

# Seghill First School Newsletter September 2020 edition 1

## Welcome back

It is so lovely to see you all and have the children back in school. It has been such a long time since everyone has been together. It just hasn't been the same without you.

As part of our risk assessment to fully reopen school, we have implemented a number of protective measures to ensure your child is safe in school. These include-

- Staggered drop off and collection times;
- Children being taught in class bubbles and not mixing with children from other bubbles;
- Children playing in allocated areas on the yard, field or EY garden in class bubbles and not mixing with children from other bubbles;
- Children eating lunch in class bubbles in their classroom and not mixing with children from other bubbles;
- All children facing the front sitting side by side rather than alongside or opposite;
- Children in Years 2, 3 and 4 having their own resources which are exclusive to them kept in their own individual pupil pack;
- Regular cleaning of items used by children in each bubble;
- Resources exclusive to each bubble and not shared between bubbles, such as equipment for outdoor play, PE;
- Regular handwashing;
- No whole school gatherings- assemblies held in each classroom not the hall;
- Wearing PE kit to school on PE days so children do not have to change in school;
- One way system around the school site;
- Essential access to school only for visitors and details recorded for Track and Trace;
- No access to school for parents;
- Additional cleaning, including closing on Friday afternoons for deep cleaning;
- Access to toilets supervised and allocated to class bubbles.

For many children, they have returned to school for the first time since March. I must say that they have settled back into the established routines and adapted to the new routines brilliantly. I visited all classrooms first thing on Wednesday, and regularly since, and I am absolutely thrilled to see the children looking so smart, settled and pleased to be back at school.

Some children were naturally a bit apprehensive about returning to school, but I really do hope that these fears have been lessened or overcome by attending school this week. If you or your child are still worried about any aspect of school, please do not hesitate to contact us. The return to school has been as positive and as safe as we hoped for, but we will do whatever we can if you feel additional support is required.

As always, your child's class teacher should be the first person you talk to if you have any questions or to discuss an issue. Their contact details are-

[anna.bell1@school360.co.uk](mailto:anna.bell1@school360.co.uk)

[sarah.watson1@school360.co.uk](mailto:sarah.watson1@school360.co.uk)

[sarah.kembrey@school360.co.uk](mailto:sarah.kembrey@school360.co.uk)

[amanda.lyons@school360.co.uk](mailto:amanda.lyons@school360.co.uk)

[pamela.knowles@school360.co.uk](mailto:pamela.knowles@school360.co.uk)

[hannah.askew@school360.co.uk](mailto:hannah.askew@school360.co.uk)

The school email address should be used for general information- [admin@seghill.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@seghill.northumberland.sch.uk) This email address is checked every day.

I always try to see parents straight away if I am available, or by appointment via Mrs Elliott in the school office. At the moment, we cannot invite parents into school for face to face meetings so discussions will have to take place by telephone. I am usually available both before and after school, although it is not always appropriate to discuss issues while I am standing at the gate with many others passing by.

### Reminder of drop off and collection times

Drop off at 8:50am	Drop off at 8:50am	Drop off at 8:50am	Drop off at 8:45am	Drop off at 8:45am
Collect at 3:15pm, except Fridays	Collect at 3:15pm, except Fridays	Collect at 3:15pm, except Fridays	Collect at 3:10pm, except Fridays	Collect at 3:10pm, except Fridays
Fridays collect at 1:15pm	Fridays collect at 1:15pm	Fridays collect at 1:15pm	Fridays collect at 1:15pm	Fridays collect at 1:15pm

#### Children in Reception

From week beginning **Monday 07 September**, children in Reception will attend from 8:45am to 2:15pm on Monday to Thursday, plus 8:45am to 1:15pm on Friday.

From week beginning **Monday 14 September**, children in Reception will attend from 8:45am to 3:10pm on Monday to Thursday, plus 8:45am to 1:15pm on Friday.

#### Children in Nursery

From week beginning **Monday 07 September**, children in Nursery will attend from 8:45am to 10:45am from Monday to Friday.

From week beginning **Monday 14 September**, children in Nursery will attend from 8:45am to 11:45am from Monday to Friday.

If you have more than one child in school, please drop off children in **Nursery, Reception and Year 1 first**.

In the past, we have allowed 10 minutes from doors opening at 8:35am to doors closing at 8:45am for children to enter the classroom. We are not able to do this now. Please wait with your child at the classroom door and leave them with the class teacher at either 8:45am or 8:50am. Parents are not allowed to congregate outside the classroom doors or anywhere on the school premises. Please do not arrive on site before your child's start time.

### Punctuality

We always want to make a super start to the new school year with all children arriving at school on time and being collected on time. It is even more important this year that children arrive on time at their classroom door.

We cannot have children being dropped off at the school office because they are late. There will be no key stage 2 helpers at the office to take late comers to classrooms. Late arrival will completely contravene all of the systems we have put in place to keep children and staff safe. Children cannot enter through the classroom doors of other year groups.

Please support us to make sure your child has the best possible start to the day and so our protective measures are effective by **arriving at their classroom by 8:45am or 8:50am**.

### Jeans for Genes

Staff and children are invited to wear **denim** and pay a minimum donation of 50p on **Friday 18 September** to support the Jeans for Genes charity. This charity does amazing work to support families where a child has a genetic disorder. We will be learning about genetic disorders and the work of the charity in class assemblies in the next few weeks.



### Autumn term events

Usually with our first newsletter we provide an annual calendar for parents showing all of the activities and events that we have planned for the whole year. Due to the current situation, we are reluctant to plan events so far ahead when it causes such disappointment if they have to be cancelled if guidance is changed and updated.

We are not able to invite parents into school to attend class coffee mornings, celebration assemblies or fundraising events at the moment. I would be very surprised if we will be able to invite you into school this term. We do hope we are able to do this soon, but it will only be done when the guidance has been updated and we are absolutely confident that we can do it in a way that is safe for everyone. The possibility of Christmas performances and sports days going ahead in the previous format seems very unlikely.

### School uniform

As we have said, it is lovely to see the children looking so smart in their school uniform. In order to ensure that your child returns home with their own uniform, **please ensure that all items are named**. We have already come across a number of issues, particularly with jumpers and cardigans, because they are not named.

### Dukeshouse Wood

Our Year 4 residential trip to Dukeshouse Wood at the end of the month has been postponed. However, I am delighted to say that we will be going to Dukeshouse Wood from Wednesday 21 April to Friday 23 April instead.

### PE days for the autumn term A

Children in all year groups should **come to school wearing PE kit on their PE days**. We are not changing into PE kit in school. They should wear their school jumper/cardigan and polo top as normal with plain black or dark joggers or leggings and trainers. They can wear shorts underneath if they wish.

PE days for each class are-

Tuesday and Thursday	Tuesday and Thursday	Tuesday and Wednesday	Wednesday and Thursday	Wednesday
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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.

### Breakfast Club and After School Club

We are delighted to be operating a **Breakfast Club** and an **After School Club** again this year.

Breakfast Club opens at 7:30am. Please take your child to the Club Room. Staff from Breakfast Club will take your child to their classroom at the start of the school day.

After School Club runs from 3:15pm to 5:15pm. Staff from After School Club will collect your child from their classroom at 3:15pm. Please collect your child from the Club Room.

Breakfast Club costs £3.50 per child and includes breakfast. After School Club costs £7.00 per child and includes tea. Parents who book their child in for both a morning and after school session to be taken on the same day will receive a discount of 50p, so the cost will be £10.00 in total for the day rather than £10.50.

**Bookings for Breakfast Club and After School Club must be made in advance**; children cannot turn up on the day without a booking.

We hope that this service will be well used and will support families in our village.

### **School Gateway**

As we have previously explained, we will no longer be using Parentmail to send out text messages and emails to parents and carers.

We are now using **School Gateway** for sending texts and emails, all payments (dinner money, clubs, trips and events) and for managing attendance.

School Gateway is also used by Seaton Sluice Middle School, Whytrig Middle School and Astley High School. If you have an older child in these schools, your child's details should already have been linked to School Gateway automatically.

Mrs Elliott has emailed an invite to parents to download the School Gateway app. She has done this using the email details that we have for you. **Please download the School Gateway app.**

If you do not already use School Gateway for an older child or if you have not received an email from Mrs Elliott, **please download the School Gateway app.** We will send out further information about School Gateway next week.

We are working towards our school being cashless, when 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 School Gateway app.

### **Birthdays**

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

- Layton in yellow class;
- Jayden in green class;
- Lucy, Jake, Lily and Alfie in blue class.



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

### **Information for parents and carers**

At the beginning of next week, we will be sending out a pack of information for parents and carers. This will include the following information for you to keep-

- Copy of the school calendar including training days and holidays;
- E-safety information;
- Information about Operation Encompass;
- Information about Operation Endeavour.

We will also be asking for some information from you. You will receive these forms next week.

Attached to this newsletter is a **data collection sheet** for your child. Please fill in the data collection sheet and return it to school on **Monday 07 September**. It is extremely important that we have the correct contact details for you, especially in the current circumstances where we may need to contact you urgently.

**We must have at least two contact numbers and an email address per child.**