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SEEND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Seend Primary School Newsletter

September 2019

Dates for your diary

Mon 16th Sept is a meeting for the new parents in Holly Class to ask a few more questions, now that their children have started school, and find out how they can support their children in learning to read.



Thursday 26th September is the date for class meetings for Oak, Chestnut and

Sycamore at 5:00, 5:45 and 6:30 respectively. You can find out some of the expectations we have for your children, what the term / year will hold and how you can support them with their learning. Please do what you can to make these meetings.

Mrs. Emma Groom, our Special Needs Co-ordinator, will also be at school on both of these dates, should any parent wish to discuss anything with her. In the meantime, her email address is Senco@seend.wilts.sch.uk

Finally, there is a maths workshop for Holly Class parents on 30th September when you can hear how to support your child's maths progress.

Book Club Orders

You should be receiving a Scholastic Order form through kiddie post today. The school raises a lot of money through selling books this way and it is a great way of adding to a child's library. Please order by 16th September by ordering [online](#) or sending the paper order form back with a cheque (**to Scholastic**) or filling in the credit / debit card details (no cash please).

There will also be a book fair starting on November 19th for 1 week, which is a perfect way of buying books for Christmas presents.

Summer Reading Challenge

Still on the subject of books, I am delighted that already 41 Summer Reading Challenge certificates have been brought into the office. Keep them coming in (there is still time (just) to complete the challenge if your child hasn't already done so) and they will be presented at the first parent Goldbook Assembly on 27th September.



Attendance Procedures

I am proud of our attendance figures at Seend School which are consistently at or around 97% which is higher than the national average. In general, the children here attend regularly and are on time (remember if your child is late and misses registration, this goes down as an absence even if they turn up later in the morning). Attendance is monitored weekly and reports are sent to the federation so for that extremely small minority who are regularly late or miss a lot of schooling, please do not be surprised to receive a letter from the academy and be called into a meeting if attendance does not improve. Please also remember that no holiday absence will be authorised, unless exceptional circumstances can be proved. For our full attendance policy, please go to the school [website](#).

Pupil Premium

If your child comes from a service family, is looked after / adopted or from a family in receipt of [certain benefits](#), please do let us know as soon as possible so we can trigger the funding and then use the extra money the school will receive, to help support your child. This money can be used to buy extra resources and to subsidise extra-curricular activities and trips.

Your fundraising committee needs you

As a small school, it is always difficult to get enough interested parents together to help organise and run our fundraising events. The next Friends of Seend School (FoSS) meeting is 7:00 p.m. at The Barge on Tuesday 17th September and it would be great to see some new faces with some new ideas. Please do come along if you can. (It usually lasts no more than an hour.)

Recycling At School



New parents may not know (and experienced parents may have forgotten) that we have a range of recycling facilities here. We can recycle household batteries, (new children will be given a special box to put them in), small printer cartridges (just pop them in a bag and hand them into reception) and bagged clothing (collection bin in the car park). We also collect used Tassimo pods and the foil packaging, along with (flat) crisp packets to help raise money for Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

A timely reminder

All children need to have their P.E. kits in school every day, and a water bottle.

Please ensure water bottles have a sports' style top so that when they get knocked over, which invariably happens, it doesn't result in time a huge puddle everywhere. We do still have a few at school available to buy at £1 each. Another bag of unamed school uniform was left and disposed of at the end of last year. Help us to help you by ensuring all clothes are clearly labelled. Many thanks for your co-operation with this.



Welcome

We have had a bumper crop of reception children this year with 19 children starting in Holly Class. It is no exaggeration to say that from the moment they started, they have been settled, happy and keen and are already getting on very well with each other. With one other new family joining the school this term, we are up to 117 children and turning others away regularly.

Braeside courses

Braeside are running a series of enrichment courses suitable for year groups 2-6. Details can be found [here](#).

Applications for next year

The window for primary and secondary applications for September 2020, is now open. For secondary school places, you have until midnight on 31st October and for primary places, you have a little longer to make up your minds (!) as the deadline is midnight on 15th January 2020. You can click [here](#) for a direct link to the Wiltshire Council admissions' page.

Rules of the road

New parents may not be aware but we have a voluntary one way system outside of the school.



Drivers should join School Road from Bollands Hill and NOT from the A361 as the road is simply not wide enough to have traffic going both ways. Directly outside of the school is where the Seend Shuttle pulls in to drop children off in the morning, so please avoid using that space and finally, please avoid using the staff carpark. Please make sure others who have any responsibility for dropping off / picking up, also knows the above information – thank you.

Change to the published date

At the end of last term, and in the new entrants' pack, you were given a list of dates for the year. Unfortunately, we have already had to change one date which is the KS1 work in progress concert. We have had to move this to the following week – the 9th July as Mrs Kettler will be on course on the original that date. Apologies for any inconvenience.

G.C.S.E. success

We were delighted to see that 2 of the top performers from Melksham Oak this year were Seend School alumni. A very well done to Daisy Hale who passed all 9 GCSE's with A* grades and to Owen Lythell for passing all 9 with As and A*s.

Children's safety – always come first.

We have after school clubs every day and some of these take place outside. If there is an after-school club taking place, please be advised that you must leave the premises promptly at the end of the day, to preserve safeguarding. If there are no outside clubs then you and your children are free to enjoy the grounds after school, but children must be supervised at all times to ensure continued good behaviour and children / parents should avoid coming back into the building to allow the safe supervision of the children still on site.

Café Church

The next Café Church in on October 6th at 11:00 am. This is a special pet service, so you are encouraged to bring your pets or photographs of your pets for a blessing. Children will be asked if they would like to do a reading or say a prayer, so you may get a note home because your child has expressed an interest.



Changes within school

So, in the nick of time, all the alterations were finished that took place within school in the holidays. Well, when I say finished, we are just waiting for some new doors in a few places, but apart from that we are sorted. Miss Chivers did an amazing job in getting the new classroom ready for the beginning of term, the day after the carpets were fitted, despite moving into a new house the following day! Some of the support staff stayed on later after their training on Tuesday to help get things ready too which was really useful. The result is we have a less cluttered hall, a designated spacious area for dealing with dinners, a new classroom for Chestnut and a group room which is also being used by Night Owls. I know a few of you have sneakily stuck your head through the door to have a look, but when it is the parents meeting on 26th September, you will be able to get a better look then.



Key to success

Never underestimate the importance of sharing and discussing books with children. It is the single most important factor in increasing their chances of success in life. It develops vocabulary, grammar, sentence structure and understanding as well as helping strengthen the parent / child bond with quality time being spent together.

