

Seghill First School Newsletter December 2017 edition 1

Whole school attendance 93.8%. Attendance target 96.3%

Treats for all children using fundraising money

Thanks to all of the brilliant fundraising work by parents, carers, staff and children, we have money available to provide some extra opportunities for our children.

Children in **orange and yellow** class will be watching a performance of **The Littlest Elf** on **Tuesday 05 December** in school. This is a story based in Santa's workshop especially for younger children.

Children in green, red and blue classes will be going to the **Discovery Museum** to take part in Christmas workshops on **Thursday 14 December**.

Both of these treats and transport have been paid for using fundraising money. We hope you and your child agree that these are brilliant treats and a very good way to use the fundraising money.

Movie night on Wednesday 20 December

Children in yellow class year 1, green, red and blue class are invited to stay after school until 5:00pm for movie night on **Wednesday 20 December**. Tickets cost **£2.00** and include film and food. The children will vote for their choice of film. Movie night tickets are on sale from Monday 04 December until Friday 15 December.

Christmas post boxes

Christmas post boxes will be open from **Monday 18 December**. Please wait until this date before bringing your cards in.

Lists of children's first names and surname initials for your child's class will be sent home by Friday 15 December to use to address Christmas cards.

Please only use the post box to post cards to **children who are not in your child's class**.

Cards for children in your child's class should be taken to the classroom and the class teacher will arrange for them to be given out.

Community events

Children in the choir from red and blue class did an amazing job singing at **Seghill Christmas fayre** in the Institute on **Saturday 18 November**. What a brilliant start to our calendar of singing events.

We have two more very important dates coming up. They will also be singing at the **Seghill Senior Citizens Christmas Party on Saturday 09 December**. We have also been asked by Daft As A Brush to sing at the **Freeman Hospital on Monday 11 December**.

Christmas letters to Santa

Christmas **letters to send to Santa** are available to buy for **£1.00** from the school office. Children can write their letter to Santa and give it to him at the Christmas fayre. When I spoke to Santa last week he promised a reply for every child before the end of term. Santa will be ringing me in the next couple of weeks to check to see which boys and girls have been following the Golden Rules at school.

Christmas lunch on Wednesday 20 December

We have ordered a **school Christmas lunch** for **all children in yellow, green, red and blue class unless you have informed us in writing** by today that your child does not want one and you will be providing them with a packed lunch.

Parents of children in yellow and green class will not have to pay for this meal as it is provided free due to the Universal Infant Free School Meals initiative. Parents of children in red and blue class who pay for their child's meals should pay in the normal way as part of the weekly payment on Monday 18 December.

Change to cost of school meals

From January 2018 the cost of a school meal will increase by 50p per week from £10.50 per week to **£11.00 per week**. This is a daily rate of **£2.20 per day**.

School meals are cooked on the premises and continue to be very good value. The meals are made by Mrs Rogage, who provides additional choices for our children to ensure that there is a range of options on offer.

Parents can provide a packed lunch for their child if they wish, but seeing many packed lunches on a daily basis, I would note that very few packed lunches have been put together for less than £2.20 per day, and must often cost significantly more than that.

Cold weather

It has been good to see so many children **wrapped up warmly** for school during this cold spell. We try to take the children out to play and get some fresh air when we can, depending on the weather and the temperature outside. If it is too cold, we will keep the children inside. Some children have been very cold because they are wearing tracksuit tops or have not had gloves or a hat. We don't have spare coats in school. Please ensure your child has everything they need to keep them warm on the way to and from school and while we are outside.

December 2017

Monday 04	Santa's reading challenge begins
Friday 08	Non uniform for Christmas fayre- donations for the general tombola please
Monday 11	School choir singing at the Freeman Hospital Deadline for ticket orders and payment for the Christmas performances
Friday 15	Deadline for letters to Santa Christmas fayre at 3:15pm Deadline for film night ticket orders and payment
Monday 18	Christmas post box opens Santa's reading challenge ends Christmas performance 9:15am yellow and orange class Christmas performance 2:15pm red, blue and green class
Tuesday 19	Christmas performance 9:15am red, blue and green class
Wednesday 20	Christmas lunch Film night at 3:15pm (blue, red, green class and Year 1 children in yellow class)
Thursday 21	No orange class this morning Christmas party 1:00pm yellow and orange class
Friday 22	Non uniform for the class of the term Celebration assembly at 8:45am Santa's reading challenge awards Christmas party 1:00pm red, blue and green class School closes for the Christmas holidays at 3:15pm

School improvement update

All schools in Northumberland are supported by a School Improvement Partner (SIP). The role of the SIP is to provide support and challenge to the school and senior leaders to improve the performance of the school through termly monitoring visits. Our most recent SIP monitoring visit was earlier in the autumn term. The feedback from the monitoring visit is as follows-

The Overall Effectiveness of the School	good
Effectiveness of Leadership and Management	good
Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment	good
Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare	good
Outcomes	good
Early Years	good

The report identifies the strengths of the school. This is a summary of these strengths-

- Leaders have maintained a relentless approach to improving outcomes for all pupils. As a result, pupils now make consistently strong progress in English, maths and a wide range of other subjects across the curriculum. Phonics screening and outcomes at the end of Key Stage 1 are all above the national average.
- All staff and leaders are dedicated to improving quality first teaching.
- Governors and staff have high expectations which are communicated clearly and understood across the school.
- The children are polite, friendly and articulate. School have maintained their high standards regards behaviour and behaviour for learning as the children are enthusiastic, resilient and independent learners.
- The Headteacher writes a detailed, analytical assessment and data report for Governors.
- Safeguarding is a high priority and is effective. The pastoral systems are strong and underpin a lot of work in school, enabling the children to be 'ready to learn.'
- Provision in Early Years continues to improve and is now good. Since 2013, the proportion of children achieving a Good Level of Development has risen above the National average to 72%; this is a 58% increase since 2013.

Staff and governors are delighted by the grades we have been given by our SIP and the strengths identified in this report.

School closure due to bad weather

Northumberland County Council expects headteachers to work to a very strict code of practice when making a decision to close a school. There is a presumption against the complete closure of a school due to adverse weather conditions, therefore headteachers must explore a range of options to maintain an educational provision for children before deciding to close.

Schools can only be closed in extreme circumstances, including failure of services such electricity or the site being too dangerous to access safely.

If the school is closed a message will be placed on the school website at

www.seghill.northumberland.sch.uk. We will also send out a text message. The school office does not open until 8:30am so the best way to keep informed is to check the website and ensure that we have your mobile number on parentmail otherwise you will not receive texts.



Santa's Christmas reading challenge

Can you meet Santa's challenge of reading 10 times before Christmas?

What should boys and girls do-

- Read your **school reading book** at home to an adult.
- Ask your adult to **sign your reading record** and write in a comment about your reading **every time you read**.
- Bring your **reading book and reading record** to school **every day** so we can change your reading book if it needs to be changed.

What should adults do-

- Listen to your child read their **school reading book** at home.
- Sign your child's **reading record** and **say which page they have read up to**. This is so we know if they need to change their book. You can also write a comment about your child's reading.
- Remind your child to bring their **reading book and reading record** to school **every day**.

What we will do-

- **Check** your child's reading record to see if they have read and if they have finished their book.
- **Change their reading book** if they have finished their current book.
- Give your child **one point** for every time they read at home.
- Carry out a final check of reading records on **Monday 18 December**.
- Give out **special Christmas treats** to all children who have **10 points** in **celebration assembly** on **Friday 22 December**.

The challenge will start on Monday 04 December and ends on Monday 18 December.

Please note that reading must be recorded by an adult in the reading record. We are sometimes told that children read at home but parents have not written it down. We can only award points for reading that is recorded in the reading record.