



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

5th January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of the Spring term. I hope you all had an enjoyable break and the pupils were certainly very excited to see each other on the first day back! I did manage the Christmas day swim in Exmouth though the water was more than a little chilly to say the least! This particular term is not quite as long as the previous one but it is still pretty busy with lots of events and trips in the planning. The weather has been pretty dreadful of late so coats are a must for every pupil, every day please.

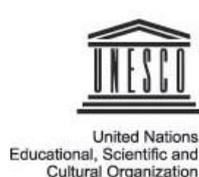
A number of diary dates are being currently set so watch out for those in newsletters and correspondents from teachers.

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



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

Last term we ran a busy schedule of school improvement initiatives linked to our plan that was shared with you earlier in the year. The staff here at Seaton and across the Axe Beacon Federation met on a number of occasions last term to focus on children's writing in order to discuss progress and various approaches to best practice to help support the children writing. This included the use of short films from 'The Literacy Shed' to inspire narratives, the program 'Nessy' to support spelling and the big hit with the pupils is 'Accelerated Reader' which supports reading comprehension.

Behind the scenes the teachers are getting to grips with new assessment approaches which will be helping them to pinpoint where the children are with their learning and what they need to get better at.

Recently we introduced a new presentation policy. This is starting to have a good effect and the children (particularly those in key stage 2) are having a more consistent approach to setting out their work. Here are the guidelines –

- The date should be written on the top line and on the right hand side (not in the margin).
- Under the date should be the title or learning objective. This should be underlined with a ruler.
- The next line should be missed before starting.
- All underlining should be completed with a ruler
- A pencil should be for diagrams and drawings
- Children should write from the margin to the edge of the page.
- Mistakes should be crossed out using a single, neat horizontal line.
- An eraser can be used at the teacher's discretion but written work or calculations should be left crossed out neatly so the teacher/ child can refer back to the work.
- Felt pens should never be used in exercise books, only coloured pencils.
- Graffiti on the front of books is not acceptable.
- Work completed on paper can be kept in a folder or stuck into the book. Care should be taken to trim the edges off the paper to ensure that the paper does not overlap the book pages.
- Pupils write in a single colour pen, either blue or black. This colour should be maintained for the year.
- Teachers mark in a contrasting pink pen.

The reception and year 1 teachers are now starting to think about the resources they need to enhance both the Reception and Year 1 outside learning areas. This will include some new fencing and a wider gate for accessing the side of the school.

You may have noticed that the school ethos and values is now being more prominently displayed on newsletters and around the school environment. Assemblies are a great time to talk about and learn about our ethos too and this term we will be focusing on a variety of themes each week –

New Year's resolutions – a fresh start

Love your neighbour – respecting others

Safer internet week



Empathy

Resolutions

Resilience

Fair trade

Celebrating the love of books and reading

Making choices

Supporting one another

Red Nose Day – Celebrating the work of charities

Easter

AXE BEACON FEDERATION ONLINE SAFETY WEEK

We will be holding an online safety week across the federation on the week beginning Monday 15th January. More details will follow in the new year, including an invitation to a parents' session to further inform you about the apps and practices that young people are engaged with online. We will be holding an online safety meeting on Friday 19th January at 9.30am in our school hall. More details to follow.

RED TEAM – NON UNIFORM

Congratulations to the children in Red house for gaining the most house points. They can wear non-uniform next Friday as a reward.

PARKING ON LYDGATES ROAD

A resident in Lydgates Road has contacted the school with concerns about parking. Some parents have been parking their cars opposite resident's driveways which makes it almost impossible for the people that live there to get in and out of their drive. Although there are no restrictions for parking on Lydgates Road, please be respectful and consider our neighbours.

EXETER CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRA OPEN DAY

The Exeter Children's Orchestra (ECO) are having an Open Day on Saturday 20th January.

They can come along and join in from 10am - 12pm. We run a policy of "no scary auditions" and the music will be selected to enable everyone to join in and see if they like playing with a friendly children's orchestra.

For those newer to music, we also have a separate Junior Orchestra from 11am - 12pm, so it would be great to also see those not as confident come along and join in too! For those who are more experienced and higher up their grades - we have a Youth Orchestra.

Obviously everyone will need to bring their instruments with them, and a music stand is always helpful!

We cater for Recorders, Flutes, Clarinets, Oboes, Saxophones (all kinds), Bassoons, Trumpets and Cornets, Tenor Horns, Baritone Horns, French Horns, Trombones, (Bass or Treble Clef), Tubas, Violins, Violas, Cellos, String Bases (including bass guitars) and Percussionists. We'd even be happy to see harpists!

We will be serving refreshments, and we also run a tuck shop!

We also have a Facebook page and if anyone wanted to see what we do, there is a selection on there from recent concerts.

<https://www.facebook.com/exeterchildrensorchestra/>

Contact: exeterchildrensorchestra@gmail.com

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 will be bringing home letters about vision checks. You only need to return the reply slip if you DO NOT want your child to have their eyes tested.

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.

JM DANCEFIT ZUMBAKIDS CLASSES

Book NOW for January

KIDS HAVE FUN & IMPROVE FITNESS & CONFIDENCE LEVELS

New children are welcome to join these termly classes after Christmas, which are open to all children whether they attend the school or not.

***Every Monday* RECOMMENCING January 8th 2018**

3.30pm - 4.15pm Seaton Little Starz* (4-7 year olds) - MAIN HALL

4.15pm - 5.15pm Seaton Junior Starz* (7-12 year olds) - MAIN HALL

Spring Term Class Dates: January 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, February 5th, 19th, 26th, March 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th.

Total Spring Term Class Fee: £44 (£4 per class x 11 classes) Cash payments to be provided in a named, sealed envelope no later than the child's first class.

If you would like to book your child a place, please contact Johanna directly on 07739518587 or at johanna@jmdancefit.co.uk For further details on all JM DanceFit Adult and Children's Zumba and FitSteps classes held in Seaton, Sidford, Sidmouth Beer, Newton Poppleford, and Exeter please visit www.jmdancefit.co.uk

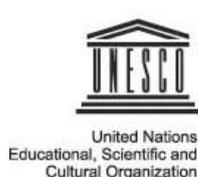
ABSENCES

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.

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If you qualify then please, please see the office. They will help you with the application process. Not only will your child 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

Tuesday 9 th January	Year 6 trip to Coldharbour Mill.
Friday 19 th January	9.30am online safety meeting in the school hall. More details to follow.
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

