



Seaton Primary School

Valley View, Seaton
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www.seatonprimary.co.uk



NEWSLETTER

October 20th 2017

Dear Parents & Carers

What a wild and windy week it has been and the trees are starting to look pretty bare around school. We have another storm coming in on Saturday. I hope you find this newsletter informative and have an enjoyable half term break.

Keeping the school tidy

One of my priorities at school is to enhance the school learning environment and I am currently developing a long term plan for this. In the short term all the staff and pupils know that I'm very keen to keep the school neat, tidy and well organised. Each day we check that no litter has been dropped and we are having a big push on cloak rooms to make sure these are well organised and nothing ends up on the floor. I have asked all the children to pick up any bags and coats found on the floor and cloakrooms are being checked each day.

Yesterday we had a major tidy up around the school grounds and a few items such as the tractor tyres have been relocated to the main playground. This has enabled us to free up some outdoor space and in the Spring term we will be purchasing a range of outdoor furniture to enable pupils to work outside in finer weather. The reception and Year 1 teachers are currently reviewing their outdoor learning areas and they will be purchasing new resources for them soon. Shortly we will be asking parents to give a hand to spruce up the areas in preparation. Miss Mabin and Miss Broom are very keen to hear from anyone who can spare some time!

How parents can help

The school has grown over the last two years and we are now pretty full in most year groups. Peg spaces are limited and I realise that there isn't a great deal of room between each one. It would really help if pupils all parents consider the size of bag children bring to school. Often we see large backs with very few items in them taking up a lot of room. It would be really useful if children in reception, year 1 and 2 bring a normal pull tie PE bag to school and just a book bag. Please remember to label all school items. We don't have the space to keep lots of lost property and the boxes fill up ever so quickly and have to be emptied once a fortnight. Unnamed items are then offered for sale or end up at the clothes bank.

Age appropriate films and games

Halloween is fast approaching and many children look forward to the dressing up and games associated with this time of year. Please remember that films and games have 'age ratings' for a good reason. From time to time we get news that a child has seen a film or a game that is clearly classified unsuitable for their age. This can have negative effects on children with them being tired because they are scared to sleep or a friend has told them about something they have viewed which has upset them. We want all our pupils in school to feel safe and happy and to avoid things that create an atmosphere of scariness which is perpetuated through rumour or even boasting.

Commonsensemedia.org has reviews and advice on a wide range of films, tv, youtube and games. Please take an active interest in your child's viewing and playing habits and talk to them about it. Please use good sense and judgement at this time of year regarding what your child views and keep them happy and creative if you join in with the festivities.

Parent Evenings & Parent Forum

On Tuesday 7th November and Wednesday 8th November during the forthcoming parent evenings at school I will be holding a Parent Forum in the main hall. Please call in and contribute. I am really interested in finding out about your views and ideas regarding the school and your child's education. Tea and coffee will be provided. Parent evenings are being held on either Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday of the week commencing 6th November and teachers will be sending out letters for appointments.

OPEN DAY – WEDNESDAY 29TH NOVEMBER – 9.30am to 11am and 2pm to 3pm

We will be holding an open day on Wednesday 29th November for prospective parents to come and see our school. Please come along and see what we do at Seaton Primary, meet the teachers and get to know us. Please encourage anyone you know with a child that is due to start school soon to come along.

POPPIES

Poppies and other poppy appeal items will be for sale in school **after half-term**. The children in Year 6 will be selling a variety of items including wristbands (50p) reflectors (50p), friendship bracelets (£1) and snap bands (£1).

NON-UNIFORM DAY – FRIDAY 10TH NOVEMBER

Children are invited to wear non-uniform on Friday 10th November in return for a chocolate item which will be used on the PTA chocolate tombola at the Christmas Bazaar. Please bring your chocolate items to school on Friday 10th. Thank you.

CHILDREN IN NEED – FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER

Children in Need takes place on Friday 17th November. Children and staff are invited to wear their pyjamas for a suggested donation of 50p.

STAFF VACANCIES

We currently have several staff vacancies for Teaching Assistants and a Cleaner. Please see the school website for application forms and further details.

CASUAL, RELIEF MEALTIME ASSISTANTS

We are looking for temporary, relief meal time assistants to be able to work on an ad-hoc basis to cover absences and sickness sometimes at very short notice. If you are available please let the office know.

HEIGHT AND WEIGHT CHECKS FOR RECEPTION AND YEAR 6

Children in Year 6 and Reception have been sent home with a letter regarding height and weight checks. If you did not receive it please contact the office.

YEAR 6 SENIOR SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Parents and carers of pupils in Year 6 are reminded to apply for senior school places by **the 31st October deadline**.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR – FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 5.30PM TO 7.30PM

Please put the date in your diaries for our much anticipated annual Christmas Bazaar which will take place in school. This is a family-fun event organised by the PTFA to get you into the festive spirit with a mix of stalls, games, raffle prizes, Santa's Grotto, mulled wine and hot food. All money raised on the evening will go towards the PTFA fundraising target.

LYME SLIME HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL

The brand new 'Lyme Slime Halloween Festival' descends on Lyme Regis during the October half term holidays and is billed to be an autumn event like no other. The spooky-extravaganza offers a whole week of frightfully fun family activities in venues all around the town, including the Bloor Homes Spine-tingling Whodunnit Town Trail, beastly baking, creepy crafts, pumpkin pizzas, spooky children's workshops and of course culminating in the fiendishly LYME SLIME 1K & 2K FAMILY FUN RUN, with obstacles such as the 'Sticky Spider Web Crawl' the 'Radioactive Liquid Station and the 'Trick or Treat Table. View the extraordinary programme of events at www.wackynation.com/lymeslime

DISNEY HEROES PARTY AT THE SCOUT HUT

Seaton Baptist Church are holding a party on 31st October from 6.30pm to 7.30pm at the scout hut. Children aged 5 to 11 are invited to attend and parents can attend if you wish. 50p entry. No need to book – just turn up. All welcome.

THELMA HULBERT GALLERY

THG invites you to a Halloween Party on Saturday 28 October, 5-9pm (art activities till 8pm).

The fun-packed evening will include art activities and kids can also get up close to lizards, snakes and spiders! Delicious local food, bar, DJ, hot chocolate for little trick-or-treaters, face painting and glitter tattoos. This event coordinates with the gallery's exhibition *Frances Hatch : Red Earth Under My Nails* and celebrates the National Museums At Night festival.

Free admission, donations welcome. Pay bar and food.

HOLIDAY REQUESTS

We cannot authorise holidays in term times unless these are exceptional circumstances. (e.g parents of forces children).

Devon County Council are now tightening their rules on this issue and fines are again being issued for 5 or more days absence. 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.

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.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

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

If you qualify then please, please see the office. They will help you with the application process. Not only will your child will benefit from a dinner each day but the school receives **£1320** towards supporting your child's education!

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

Monday 30 th October	Children return to school.
Friday 3 rd November	Year 4 trip to the British Museum in London
Monday 6 th November	Last week for clubs led by teachers and Seaton Primary staff. Parents Evenings on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.
Tuesday 14 th November	School Photographer in school to take individual photos. Friday 17 th November Children in Need Day. Further details to follow.
Friday 24 th November	PTFA Christmas Bazaar. 5.30pm to 7.30pm.
Wednesday 29 th November	Open day for prospective parents. – 9.30am to 11am and 2pm to 3pm.
Tuesday 5 th December	KS2 Carol Concert at the Methodist Church (ticket arrangements will be announced nearer the time).
Wednesday 6 th December	KS2 Carol Concert at the Methodist Church (ticket arrangements will be announced nearer the time)
Monday 11 th December	2pm & 6pm Foundation and KS1 Nativity Play (ticket arrangements will be announced nearer the time)
Tuesday 12 th December	9.30am & 6pm Foundation and KS1 Nativity Play (ticket arrangements will be announced nearer the time)
Friday 15 th December	Break up for Christmas holidays.
Wednesday 3 rd January	Children return to school.
Friday 18 th May 2018	School Photographer in school to take class group photos

Best wishes,
Nic George
Head