



# SEATON SLUICE MIDDLE SCHOOL

One of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

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**Executive Headteacher:** John Barnes

**Head of School:** Karen McSparron

21 May 2020

Dear Parents, carers and pupils,

Several weeks have passed since I last wrote to you. This is mainly because of the amount of information you are already receiving via the school website, social media and updates from Mr Barnes; it seemed unnecessary for me to add to your reading! Now, however, seems a good time to get in touch at what would normally be the end of the half-term, and before we welcome back some of our pupils on June 1st.

Firstly, I hope that all is well with you and your families during this difficult time. There will be many people experiencing all sorts of challenges and I hope that you have managed to stay strong and stay positive. Hopefully, in the next few months, the easing of some of the restrictions will see an element of normality returning.

I would also like to say thank you to all of our pupils who have been working hard at home, trying to navigate themselves through Google Classroom, or other forms of learning, and the parents and carers who have supported them through this. As the parent of a ten year old, I know the trials and tribulations of working through lessons online!

I also want to thank our amazing staff, teaching and non-teaching, who have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to keep things running as smoothly as possible, while trying to juggle their own families, responsibilities and anxieties. They really deserve a huge pat on the back for all their efforts and I am very proud to work with such an amazing team.

You will all be aware of the Prime Minister's announcement on 10 May, to begin the first stages of getting back to normality by opening schools for some year groups and we are currently planning for the safe return for Year 6th on June 1st. This has been a rigorous process, as the safety of pupils and staff is paramount as they return to school.

The full details of the planned return, safety measures and expectations are being shared separately with parents of the relevant pupils. I would just like to reassure parents and carers that if Mr Barnes or I did not feel it was safe to open, then we would not. I am satisfied the measures we have put in place will be robust enough to keep everyone safe and although it won't look like school normally does; it is the first tentative steps towards everyone coming back. If it is successful, then it may be possible to offer places to Y5 as the weeks progress. It is also hoped that we may be able to offer Y8 an opportunity to come back so they can say their good-byes to each other and to staff before they go to High School in September and we are also working closely with staff at ACHS about transition. Further details will follow.

We will continue to keep you informed and hopefully and we look forward to seeing some of our Y6s in school in June.



I hope that you all have as pleasant a half-term break as possible. You will all be pleased to know that I have asked staff not to set any work over the course of next week!

With very best wishes,

Karen McSparron

Head of School