

# Seghill First School Newsletter December 2022 edition 2

## Attendance target 96.3%

Whole school attendance since 07 September 2022	91.8%
Whole school attendance this week	88.2%
77.6%	68.5%
98.2%	96.2%
92.1%	90.0%

Class of the week for this week again is **Red class**. **Well done Red class**. You now have the attendance octopus and you all had another dip in the sweet box this morning.

Our winner for a **dip in the attendance prize box** as a reward for having 100% attendance and no late marks for the week was Sophie.

## Star of the week

Our stars of the week are-

- **Mrs Lyons** Zach;
- **Miss Winter & Mrs Watson** Jack;
- **Mrs Bell** Noah;
- **Miss Neal** Freya;
- **Miss Porter** Hallie;
- **Mrs Askew** Kieran;
- **Miss Chappell** Olivia W;
- **Staff star** Miss Elliott.



## Birthdays

Manessa and Jimmy in Yellow class are now 5. Isabelle will be 9 tomorrow. Happy birthday to you all.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

## Christmas events, activities and deadlines

A summary of the events, activities and deadlines is below-

Children's first names and surname initial for your child's class sent home	By Friday 16 December
Return raffle tickets to school	By Friday 16 December
Christmas fayre	Friday 16 December at 3:15pm
Deadline for ordering and paying for concert tickets	Friday 16 December
Deadline for ordering and paying for movie tickets	Friday 16 December
Deadline for ordering and paying for Christmas treats	Friday 16 December
Post box opens	Monday 19 December
Yellow and Orange class concert	Monday 19 December at 9:00am
Red, Green, Purple and Blue class concert	Monday 19 December at 2:30pm
Red, Green, Purple and Blue class concert	Tuesday 20 December at 9:00am
Red and Green class party	Tuesday 20 December
Orange and Yellow class party	Wednesday 21 December
Deadline for ordering and paying for spring term milk	Wednesday 21 December
Christmas lunch	Wednesday 21 December
Movie night for Years 1 to 4	Wednesday 21 December 3:15pm to 5:15pm
Purple and Blue class party	Thursday 22 December
Christmas treat for Years 1 to 4	Thursday 22 December
Celebration assembly	Friday 23 December at 9:00am

## Scarlet fever update

In recent days, we have seen increased media coverage and raised public anxiety regarding scarlet fever and Group A Streptococcal infections, especially in children, following a small number of tragic deaths.

Scarlet fever is a common childhood infection caused by *Streptococcus pyogenes* (also known as group A *Streptococcus* [GAS]). These bacteria may be found on the skin, throat and other sites where they can live without causing problems.

GAS can cause infections including sore throat, impetigo and scarlet fever which although unpleasant, are generally minor illnesses. On rare occasions GAS can cause severe or invasive disease, including pneumonia and septicaemia.

It is important to remember that the overall risk to the population remains very low. However, as a precautionary measure, extra vigilance is paramount.

### What to look out for

- Common symptoms of scarlet fever include a **sore throat, often with a red, swollen tongue, headache, fever and pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel.**
- On darker skin, the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a **sandpapery feel.**

Scarlet fever is typically treated with a course of **antibiotics**. If a pupil has scarlet fever, parents/carers should keep them at home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment to avoid spreading the infection to others.

I completely understand that many of you are worried about your child contracting scarlet fever, and God forbid, Strep A. To clarify, we have been informed that one child in Reception was confirmed at the weekend as having scarlet fever. The child was treated with antibiotics and was kept off school in line with NHS and school guidance. The child returned to school in line with NHS and school guidance.

A number of issues have arisen from information being shared on various parents' chat groups regarding scarlet fever. This is increasing anxiety for everyone. **Speculation about possible scarlet fever cases and opinions on what action the school should take is really not helpful.**

**If you take your child to the doctors or hospital and a case of scarlet fever is confirmed, please inform us at school.** All schools are required to inform the local authority and the UKHSA Health Protection Team if they have a positive case. This gives the UKHSA an accurate picture about the number and location of scarlet fever cases so they can advise schools accordingly. **If we do not have the correct information from parents we cannot pass it to the UKHSA and seek their advice.**

If a deep clean or closure of any class or classes in our school was required, we would have been informed of this by both the UKHSA and the local authority health and safety team.

We are aware that some children are experiencing some or all of the common symptoms of scarlet fever and they are absent from school. We know this is a very worrying time for everyone. Please keep us up to date with any confirmed cases so we can take appropriate action at school as directed by the UKHSA. If you are worried about your child, please speak to us directly.

The following information has been attached to this newsletter-

- message to north east schools from the UKHSA;
- letter from the local authority "Group A Streptococcal infections and increase in scarlet fever";
- winter illnesses in north east schools information for pupils, parents and staff.

### Workshop for Yellow and Orange class parents

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended the **Early Years workshop** on **Wednesday**. It was great to see so many of you there to work alongside your child.

We have more events planned. It was lovely to have you back in school after such a long period of restrictions that meant we couldn't offer opportunities like this. Photographs are on the school website and the Facebook page.

### Raffle tickets

Thank you to those of you who have returned your raffle tickets and money so far. If you would like any extra raffle tickets, please see **Mrs Elliott** in the school office, and she will get them for you.

### Santa's Reading Challenge

Santa's reading challenge started on Monday. We have already noted that **many of the children are reading at home and bringing their reading book and reading record to school every day**. Well done. You are on track to complete Santa's reading challenge and receive your prize.

There is still time to take part if you have not started yet. Children get a mark in their reading record from their teacher when their adult signs their reading record at home. Everyone started with one point, and there are still enough days left to achieve nine more points to get back on track and still complete Santa's reading challenge.

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.

### All after school clubs cancelled on Tuesday 13 December

All staff must attend **Child Protection training** on **Tuesday 13 December** with our governors straight after school. There will be no after school club and no singing club on Tuesday 13 December. An extra session of singing has been booked for Tuesday 20 December. We have written to all families who attend singing club and who are regular users of the after school club to let them know.

### Reminders for next week

**Friday 16 December** is the deadline for ordering and paying for the following-

- Movie night for Years 1 to 4;
- Christmas treats;
- Performance tickets.

The payment portals on School Gateway will close on Friday and will not be reopened.

We also need your raffle tickets back by then or they will miss the draw at the **Christmas fayre**. 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.

### Reminder about Christmas jumpers and tops

Children are asked 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.

Children are invited to wear a **Christmas top or jumper** for Christmas lunch on **Wednesday 21 December**, with normal school bottoms. We will be decorating the dining room to make it feel really special for all of the children. We are expecting Mrs Rogage back at work by then and making one of her legendary Christmas dinners.



### Chess for Year 4

Mrs Miller has entered us into the Schools Chess Competition for Year 4 children. It will take place in February. This is something we take part in every year and the children really enjoy it. It definitely brings out their competitive side. Mrs Elliott has ordered a trophy for the winner. We will tell you more about it nearer the time of the competition, but Year 4 children might like to start learning how to play or practising their chess skills in preparation.

### Raffle prizes

We have some **absolutely amazing prizes for our Christmas raffle** that have been **very generously donated**. They include-

- a child's bike from CJ Performance Cycles (will be fitted to match the size of the child);
- Michelle Fowler portrait voucher;
- A full week pass for a Shape Performance holiday camp;
- Two one-day passes for a Shape Performance holiday camp;
- Triple A Foods voucher;
- Max Spielmann portrait voucher;
- £20 voucher for Persona Beauty in Seaton Sluice;
- £15 Vue cinema voucher;
- Hamper donated by Manor Walks;
- Little "L" cupcakes voucher;
- Large Stitch soft toy and sweets.

More raffle tickets are available from Mrs Elliott in the school office.

### Christmas gifts for staff

Every year staff are overwhelmed by the gifts they receive at both Christmas and the end of the school year. I know many of you like to buy a gift for an adult in school, and that is fine if it is something you really want to do.

I do want to say that we **genuinely do not expect you to buy anything for anyone in school**. As a parent myself I have seen first-hand the pressure on both parents and children as some children arrive at school loaded down with multiple gifts to give out while others may not have brought a gift. Gifts are lovely and we are always really grateful but we do not judge or place value on families based on whether or not they give us a gift.