemblies for the time being, we do have the following events and activities in the diary for this term-

- **Non-uniform** for school funds on Friday 18 February;
- **World Book Day** on Thursday 03 March;
- **Easter tables challenge** starts on Monday 21 March;
- **Spring term interviews for parents and children with class teachers** on Monday 28 March from 3:30pm and Wednesday 30 March from 3:30pm- these may be face to face or telephone calls depending on the guidance at that time.
- **Film night** Wednesday 06 April at 3:30pm for Years 1 to 4;
- **Easter egg decorating competition** deadline Wednesday 06 April.

**Mother's Day lunch** is planned for Friday 25 March. Again, we will have to see what the guidance is at that time before we know whether or not this can go ahead, but we are really hoping to be able to host this event.

### Reading books

Children have been provided with a **reading folder** to protect reading books from damage when they go back and forward to school. Please can we ask that you take **extra care** of the new reading books. We have already lost a number of books which have been ripped, damaged or lost at home. We know that accidents can happen, and we don't want to start charging for lost or damaged books, but we will have to start doing this as we cannot continue to replace books that have been lost or damaged at home.

### Road safety guides for parents, carers and children

Northumberland County Council has purchased a one year subscription for 6 road safety books and 1 general child safety guide. We have been asked to share the link for the books -

<https://northumberland.goodeggsafety.com>

The books cover the following topics:

- **Child Car Seat Safety** - according to [In car child safety - Safety Seats, Boosters, Law and advice \(goodeggcarsafety.com\)](https://northumberland.goodeggsafety.com), 9/10 car seats are fitted incorrectly
- **Child Safety;**
- **Cycling for Families;**
- **Drivers** - everything you need to know to help you get your licence and keep it;
- **Parents of Drivers;**
- **Riders** - a guide for riders of scooters, mopeds and 125cc motorbikes;
- **Older Road Users** - a guide for drivers, pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users.

### Free activities for February half term

Please see the home page of our school website and our Facebook page for information about the **FREE activities** taking place in Seaton Valley over the February half term break.

There are activities in Seaton Sluice, Seaton Delaval and New Hartley as well as Seghill, and they are all FREE.

To book please email

[ellie.taylor@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:ellie.taylor@northumberland.gov.uk)



