

# Seghill First School Newsletter January 2021 edition 1

## Well what a week!

Firstly, we would like to wish you all a happy new year and hope you had a lovely Christmas. It all seems so long ago now! We hope you were able to spend some time, either in person or virtually, with family, friends and loved ones.

Staff came in on Monday for our training day and the heating went off during the morning. Despite the very best efforts of Mr Ruler, he could not get the heating to come back on. Following an engineer visit, a new part was ordered and fitted on Tuesday. However, we still had no heating. A leak in the pipes under the floor is thought to be the problem.

An application has been made for work to start immediately, as asbestos will need to be removed as part of the process. It is expected that the corridor will be dug up and the asbestos removed on Saturday in line with HSE regulations then the pipework replaced or fixed on Sunday. It may be the case that the heating will be back in full working order on Monday, but if there are any issues over the weekend with the work, this will not be the case. We are therefore saying that **school will remain closed on Monday 11 January** and we will aim to **reopen to the children of critical workers on Tuesday 12 January** as long as all work is completed successfully and the heating is working properly.

Again, we realise that this is disappointing news but this situation is beyond our control. We would rather reassess the situation on Monday and open on Tuesday than say we are open on Monday and have to contact parents to change plans on Sunday if there are any issues over the weekend.

## Children of critical workers

Parents and carers who are critical workers and who have applied for a place in school for their child will be contacted separately with details of the arrangements for return to school.

Places have been allocated in response to requests and the deadline we put in place. Please note that we have no places available in the groups that we have set up.

The longevity of our offer in school is highly dependent on staff well-being and safety – we simply can't run the school without staff staying fit and well. We are therefore prioritising staff safety and strictly limiting class numbers.

If you are a critical worker and require provision please contact us and your name will be added to a waiting list. We will review available provision each Friday and prioritise places to those we consider most in need. We will always consider the nature of the role and whether there is anyone at home, where only one parent is a critical worker. No decision like this is ever going to be easy; your patience and understanding would be much appreciated.

## Birthdays

Our birthday boys and girls in December and the first week in January are-

- Tiger, Bailey and Emily age 5 in Yellow class;
- Jaylen age 6 in Red class;
- Freddy age 8 and Isabelle age 7 in Green class;
- Daniel and Bailey age 9 and Matt age 8 in Blue class;

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



## Remote learning

Remote learning is being provided via Tapestry for children in Orange and Yellow class and via Google Classroom for children in Red, Green and Blue class. Thank you to the teachers who have done a remarkable job in adapting their plans from whole class face to face teaching to remote learning so quickly.

Remote learning will continue to be provided for those children who are not returning to school when we re-open via the same platforms. As schools will be closed until at least February half term for many pupils, it is really important that children engage with the remote learning provided by their teachers.

Thank you to everyone who has already logged on and started to complete the tasks they have been given. Class teachers can be contacted directly with queries regarding remote learning using their email addresses-

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Christmas fundraising

I am delighted to announce that due to our amazing fundraising team and your generosity, we have managed to raise a **truly fabulous £900**.

This is from the sale of **raffle tickets** and **film night** tickets, our **outdoor tombola**, sale of **Christmas treats** and **letters from Santa**. This is an amazing amount of money and we are very grateful for your generosity in buying tickets and treats but also the **donations** for the raffle and tombola.

I must give a **very big thank you to the fundraising team- Mrs Best, Mrs Hedley, Mrs Mullen and Mrs Jose**, who all did an amazing job making up the treats, sorting raffle and tombola prizes and catering for the film night. We could not do any of these Christmas activities without them.

I would also like to **thank my Year 4 PAs- Emily, Emily, Lucy, Abbie and Evie**. They have also done a great job putting together the orders for the treats and delivering them. They sorted raffle tickets into books of 5 for the tombola and help me all year round with jobs. Well done girls for being so helpful and efficient.

## Devices from the DfE

You may have read in the media that the DfE is providing **laptops and tablets** to schools to help children and families in need to access remote education during coronavirus (COVID-19). Devices have been made available for disadvantaged children in certain year groups who:

- are affected by disruption to face-to-face education at their school
- have been advised to shield because they are clinically extremely vulnerable.

We have been informed that our school is eligible for **10 devices**. Each school's allocation is based on the number of children in the school, free school meals data and an estimate of the number of devices a school already has.

We have already received requests from parents for a laptop for their child. We have kept a note of these requests. However, you can appreciate that allocating 10 laptops when we have 43 children eligible for free school meals is going to be challenging to say the least. We will be in touch when the laptops have arrived in school and when we have decided who to allocate each device to.