



Welcome Back

It has been lovely to welcome everyone back to school this week to start our new term. Things have gone a lot more smoothly than we could have possibly hoped for. Our children have come back enthusiastically and have taken our new routines in their stride. I am absolutely delighted with our excellent attendance this week.

Our drop offs and pick ups are becoming smoother also as everyone becomes more familiar with the new times and gates. Whilst we have lots of things in place within school to keep our children and staff safe we are trying to keep everything as normal as possible. Seeing the smiling faces and listening to the buzz of children working and playing has made me confident that we are achieving this.

I am sure that over the term there will be times when things may become difficult and we will need to work together, as we did during lockdown. We are currently reviewing our Remote Learning offer to ensure that we can provide an even better learning experience for your child, at home, if needed. Hopefully this will be a last resort, in an extreme situation, but we need to be proactive and be prepared. I would like to take this opportunity again to thank all our families for their support and commitment to support their children through lockdown, the way you engaged with the learning activities was amazing and very much appreciated.

I would like to welcome our new Reception and Nursery children into our school family. Their transition into school has not been how we would have wished but they've been very brave coming into a new environment and meeting new friends.

One thing I feel has come out of this whole situation is that relationships between home and school have strengthened and I hope this will continue.

Please do not hesitate to contact school via telephone or email if you have any concerns or queries.

Dates for Your Diary 2020/2021

23 rd Oct	School Closes
2 nd Nov	School Reopens
18 th Dec	School Closes
4 th Jan	School Reopens
12 th Feb	School Closes
22 nd Feb	School Reopens
26 th March	School Closes
12 April	School Reopens
3 rd May	Bank Holiday
28 th May	School Closes
14 th June	School Opens
20 th July	School Closes

Twitter

We have a whole school Twitter and class Twitter feeds which will help to keep you updated about school. You will also be able to find out what our children have been learning through this platform. It was invaluable when we were in lockdown as a remote way to contact school when some staff were working at home. As we are now back in school we will be removing the direct message facility to ensure that our staff have a work life balance and are not contacted directly out of school hours. Staff will therefore no longer be able to respond to direct Twitter messages. If you would like to speak to a member of staff please do not hesitate to phone or contact school via email. You can also use your child's Fish Diary for direct messages to the teacher or TA. We will respond as soon as possible at a mutually convenient time.

School Meal Menus

If your child is currently on school meals they will be coming home today with a menu for next week's meal choices. Please can you sit with your child and select what they would like to eat for the coming week. Please return these menus to school with your child on **Monday 7th September 2020**. We will be doing this on a weekly basis until further notice.

Seaton Crew

Our childcare facility, 'Seaton Crew', will be accessible from Monday 7th September, although there will be a number of changes to ensure that we adhere to the government guidelines; ensuring the health and safety of all pupils and staff. Rigorous hygiene and cleaning routines will be adhered to in order to keep children and staff safe. The clubs will therefore not be as free flowing as usual however children will still be able to undertake a range of activities within the sessions, sitting with other children from their everyday class.

Drop off and pick up times will need to adhere to our risk assessments and unfortunately cannot be flexible. All children will need to arrive or be collected within strict, designated times and follow our social distancing and hand hygiene routines. Seaton Crew drop off and collection will be via the main yard gate, at the front of school and children will enter and leave the school building via the hall doors. We have tried to make this a little more flexible for parents and children but are unable to follow our usual systems for drop off and pick up as we have to ensure a COVID secure system is in place.

Breakfast drop off times: 7.30am/ 8.00 am/ 8.20am

**After School collections: 3.30pm/ 4.00pm/4.30pm
5.00pm/ 5.30pm**

Childcare sessions for "Seaton Crew" are bookable sessions and will have advanced cut off dates for bookings and payments to enable the sessions to be planned accordingly. Please note the sessions for the whole of the week will have to be booked before the cut-off and we will no longer be able to take any late bookings. The cut-off for breakfast bookings will be at **Midnight on the Thursday** before the following week's breakfast sessions and for after school, it will be at **Midnight on the Sunday** prior to the week's sessions. Payment is made at the time of the booking via ParentPay and will be non-refundable.

The only exception to this booking system is if your Childcare is paid directly to school via an online Childcare Voucher Scheme. ParentPay cannot be used to book sessions which are being paid for via a childcare voucher scheme instead please use the appropriate booking form below and email it to school for the attention of the Childcare Manager to book, adhering however to the above cut off dates.

***Please note you do not have to book a time slot**

Sad News

It is with deepest regret that I have to inform you of the passing of one of our Academy Councillors, Mr Richard Mason on Friday 28th August, following a short illness. He has been an integral and valuable member of our Academy Council for many years. He was very committed to supporting and developing our school especially in his role as Maths Link. I am certain that you will join with us in sharing our deepest sympathy to his family, especially his partner Fiona and daughter Scarlett. I would ask that you hold them in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. Fiona has asked that I share a link for a collection, in Richard's name, for Alice House Hospice who looked after Richard and continue to support the family.

Coronavirus Symptoms

We've had a lot of parents asking for advice this week about children who are ill. This is excellent as parents are clearly following guidance and being cautious. However, it's really difficult for school to give accurate advice as we are not medical professionals. If you are concerned that your child is ill but not sure if they are displaying any of the main coronavirus symptoms, please contact 111 or your GP for professional medical advice. They will be able to direct you as to whether you should be seeking a test or not. We have sent a flow chart which may help.

Packed lunches

Can you please ensure that children's packed lunch bags do not contain Nutella or any other food products containing nuts or seeds. This is for health and safety reasons as we do have pupils in school with severe allergies. Thank you for your cooperation.

WhatsApp

We are aware that many of our parents belong to 'Whats App Groups' which are a great way to get to know and communicate with other parents. Unfortunately, we have already had a couple of instances where parents are 'confused' as mixed messages are being shared on the groups.

If you have any concerns or are unsure of any policy or routine please do not hesitate to contact school via the Fish Diary, phone call, or email. We will respond as soon as possible.

Parking

We have received a complaint from a resident in Farndale Road. The resident reported that on Tuesday 1st September, there was a white car completely blocking their drive way which resulted in them being 25 minutes late to collect their child from school on their first day! Please be considerate to local residents when parking to drop off and pick up children from our school. We have contacted the local authority parking division who will be patrolling the area around school.

Attendance

Well done to our Y4 class who are this week's winners of our High Attendance Trophy. Our class attendance figures for this week are:

Nursery	95.74%	Rec	95.28%
Y1	94.83%	Y2	94.83%
Y3	99.17%	Y4	100%
Y5	99.58%	Y6	96.65%