

Seghill First School Newsletter April 2020 edition 1

Monday 06 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am sure that you will agree that the last couple of weeks have been some of the most challenging and unusual of our lives so far. I just wanted to say how much we have appreciated your support and understanding during these difficult times.

Our school is currently closed due to lack of demand. We opened on Monday 23 March and expected 15 children. Due to a number of reasons, only one child attended. We agreed to close the school for 2 weeks on the basis that it was neither sustainable nor safe for staff to come in to school to look after one child.

In order to continue to provide care, we agreed that parents who required child care would be directed to Seaton Delaval First School. I spoke to the headteacher, Mr Flitcroft, every day; none of our pupils went there during the last two weeks.

We reviewed the situation at the end of last week to see if we need to re-open in order to provide care for families who are in any of the three categories defined by the government and listed below-

- Category 1 any pupil with an EHCP;
- Category 2 any pupil with an allocated social worker;
- Category 3 any pupil who is the child of a key worker.

Two children are attending Seaton Delaval First School now following this review. We will carry out another review on Friday 17 April to see if the need for places has increased.

I would like to place on record a huge thank you to our staff team. Even though we have been closed, staff have been coming in to distribute packed lunches, telephone parents to check that everyone is okay and to offer help. Many others have been busy at home. Emails still need to be answered and bills still need to be paid, so this has all still been going on behind the scenes.

We loved seeing families when they collected their packed lunches and pictures that you have emailed to school and uploaded on to Tapestry. Please keep these coming via the school admin email address. We will start to upload them on to our website to share with you. That sense of connection and community is so important at the moment.

Some of you are probably wondering when school may reopen, the honest answer to this question is we really don't know. We won't speculate and will continue to follow Government advice. If we receive any further updates, we will always post them on our website or send them to you via Parentmail, so please follow them closely.

And finally, a huge thank you for your warm words and positivity over the past few weeks. As a team we all really appreciate it and will continue working as hard as we can for you and your families during this difficult time.

I'll write again after the Easter break. Until then, take care and stay safe.

With love and best wishes,

Tracey Chappell

Headteacher

EASTER DECORATING COMPETITION

Obviously there have been many changes to the way we do things in the last few weeks, both in school and at home. I'm delighted to announce that there is one thing that we have decided not to change! We're still going to be running the Easter decorating competition, to see who can come up with the most imaginative way to recreate a scene, a character, a movie, a sports-person - the options are limitless. The only change is that you don't need to use an egg.

There will need to be a few changes to the rules:

1. Competition will run from tomorrow Tuesday 07 April and will close on Monday 13 April (Easter Monday).
2. Please send a photo to admin@seghill.northumberland.sch.uk Don't bring them to school!
3. Entries will be judged on Tuesday 14 April.
4. There will still be prizes for the best entries. These will be awarded separately to children in EYFS, KS1 and KS2 - and will be delivered to your home.

Please be aware that we are not expecting you to make a special trip to buy eggs, nor are we expecting you to waste eggs at this uncertain time. It's very much going to be a case of improvising and using your imagination! Empty cardboard boxes, toilet roll tubes and junk modelling materials make great alternatives to eggs. So it's over to you to show us how imaginative you can be. We are looking forward to seeing your work.

Children who are entitled to Free School Meals

We have been providing **packed lunches** to children who are entitled to **Free School Meals** over these last two weeks. The Government now have a **supermarket voucher scheme** in place in partnership with Edenred. We contacted all parents of children entitled to an income related Free School Meals and collated email addresses. These were uploaded on to the Edenred system. I am aware that some parents have not received their voucher yet. I know this is very frustrating. I have emailed Edenred and have phoned them repeatedly to try to get an update but it is proving impossible to get through (23 calls and counting so far today). I will continue to try to get through to them and will provide an update for you as soon as I have one.

Please note that the supermarket voucher offer is only available for children on income related Free School Meals.

Contact details

Please use the **school admin email address** to get in contact with us. This is checked daily. We will use the **school website** and the text message and email service on **Parentmail** to get in contact with you. We can only do this if you have registered with Parentmail and we have the right contact details for you. If you are not receiving messages, please email school to confirm your email address and telephone numbers and we will update our system.

Safeguarding

The school arrangements for safeguarding and child protection continue in line with our child protection policy. If you need to **report or discuss concerns about a child**, or details are-

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is:

Tracey Chappell

email: safeguarding.seghill@gmail.com

tel: 07785 180484 or 0191 2370419

The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is:

Pamela Knowles

email: safeguarding.seghill@gmail.com

tel: 07785 180484 or 0191 2370419

In the **event of an emergency** the following colleague from a neighbouring school can also be contacted to provide advice-

The Designated Safeguarding Lead at Holywell Village First School is: Sarah Brett

email: safeguarding.holywell@school360.co.uk tel: 07385 793694