

Whole school attendance 93.2%. Attendance target 96.3%

Feedback from our Ofsted inspection

Seghill First School is a good school

Hopefully by now you have had the chance to read and digest our recently published Ofsted inspection report where our school was graded as good overall and good in each area.

Overall effectiveness	Good
Effectiveness of leadership and management	Good
Quality of teaching, learning and assessment	Good
Personal development, behaviour and welfare	Good
Outcomes for pupils	Good
Early years provision	Good

We are so proud of the achievements that have been identified in the report which demonstrate the hard work, determination and commitment of everyone involved in our school on our mission of “getting to good”.

The report fairly reflects the school’s current position and the improvements that have been made, especially since the previous inspection in 2016, and identifies areas for improvement which will guide us as we move forward to the next stage for our school.

As I said in the covering letter sent out with the report, the children were a credit to our school throughout the inspection, and the inspector was full of praise for their good manners, enthusiasm and interest.

It is important to reflect that all of the good things that have been identified in the report happen every day in our school. Thank you to our wonderful, hard-working and dedicated staff and governors, to our parents for the support we receive from you and to our fabulous children who are a credit to our school and our community.

Whole school creative week Monday 05 to Friday 09 February

We have enjoyed another excellent **creative week** in school this week when the children have been learning about the **traditions and customs linked to Chinese New Year**. Our week will be topped off today with a **Chinese themed school lunch** and **celebration assembly**.

Staff have worked hard to plan a wide range of activities. I have seen some fabulous **dragon dances** from our children in Early Years and children in key stages 1 and 2 have produced wonderful **lanterns, fire crackers and puppets**. The carousel of activities on Wednesday morning for children in key stages 1 and 2 was particularly successful when they worked in three mixed age groups and moved between the three classrooms to complete a number of activities. As always it was lovely to see how our older and younger children can all work together and help each other.

Parents have reported that children have come home “bursting” to share their learning and re-tell the story of **Nian**, a beast who lived under the sea or in the mountains.

Photographs will be uploaded on to our newly updated website, so please keep a look out for them.

Safety around the school site

Parents are reminded that children are not allowed to use the **trim trail** on the field before or after school.

We have also noted that a number of Early Years children and some older children are leaving our site at both 11:45am and 3:15pm **without close adult supervision**. The pedestrian gate on to Barrass Avenue is open and we are aware of a number of incidents when young children have run ahead of their parents and run straight out of the gate and on to the road. The consequences of this are unthinkable.

On a slightly less dangerous but still serious note, children have been seen running around the staff cars in the car park, chasing around in the garden area which separates the drive from the field and climbing along on the wall and railings on Barrass Avenue.

Children are not always able to see the potential danger in some situations therefore we need **parents to supervise their children closely** to keep them safe in and around our school site.

Eden's donation to The Little Princess Trust

Eden McCoy in red class is having 7 inches cut off her hair this weekend in aid of **The Little Princess Trust**. The Little Princess Trust provides real hair wigs free of charge to children and young adults up to the age of 24, who have sadly lost their own hair due to cancer treatment and other illnesses. You can find out more about the amazing work that this charity does by visiting [The Little Princess Trust](#) via this link.

Eden has raised £370 so far in sponsorship. If you would like to sponsor Eden, please see Eden's mam, Mrs Clare McCoy. We will update you on Eden's new look after half term. Here are her before pictures-



School meals

The work to replace the canopy in the kitchen has been completed on schedule and we will be back to normal after the half term holiday. **Mrs Rogage** has done a sterling job making the meals at Whitley Bay High School and transporting them here for the last three weeks.

When we come back to school on Monday 19 February we will return to the normal three week menu pattern, starting with **week 1**. The menus can be found in the "**information for parents**" tab on the school website.

Events during spring term B- advance notice

World Book Day book sale and coffee morning on Thursday 01 March

We will be hosting a world Book day book sale and coffee morning on **Thursday 01 March**. We hope you will join us in the hall for a cake and cuppa for £1 from 8:45am. All children will be brought to the book sale by their teachers, when you can buy them a book. There will also be a raffle. Donations of books and cakes will be very gratefully received.

Mother's day lunch on Friday 09 March

Parents who have bought tickets by today's deadline are invited to join us for our annual Mother's day lunch on Friday 09 March. Tickets will be issued after half term. Please note that tickets were on sale for 2 school weeks and we are not able to accept any more orders as Mrs Rogage has ordered the food.

School Relief fundraising days on Thursday 22 and Friday 23 March

We have organised two School Relief fundraising days on Thursday 22 and Friday 23 March to coincide with Sport Relief. The purpose of the day is to raise money to buy I pads for the children to use in school. We did this two years ago in March 2016 when we raised £2900 and bought a set of I pads.

Please join us on **Thursday 22 March** for our School Relief **coffee morning** from 8:45am in the school hall. There will also be a **chocolate sweetie tombola**. Each class will be brought in to the hall during the coffee morning. Donations of cakes, buns or biscuits would be very welcome.

Children are asked to come to school in **sporty non- uniform** on **Friday 23 March**. Each class will be completing their sporty sponsored event during the day. All money raised will be used to buy I pads for the children to use in school which will add to the set of I pads that we bought in 2016 following the School Relief fundraising events.

Please come in **non-uniform** on **Friday 16 March** and bring in a **donation for the chocolate sweetie tombola** which will be part of the coffee morning on Thursday 22 March.

Easter disco for children in key stages 1 and 2 on Wednesday 28 March

Children in key stages 1 and 2 are invited to our Easter disco on **Wednesday 28 March** from **3:15pm to 5:00pm**. The ticket price is £2.00 per child, which includes a hot dog and a drink. Children should come to school wearing their school uniform and bring their disco clothes to change into at 3:15pm.

The disco is for **Year 1 children in yellow class** and children in **green, red and blue** classes. Tickets are on sale from Monday 12 to Friday 23 March and will not be available after this date. Please send £2.00 in a named envelope by Friday 23 March to buy a disco ticket.

Easter celebration assembly on Thursday 29 March

Please join us from 8:45am for our **celebration assembly** and judging of the **Easter egg decorating competition**. We will be selling **hot drinks** and providing **bacon butties** for advance orders (bacon butty and brew for £2.00).

More details about all of these events will be included in our next newsletter.

February 2018	
Monday 19	Spring term B begins
Thursday 22	Governor visit with a focus on safeguarding
Monday 26	Governor visit with a focus on curriculum development and the impact of middle leaders
Wednesday 28	Full governing body meeting at 6:00pm
March 2018	
Thursday 01	World Book Day book sale and coffee morning from 8:45am
Friday 02	Red class assembly 8:45am
Tuesday 06	Governor visit with a focus on health and safety
Thursday 08	Spring term monitoring visit by Mrs Ford, School Improvement Partner (re-arranged)
Friday 09	Mother's day lunch from 11:45am
Friday 16	Non uniform for School Relief chocolate sweetie tombola
Monday 19	Resource management committee meeting at 5:00pm
Tuesday 20	Keep on riding session 3 for blue class with Mrs Bell and Richard Rothwell
Wednesday 21	Environment for learning committee meeting from 4:00pm
Thursday 22	School Relief coffee morning with chocolate sweetie tombola at 8:45am
Friday 23	School Relief sponsored event- sporty non uniform
Monday 26	Spring term meetings for parents with class teachers from 3:30pm
Tuesday 27	Spring term meetings for parents with class teachers from 3:30pm
Wednesday 28	Children plan and make decorated boiled eggs in school
	Easter disco from 3:15pm
Thursday 29	Deadline for payment 2 from red class for Dukeshouse Wood
	Celebration assembly including egg decorating competition judging at 8:45am
	End of spring term B- school closes at 3:15pm
Friday 30 March to Friday 13 April school closed for Easter	
April 2018	
Monday 16	Staff training day school closed to pupils
Tuesday 17	Summer term begins

Whole school attendance and punctuality

Thank you to all of you who are working hard to get your children to school, on time every day. We really appreciate your support. However, whole school attendance is 93.2%, which is **significantly below national average** of 96.2% and our target of 96.3%.

We understand that some children have been absent from school for very valid reasons. Some children have been really very poorly and this has been the case more than once for some children since September.

When we return after the half term break some families will be issued with a letter regarding their child's attendance. This will be the case if your child's attendance is below 90%, meaning they are classed as a persistent absentee by the DfE. If you receive a letter and your child has been absent due to illness, please do not be alarmed. Your child's attendance will be **monitored** and improved attendance will mean they will get back on track. **We will not authorise any absences without medical evidence when attendance is below 90%.**

Parents are reminded that it is their **duty to inform school** if their child is absent on the first day of absence by 9:15am. Some children have a number of unauthorised absences because parents are not informing us why their child is absent from school.

I am also extremely disappointed to report that we have a total of **284 late** marks since September 2017, and 14 marks where children have arrived at school after 9:15am. This is totally unacceptable. Please make sure your child is at school on time.

I hope to report soon that we are hitting our attendance target of 96.3%.