

# Seghill First School Newsletter November 2016 edition 1

## Advance warning about possible school closure

As you know, work to install the boilers is continuing. The workmen are filling the system with water today and we hope to have heating on this afternoon. Throughout this week, temperatures in classrooms have been significantly below those deemed acceptable by regulation 7 of the health and safety at work act 1974. We have closed the Nursery and moved the Reception class in to the Club Room as the Early Years Unit was the coldest part of the school. Unfortunately, the heat generated by the portable heaters that we have brought in is disappearing through the single glazed windows and wooden structure of the school. I am very grateful for the continued resilience of the children, staff and parents in these very challenging conditions. I have also been asked to reiterate this message on behalf of David Street and the governors.

Despite continued efforts, I am fully aware that this situation cannot go on indefinitely. I will assess the situation on Monday 07 November first thing. These are the two options-

- if the heating is working and the temperature is **at or above the recommended minimum**, school will be **open to all year groups**;
- if the heating is not working and the temperature is **below the recommended minimum**, **school will be closed to all year groups** on Monday and until the heating is working so the temperature is at or above the recommended minimum .

I will post a message on the **school website** as early as possible on Monday, and certainly before 7:15am, to inform you of my decision. Parents are asked to check the school website to find out if school is open or not. Please do not telephone school to find out- the school office does not open until 8:30am.

I am aware that this is not an ideal situation, particularly for working parents. However, it is unacceptable for children and staff to be working in such cold conditions.

## Recent events

Our recent **Halloween disco** was very successful and enjoyed by all the children. Thank you to parents and staff who were able to help.

Children in Year 4 enjoyed their first **bike ride** with Richard Rothwell and Mrs Bell on Wednesday. The next bike ride will take place on **Wednesday 23 November**.

## Illegal and inconsiderate parking on Barrass Avenue and Cheviot View

I have received a number of complaints about parents parking their cars across residents' driveways and on the zig zags on **Barrass Avenue** and **Cheviot View** while dropping off children at school. Parking around the school site is not easy, however, parking over residents' driveways is not acceptable even if it is only for 5 minutes and parking on the zig zags may lead to drivers endangering the safety of our children and/or receiving a parking ticket.

## Future events

If school is open on Monday, there is a fundraising group meeting at 5:00pm in the Club Room. Please use the Club Room entrance as the rest of the school will be locked.

Again, if school is open on Monday, **football club** starts with Mr Clark for Years 3 and 4. Homework club (invitation only) also starts on Monday. **Gymnastics club** with Miss Day for Years 3 and 4 starts on Tuesday. Your child will have a letter about these clubs today if you returned a reply slip to request a place.

**Phonics workshops** for parents in EYFS will take place on **Monday 07 November** at 8:45am and on **Tuesday 08 November** at 3:15pm.

We will be observing a silence of two minutes on **Friday 11 November** as a mark of respect on **Armistice Day**.

There is a meeting for parents and children in the current **Year 3 class** on **Thursday 17 November** at 5:00pm about next year's visit to Dukeshouse Wood in September 2017.

**E-safety workshops** for parents and carers have been organised for **Monday 21 November** at 5:00pm and **Tuesday 22 November** at 8:45am. Mr Clark will be giving a presentation to parents and carers about keeping children safe online. A questionnaire about keeping children safe online will be sent home soon. Mr Clark will plan his presentation around the issues raised in the questionnaires. We hope you can join us for these meetings.

**Children In Need** day is on **Friday 18 November**. More details to follow soon.

Children in the **choir** in Years 3 and 4 will be singing at the **Christmas sale** at the Institute on **Saturday 19 November** and at the **senior citizens Christmas party** on **Saturday 10 December**.

## Staffing update

We welcomed **Mrs Watson** back to work from maternity leave this week. Mrs Watson and Mrs O'Donnell will both teach Year 1; Mrs O'Donnell at the beginning of the week and Mrs Watson at the end of the week.

**Mrs Lyons** will be leaving on Friday 18 November after covering Mrs Watson's year-long maternity leave.

## Christmas news

Our next newsletter will give you all of the information about our exciting programme of events in the run up to Christmas.

**Orders for Christmas cards** must be paid for and returned to school by Monday 07 November please.



