



Seaton Primary School

Valley View, Seaton, Devon, EX12 2HF

Tel: 01297 20922

www.seaton-primary.devon.sch.uk

Head : Mr Nic George



“Caring now, and for the future of our community, those in need, our lifestyles, one another, our education and the future itself”

NEWSLETTER

12th January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had some drier weather at last! The grounds are starting to look a little drier but we are still urging children to keep off the banks in particular as they are not only slippery but can wear easily at this time of year. This includes the banks at the side of the school where parents leave / exit. I hope you find this newsletter useful and it contains some important information and new dates.

ABSENCES and HOLIDAY REQUESTS

Frequently the office and I monitor the class registers to check on pupils' attendance. We are supported in this process by our appointed Education Welfare Officer (EWO) from Devon County Council. Last year the school had an overall attendance figure of 96% compared with the average Devon school of 95% which is good news. We monitor very closely any pupil who is falling short of this mark and we look to ensure that there are good reasons for any absence. On occasions parents may or may not be aware of their child's overall attendance and we are duty bound to let you know when a concern is starting to arise. Good attendance at school is really important and it isn't easy for the children to catch up when they have had to take time off school.

Please be reminded that no school can authorise holidays in term times unless there are exceptional circumstances. (e.g. parents of forces children). Devon County Council have tightened their rules on this issue and fines are being issued for a total of 5 or more days of unauthorised absence in an academic year. I totally understand some of the circumstances on the request forms, however, rarely can a holiday be authorised. Any time off school must be requested via the absence request form available from the office.

AXE BEACON FEDERATION ONLINE SAFETY WEEK

We will be holding an online safety week across the Federation next week beginning Monday 15th January with a presentation to the whole school in assembly by Mr Lewis who is our lead on Information, Communication and Technology. There are a number of other activities planned throughout the week.

Mr Lewis will be running a parents' Information and Awareness Meeting at 9:30am in our main hall on Friday 19th January. This is a really interesting session and not only provides great advice but explores some of the risks young people face today with the ever growing use of technology in all aspects of our lives. Please come along.



SCHOOL PANTOMIME TIME – BEAUTY AND THE BEAST!

On Wednesday 17th January we have a professional theatre company “M and M productions” coming to school with their amazing pantomime ‘Beauty and the Beast’ being performed to the pupils. This event is being subsidised by the school but we would be very grateful if each pupil could make a contribution of £1 towards the performance which is great value. We are all looking forward to an enrapturing morning of hilarity, tension and enjoyment!

GLASSES FOUND

Has your child lost a pair of purple glasses? We have been looking after a pair at the office this week and so far they have not been claimed. If you think they belong to your child please contact the office.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We have a significant number of families who are entitled to free school meals. If you fit the criteria below then I would urgently ask you to see the office if you haven't already. Not only will your child receive a free school meal but the school gains a whopping £1320 towards supporting your child's education. This can also help pay towards trips etc and many families have seen the benefits of it.

To qualify for free school meals parents need to be receipt of one of the following –

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit

URGENT STAFF VACANCIES

We urgently require casual meal time assistants, kitchen assistants and cleaners who are willing to help us cover sickness and other short notice absences. Mealtime assistant hours are **12.15pm to 2.30pm**, kitchen hours will vary but are mornings and cleaning is for 2 hours after school. If you are able to help us out, please pop in to the office, phone or email to register your interest. (Hourly rate of £7.70 per hour). Casual hours often lead to permanent positions.

DATA SHEETS

Your child will soon be sent home with a data sheet. Please check it carefully and amend anything that is incorrect. We particularly need you to check phone numbers, addresses, and medical conditions. You only need to return the form if there are errors. If everything is correct please keep or dispose of the form.

RECEPTION CLASS VISION CHECKS

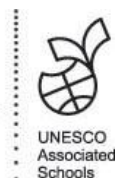
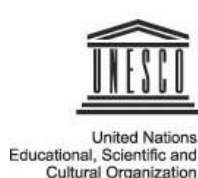
Children in Reception classes have been sent home with letters about vision checks. You only need to return the reply slip if you DO NOT want your child to have their eyes tested.

SICKNESS & DIARRHOEA

If your child suffers with sickness and diarrhoea please remember to keep them off school for 48 hours after the last incident to prevent the spread of the infection.

ABSENCES

Parents and carers are reminded to contact the school by **9.30am** if their child is going to be absent from school due to illness. Please use the Parentmail app, leave a message on the answerphone (01297 20922)



or email admin@seatonprimary.org.uk. If your child has an appointment that you know about in advance, please ensure you have informed the office. Please do not rely on children to pass on messages - instead please write a short note to the office staff or let us know by phone or in person at the counter. The school has a duty of care to know the whereabouts of children and when we have not been informed of the reason for a child's absence the office staff have had to spend a great deal of time phoning various contact numbers to find out why a child is missing from school.

AXMOUTH CHALLENGE RUN

The Axmouth Challenge Run takes place on Sunday 14th January at 10am. There are four distances including a 1 mile run for children. Race HQ is at Axmouth Village Hall and there will be soup and rolls for all runners after the race. For details and an entry form see AxeValleyRunners.org.uk

After the race you might like to head over to Beer for...

CHARITY BREAKFAST

There will be a charity breakfast taking place at Bay View Tea Rooms in Beer on Sunday 14th January from 9am to 1pm. This is to raise money for the Children's Trust. £6 for a Full English Breakfast.

JACK & THE BEANSTALK

Branscombe Players are performing Jack & The Beanstalk on 23rd and 24th February at Branscombe village hall. Tickets are £6.50 for adults and £3 for children available from Nic & Kay Smith on 01297 680593.

NUTS – ALL YEAR GROUPS May we respectfully ask parents NOT to provide their child with nuts for their mid-morning snack or lunch as some children have severe nut allergies.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

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| Friday 19 th January | 9.30am online safety meeting in the school hall. |
| Wednesday 31 st January | Eye tests for Reception pupils. |
| Friday 9 th February | Break up (normal time) for half term week. |
| Monday 19 th February | Return to school. |
| Wednesday 28 th March | Break up for Easter. (Normal time). |
| Tuesday 17 th April | Pupils return to school. |
| Friday 18 th May 2018 | School Photographer in school to take class group photos |

Best wishes,
Nic George

