

Seghill First School Newsletter January 2019 edition 1

Whole school attendance 94.9%. Attendance target 96.3%

Welcome back

We would like to wish you all a happy new year and welcome you back to another busy term. Details of all the opportunities we have organised for this term are included in this newsletter.

Spring term class coffee mornings

Teachers have planned **class coffee mornings** for the second and third week back after the Christmas break. Dates and times are

Monday 14 January at 8:45am yellow class;	Tuesday 15 January at 8:45am blue class;
Wednesday 16 January at 8:45am red class;	Friday 18 January at 8:45am green class;
Friday 25 January at 11:00am orange class.	

Please add these dates to your January diary.

Class teachers will be handing out special children's treats to each parent who attends their child's coffee morning.

After school clubs for the spring term

Mr Dowson will be providing 5 weeks of after school gymnastics to blue class children on Tuesdays after school, starting on Tuesday 15 January. Charlie from Newcastle United Foundation will be providing after school family football club on Wednesdays after school also for blue class children and their parents starting on Wednesday 09 January. Separate letters have been sent home about these clubs.

We rotate the clubs that we offer and who we offer them to each term. Information about spring term B clubs will be sent out at the beginning of February.

School meals reminder

School meals now cost £2.30 per meal, which is £11.50 per week for 5 meals. Please place dinner money in a named envelope stating your child's name, class and the amount enclosed.

PE days for the spring term

Children should wear a plain white t-shirt, plain black or navy shorts and sandshoes or trainers for PE. Many people find it convenient to bring their kit on a Monday and leave it at school all week. Please ensure long hair is tied back for PE. Children cannot wear earrings for PE. If your child cannot remove their own earrings they should not wear them on PE days. Staff are unable to remove earrings for children. PE days are-

- Orange class Tuesday (please come to school wearing joggers and trainers)
- Yellow class Tuesday and Thursday;
- Red class Tuesday and Friday;
- Green class Monday and Thursday;
- Blue class Tuesday and Wednesday.

Spring term governing body meetings

Our governors continue to provide a challenging and supportive role in school. Meetings for this half term are-

- Monday 04 February at 4:00pm **Environment for Learning** committee;
- Monday 04 February at 5:15pm **Resource Management** committee.

Dates for the committee meetings for spring term B will be agreed at the spring term A meetings. The **spring term full governing body meeting** is on Wednesday 27 March at 5:00pm.

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.

Attendance

Attendance vouchers were given out in the autumn term celebration assembly on Friday 21 December when names were drawn from the hat. Winners were **Dylan** in red class and **Emily** in green class.

Class of the term for the autumn term was **green class** with 96.4%. They wore non-uniform on the last day of term as their reward. **Red class** were **class of the half term** with 96.7%. Their reward is an afternoon of Golden Time with Mrs Knowles.

39 children were awarded with **gold attendance certificates** in the autumn term for having **98%+ attendance**. **54 children** from Reception to Year 4 had attendance **above national average** in the autumn term.

Attendance for each class is as follows-

Yellow class	92.1%	Red class	96.2%
Green class	96.4%	Blue class	94.6%

Whole school attendance is 94.9%, which is **significantly below national average** of 96.2% and our target of 96.3% and is the lowest of all schools in the Seaton Valley Learning Partnership. 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 a small number of children since September.

16 children are persistent absentees as their attendance is less than 90%.

Attendance monitoring

Following my analysis of attendance during the autumn term, I have written to the parents of **all children with attendance less than 90%**. 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 lead to them getting back on track towards their target of 96.3%. **We will not authorise any absences without medical evidence when attendance is below 90%**.

Parents have a **duty to inform school** if their child is absent on the first day of absence by 9:15am. Some children have unauthorised absences because parents have not provided a reason for their child's absence.

Punctuality

I am extremely disappointed to report that we have had a total of **206 late** marks since September 2018, including 6 marks where children have arrived at school after 9:15am. This is totally unacceptable. Please make sure your child is at school on time. Arriving at school late makes a bad start to the day for the child as it is both embarrassing for them and disruptive to the learning that has already started.

Punctuality monitoring

Following my analysis of punctuality during the autumn term, I have written to the parents of **all children with 5 late marks or more**. Your child's punctuality will be **monitored** until it improves.

Leave of absence during term time

From 01 September 2013, Headteachers shall not authorise leave of absence during term time unless an **application has been made in advance** and **evidence of exceptional circumstances is provided**. A paper copy of the attendance policy was sent to all families in the autumn term and can be found in the virtual office tab on our website.

I hope to report soon that we are hitting our attendance target of 96.3% and significant improvements in punctuality.

Reminder about collection of children policy

School closes to pupils at 3:15pm and at 11:45am for orange class pupils. We see that many children are collected on time every day and parents who have more than one child to collect zip quickly from one classroom to the next to ensure their children are all collected as promptly as possible after 3:15pm. No-one can be in two places at once so **we appreciate the efforts made by many of you.**

There does seem to be a small group of parents who do not appear to be prioritising the collection of their children and who stroll around to their child's classroom well after 3:15pm (and 11:45am) on a regular basis. Members of staff are regularly left supervising children after school when they should be in meetings or preparing for the next day because parents have not collected their child on time. **Please be on time to collect your child.**

If your child is not picked up on time on a regular basis or if you do not collect your child and we have not been informed, I will need to pass this information on to the Education Welfare Officer and the duty social worker. Parents are respectfully reminded that we are not a free childcare service; if your child is not picked up on time on a regular basis or if you do not collect your child and we have not been informed we will be billing parents for the cost of child care. This is not something that we want to do but we must be very clear that we are not prepared to regularly provide free child care while parents fail to collect their child on time.

Spring term meetings for parents with class teachers

We have arranged times for parents and children to meet with the class teacher during week beginning Monday 01 April. Each class has a morning slot from 8:45am (marked with * overleaf) and on Wednesday 03 April from 3:30pm. We will be using an online system for parents to book appointments via **Parentmail**. Parents will need to log in to Parentmail using their log in details. Please make sure you are signed up to Parentmail so you can book an appointment when the booking system opens later this term. You will also be able to receive important texts and emails when you have signed up to Parentmail.

Collecting Candles

At the end of last term we sent home a **Collecting Candle** on behalf of the Children's Society. We asked you to make up the candle as per the instructions and fill it with any change you had over the Christmas break. The money that we collect will be sent to the Children's Society to support children all year round. Please return the Collecting Candle by **Friday 11 January**. Thank you.



Pizza party meal

On **Thursday 17 January** we will be serving a pizza party meal for our school lunch to children in yellow, red, green and blue class.

If you would like your child to have this meal and they normally have a school meal, you do not need to do anything. If you would like your child to have this meal and they normally have packed lunch, please see Mrs Elliott by Wednesday 16 January.

The meal costs £2.30. If your child is in yellow, red or green class, you do not need to pay as it is covered by the Universal Infant Free School Meals initiative. Parents of children in blue class who pay for school meals should pay £2.30 for this meal as part of their usual payment routine or pay £2.30 directly to Mrs Elliott by Wednesday 16 January if this is a one-off payment.

Golden tickets will be hidden at random within the meals. Will you be a lucky winner?

January 2019	
Monday 07 January	School closed- staff training day
Tuesday 08 January	School opens for the spring term
Friday 11 January	Multi skills academy testing with Mr Dowson for Year 4 blue class pupils
Monday 14 January	Yellow class coffee morning 8:45am
Tuesday 15 January	Blue class coffee morning 8:45am
Wednesday 16 January	Red class coffee morning 8:45am
Thursday 17 January	Pizza party meal served at lunchtime
Friday 18 January	Green class coffee morning 8:45am
Friday 25 January	Orange class coffee morning 11:00am
Thursday 31 January	Judo taster session for all year groups
Thursday 31 January	Reception class eye testing
February 2019	
Monday 04 February	Environment for Learning committee meeting 4:00pm
Monday 04 February	Resource Management committee meeting 5:15pm
Thursday 07 February	Gymnastics festival for Year 3 and 4 gymnastics squad
Friday 08 February	Blue class assembly 8:45am
w/b Monday 11 February	Topic week with a focus on computing
Friday 15 February	Spring A celebration assembly 2:30pm
Monday 18 to Friday 22 February school closed for February half term	
Monday 25 February	School opens for spring term B
March 2019	
Thursday 07 March	World book day book and toy sale and coffee morning 8:45am
Friday 08 March	Green class assembly 2:30pm
Wednesday 27 March	Full governing body meeting 5:00pm
Friday 29 March	Mother's day lunch
April 2019	
Monday 01 April	Meetings for parents and children in red and green class with class teachers*
Tuesday 02 April	Meetings for parents and children in blue and orange class with class teachers*
Wednesday 03 April	Meetings for parents and children in yellow class with Mrs Kembrey*
Wednesday 03 April	Meetings for parents and children in all classes with class teachers from 3:30pm
Thursday 04 April	Spring B celebration assembly 8:45am
Thursday 04 April	Easter egg competition judged in celebration assembly
Thursday 04 April	Easter disco 3:15pm
Friday 05 April	School closed- staff training day
Monday 08 to Friday 19 April school closed for Easter holidays	
Monday 22 April	School closed- bank holiday
Tuesday 23 April	School opens for the summer term

Spring term diary dates

I hope the advance notice of the diary dates for this term will be useful. We do try to keep the school website up to date; a list of events and dates is on the front page. The most recent newsletter is on the front page of the website and all previous newsletters can be found in the **newsletters** tab if you need to check back to find something.

Newsletters are usually sent **electronically** to parents on Parentmail, and **paper copies** are circulated to parents not on Parentmail. Spare copies are available in the red racks in the entrance outside the school office.

Teachers are in the process of organising the **school visits** for this term and these dates will be added to the calendar as soon as they have been confirmed.